



AIDAN SHEEDY/CHRONICLE

## Men's hockey earns NCAA Semifinal berth

By CAMERON LEVASSUER  
Sports Editor

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — One year removed from a heartbreaking loss to Michigan in the NCAA Regional Final, Quinnipiac men's hockey faced another Big Ten foe with a trip to the Frozen Four on the line. This time around, the Bobcats seized the opportunity, stopping Ohio State 4-1 Sunday.

It's Quinnipiac's first berth to college hockey's biggest stage since 2016. The Bobcats will travel to Tampa, Florida, to face Michigan in the national semifinal at Amalie Arena on April 6.

"We're ecstatic to go back to the Frozen Four," head coach Rand Pecknold said. "I'm just thrilled for these guys, I thought our culture came through tonight."

Quinnipiac had a poor start to the game, as the Bobcats fell behind less than two minutes in.

An ill-timed pass across the top of the offensive zone by graduate student defenseman Jacob Nordqvist sprung Buckeyes junior forward Joe Dunlap on a breakaway. Bobcats sophomore goaltender Yaniv Perets made the initial save, but momentum propelled the puck just over the goal line.

When Quinnipiac fell into an early hole against Michigan in 2022, an onslaught of Wolverines pressure dug the team deeper and deeper until the score was 4-0. The Bob-

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# Frozen in time

## FEMA reimburses QU for more than \$3M worth of pandemic supplies

By KATIE LANGLEY  
News Editor

The Federal Emergency Management Agency will reimburse Quinnipiac University nearly \$3.3 million for expenses the university accumulated while providing COVID-19 testing to students, faculty and staff between July 2020 and June 2021.

The reimbursement is part of FEMA's Public Assistance Program, which monetarily assists the recovery of state governments, agencies and nonprofit organizations in the case of federally-declared disasters or emergencies, the agency announced in a March 24 press release.

Quinnipiac administered over 95,800 reimbursable COVID-19 tests in the 2020-21 timeline defined by FEMA, according to the release.

Associate Vice President for Public Relations John Morgan told the Chronicle the university would not comment on the Public Assistance Program funding beyond what is provided in the FEMA press release.

The pandemic was initially declared a national emergency by former President Donald Trump in March 2020. Although President Joe Biden later extended the emergency status past its original March 2023 expiration date, Biden is set to terminate the COVID-19 national emergency on May 11.

Dennis Pinkham, a spokesperson for FEMA's New England region, said the Public Assistance funds are meant to compen-

sate expenses taken on during a disaster or emergency that the recipients cannot afford without federal support.

Subapplicants to the Public Assistance Program, such as colleges and universities, can apply for reimbursement through state governments.

Morgan confirmed in a March 28 email to the Chronicle that Quinnipiac applied for the Public Assistance Program through the state of Connecticut. Connecticut officials informed Quinnipiac of the award on March 27, Morgan wrote.

Once assistance funds are allocated to the states, state governments are responsible for allotting the funding that FEMA deemed necessary to subapplicants, Pinkham said.

"There are certain (expenses) that are allowable and (applicants and subapplicants) just keep tracking those expenses, and then they go through the state, and the state then asks for money from FEMA," Pinkham said.

In the state of Connecticut, Public Assistance reimbursements for COVID-19-related expenses have totaled more than \$630 million, according to the press release.

Among the other recipients in the state of Connecticut was the city of New Haven, according to a separate press release from March 24.

FEMA awarded New Haven over \$2.9 million to reimburse the expense of the overtime wages of city employees and pro-

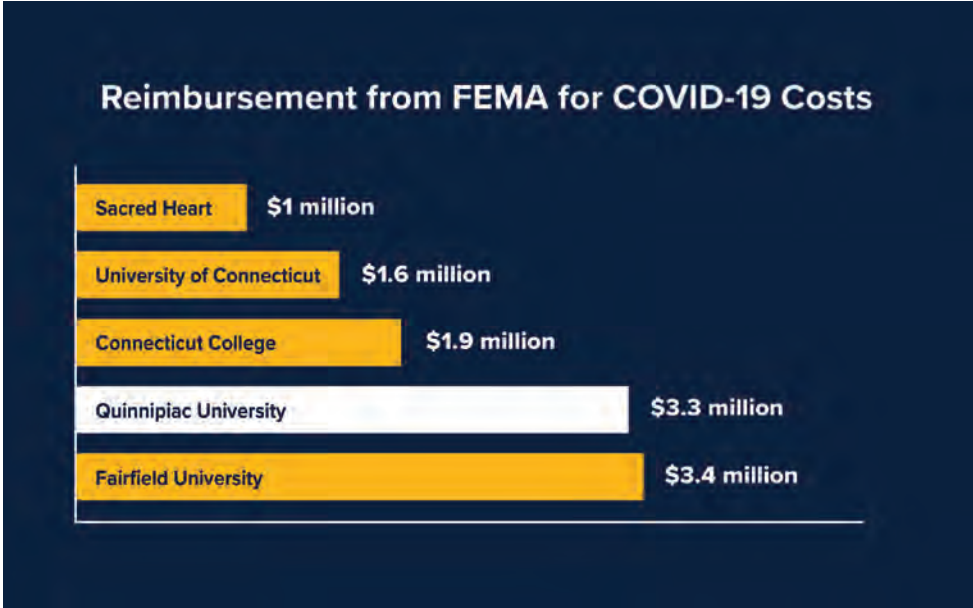
fessional staff, such as those that worked at COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites.

These reimbursable expenses include COVID-19 testing supplies, personal protective equipment and the cost of paying essential workers overtime during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"It's all budget control ... (applicants and subapplicants) can't just say, 'Well, we want a million dollars so we can help people,'" Pinkham said. "It's got to be, 'We want 10,000 masks, N-95 masks ... and then

that's got a code assigned to it, and if you don't use the code, then it's probably not an authorized expense."

In addition to Quinnipiac, other universities in Connecticut are set to earn FEMA reimbursements for pandemic spending. Fairfield University will receive more than \$3.4 million, the University of Connecticut will receive almost \$1.6 million, Connecticut College will receive nearly \$1.9 million and Sacred Heart University will receive more than \$1 million.



INFOGRAPHIC BY LINDSEY KOMSON



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Hamden offers free steering wheel locks to deter car theft

By CAT MURPHY  
Associate News Editor

The Hamden Police Department is providing free steering wheel locks to certain Hyundai and Kia owners amid rising motor vehicle thefts in Hamden.

Nearly 240 vehicles were stolen in Hamden in 2022, including 34 in December 2022 alone, according to HPD.

Just under half of the vehicles reported stolen in December were left either running or with the keys inside the vehicle, per a January 2023 press release from HPD. However, HPD added that 15 of the 34 total vehicles reported stolen in December 2022 were manufactured by either Kia or Hyundai.

“Many of these type vehicles do not have an immobilizer system, which is a useful piece of electronic security technology that acts as a deterrent to vehicle theft,” wrote Sgt. Angela Vey, HPD public information officer, in the Jan. 19 release.

An additional 28 vehicles were reported stolen in Hamden in January 2023, according to HPD. As of publication, at least 20 vehicles have been stolen since late February 2023, according to data published on the Community Crime Map.

Robert Markman, a graduate business administration student at Quinnipiac University whose 2018 Hyundai was stolen from a local apartment complex parking lot in February, said he learned about the rising motor vehicle thefts only after his car was stolen.

“At first I don’t see my car and, jokingly, I’m like, ‘Oh my god, I wonder what happened to my car,’” Markman told the Chronicle. “And then I saw the glass ... in the spot where my car was.”

Police officers later discovered Markman’s stolen sedan abandoned in New Haven with a missing fender, a broken window, severe paint damage and mangled tires.

The #KiaBoys social media trend,

which went viral on TikTok in 2021 and has over 27 million views as of publication, challenges thieves to target certain Kia and Hyundai vehicle models manufactured without immobilizers between 2010 and 2021, according to CNBC.

The TikTok challenge has caused at least 14 reported crashes and eight deaths, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

CNBC reported in September 2022 that thieves target the susceptible vehicle models, which utilize mechanical keys rather than electronic key fobs, because the lack of an electronic immobilizer enables perpetrators to remove the steering wheel column and hot-wire the car with a USB cable in less than 30 seconds.

“Since my car has been dropped off a couple of weeks ago, (the tow yard has) already had seven or eight more cars come in that were stolen,” Markman said. “It’s too much for the police to keep up with.”

Motor vehicle thefts accounted for more than 15% of reported crimes in Hamden between Feb. 24 and March 25, per the Community Crime Map. HPD also documented 30 incidents of theft from a motor vehicle, motor vehicle tampering and license plate theft during this period.

In a statement to the Chronicle, Chief of Public Safety Tony Reyes said there have not been any reported motor vehicle thefts on campus.

“The Hamden Police Department has not notified the university that there has been an uptick in car thefts in the immediate area around the Mount Carmel and York Hill campuses,” Reyes wrote.

Hyundai Motor Company and Kia Corp. developed theft deterrence software for vehicles that do not have immobilization systems in response to the national spike in vehicle thefts, per a Feb. 14 press release from the NHTSA.

The NHTSA notes that the two automakers will install the anti-theft software, which

“It’s too much for the police to keep up with.”

– Robert Markman  
GRADUATE BUSINESS  
ADMINISTRATION STUDENT

doubles the length of the alarm sound and requires the key to be in the ignition, at no charge to the vehicle owner.

To further deter car thefts, Hyundai and Kia have provided local law enforcement agencies throughout the country with more than 26,000 steering wheel locks since November 2022, according to the NHTSA.

HPD is offering free steering wheel locks to vulnerable vehicle owners after receiving an unknown quantity of the security devices from Hyundai, according to a March 23 press release.

“Hyundai has distributed the steering wheel locks as part of their anti-theft service campaign, and will be given to anyone owning a Hyundai or Kia manufactured prior to November of 2021,” Vey wrote in the release. “The steering wheel locks can be picked up, free of charge, at the front desk of the Hamden Police Department, 2900 Dixwell Avenue, at any time.”

The department also recommended in January that drivers park in well-lit or covered areas, remove all valuables from their vehicle, roll up their windows and lock their car.

Vey did not immediately respond to the Chronicle’s request for comment.

Some Quinnipiac students expressed frustration with the lack of communication from the university about the rise in local vehicle thefts.

“I wish Quinnipiac worked more with Hamden to establish relationships so that I knew that,” said Ana Caliri, a junior health science studies and environmental studies double major. “I live in Hamden nine months out of the year, so why didn’t I hear about that?”

Caliri, who drives a 2011 Hyundai and was unaware of HPD’s ongoing steering wheel lock initiative, said she believed Quinnipiac officials should have notified students about the potential security concerns.

“They’ve sent out emails about downed trees and construction and the catalytic converters being stolen,” Caliri told the Chronicle. “I feel like (the motor vehicle thefts are) something that really should be advertised.”

Clare Veverka, a senior nursing major whose Volkswagen was stolen from an off-campus house in Hamden in mid-2021, echoed Caliri’s frustrations.

“They work so closely with the Hamden Police,” said Veverka, whose car was later recovered in New Haven. “There’s no reason that they shouldn’t be communicating this info with us.”

Markman, whose Hyundai is still undergoing repairs several weeks after being stolen, agreed that university officials have a responsibility to inform students about the local vehicle thefts.

“I’m a little surprised that (Chief Reyes) didn’t say anything, honestly,” Markman said. “At the bare minimum, they should have put out some email, and they still should.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY ROBERT MARKMAN

New Haven police recovered graduate business administration student Robert Markman’s stolen 2018 Hyundai sedan with severe damage, including a missing fender.



# QU spends \$72K on second North Lot exit gate

By CAT MURPHY  
Associate News Editor

Amid continuous on-campus parking lot congestion, Quinnipiac University officials opened an additional exit gate at the east end of North Lot.

A student-led parking consultant team suggested last year that university officials add a second exit in North Lot to ease congestion in the parking lot, according to a March 20 email from Chief Experience Officer Tom Ellett.

John Morgan, associate vice president of public relations, confirmed in an email statement to the Chronicle on March 28 that the group of graduate business administration students recommended the addition of another exit gate in North Lot after analyzing Quinnipiac parking during the spring 2022 semester.

“The new gate was installed at the far eastern corner of North Lot earlier this month to manage one-way exiting traffic,” Morgan wrote. “We believe the new gate and the other changes we’ve implemented have improved traffic flow, reduced congestion within the parking lot and decreased traffic buildup along Mount Carmel Avenue during peak hours.”

Thomas Peters, president of the class of 2025, spearheaded the Student Government Association’s initiative to implement a second exit in North Lot.

“After I was first elected to the student government, a professor of mine sarcastically said, ‘fix parking,’” wrote Peters, a sophomore political science major, in an email statement to the Chronicle on March 24. “I recognized that their sarcasm was mixed with frustration and, as a commuter myself,

I understood their feelings directly.”

Peters expressed particular frustration with the constant delays students face attempting to navigate North Lot.

“From the same daily troubles of circling to find a spot, arriving at class on time, and just attempting to leave North Lot in a timely manner, it was a plain burden,” Peters wrote. “Sometimes, I found the wait just to exit was longer than my commute.”

Other commuters echoed Peters’ frustrations. “The main entrance always is backed up, no matter what time you basically come here,” said Diana Latko, a first-year nursing major who commutes from Bristol, Connecticut.

The new gate, which university officials installed at an exit that had previously been chained off, enables drivers to exit the far end

of North Lot onto Mount Carmel Avenue.

“I was always annoyed parking over there that I couldn’t go out that way,” said Deveney Paine, a senior 3+1 advertising and integrated communications and graphic and interactive design double major. “So, in that sense, I think it’s helpful.”

However, the electronic gate is designed to prevent drivers from entering North Lot to ensure that all vehicular traffic continues to stop at the Public Safety booth at the parking lot’s main entrance.

“I wanted to go beyond the old approach of just advocating for more parking spaces and present a tangible solution to make parking easier, safer, and more efficient for North Lot drivers,” Peters wrote.

The electronic gate hardware and asso-

ciated electrical and mechanical work cost Quinnipiac approximately \$72,000, according to the building and electrical permits that contractor ADF Electric Inc. filed on the university’s behalf in January 2023.

The new gate initiative garnered mixed reactions among students.

“I get the concept of wanting to have another way out,” Paine said. “But I feel like there were other solutions that would have been a lot cheaper.”

Latko endorsed the new gate initiative, though she added that she did not expect it to “magically” resolve the everyday parking and traffic issues typical of North Lot.

“I think it’s probably useful — coming from a commuter — because the traffic can be terrible,” Latko said. “But I mean, that amount of money could be spent toward so many other, better things.”

Daniel Maher, a senior political science major who commutes to campus, said he supported the addition of a new gate but emphasized his frustrations with additional student parking concerns.

“It doesn’t seem like the worst use of school funds,” Maher said. “But there are other parking issues that are of greater priority.”

The student-led parking consultant group also recommended the addition of directional signage in North Lot, which Morgan said university officials will consider in the future.

“While I recognize the gate is only a partial solution to the overall issue, I believe it will improve upon the daily struggles of many students,” Peters wrote. “I am excited to see it in action in the weeks ahead, and I am hopeful it will relieve the headaches caused by current traffic flows.”



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

A student-led parking consultant team recommended last spring that university officials add a second exit and directional signage in North Lot.

# Quinnipiac hosts symposium to raise awareness about rare diseases

By CARLEIGH BECK  
Staff Writer

Quinnipiac University held a symposium on March 24 at the North Haven campus to help bring awareness to rare diseases.

The ninth annual Rare Disease Day Symposium was presented by the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac. Attendees were able to join in-person or virtually.

The symposium typically is held on Rare Diseases Day, which is generally observed on Feb. 28 or Feb. 29, leap day, which is the rarest day of the year. Due to inclement weather in late February, the event was postponed.

The symposium included keynote speakers that spoke on topics such as neurological diseases, a patient panel that gave the opportunity for people with rare diseases to talk about their experiences and a roundtable discussion that focused on the topic of clinical trials.

Anoush Calikyan, a fourth-year medical student, was a student coordinator for the event. She said that 1 in 10 people have a rare disease.

“It’s a big part of the population that’s often ignored, both in research and patient advocacy, so this event is really held so that medical students, medical professionals, and healthcare professionals know more about rare diseases,” Calikyan said.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, an agency that oversees Congress’ activities, estimates the total cost of rare diseases in the United States in 2019 was

\$966 billion. This includes costs like medication and doctors visits, but also nonmedical costs.

An analysis from GAO found that factors such as lack of knowledge of rare diseases, lack of available testing and other resources and misdiagnoses can make diagnosing rare diseases difficult.

Terry Muldoon, a first-year medical student who volunteered at the event, emphasized that spreading awareness about rare diseases can benefit people with these conditions.

“Have these conversations (about rare diseases) to spread awareness,” said Muldoon, who is also a member of the patient liaison committee, which helped organize the patient panel. “When you spread awareness, people will have more knowledge and more resources.”

Muldoon also said the symposium impacted her as a medical student.

“To learn about the rare disease community and know that there are researchers out here who are putting in so much work and dedication to helping, it’s really inspiring to me ... to see that people are dedicating themselves to studying these things and the real difference that we can make in the future,” Muldoon said.

Students strive to join the medical field for various reasons. But for first-year medical student Demitrios Master, his reasons are personal.

Master said he came to the symposium to not only support his friend who was presenting a research project, but because he

has a rare disease himself.

“That’s part of the reason why I wanted to become a doctor,” Master said. “So when I’m confronted with a patient who might have a rare disease, who might not know what’s going on with (their health), I can be more attuned and empathetic to them.”

For years, Master was diagnosed with one rare disease. But recently, he was told that he did not meet the criteria for the disease, and now does not have a name for his condition. But because of his experience,

he feels motivated to serve the rare disease community. Part of that, he said, is to educate and raise awareness about rare diseases in the medical field.

“I’m really hearted to see that both the Netter School of Medicine and the University, as well as Connecticut Children’s (Medical Center) was making a real effort to bring awareness and also highlight patient experience of people, and move beyond an academic and intellectual curiosity,” Master said.



YAMINI DALAL/CHRONICLE

Individuals with rare diseases shared their experiences during a patient panel at the annual Rare Disease Day Symposium.



# Opinion

## Pride isn't political

### Why the NHL's 'Hockey is for Everyone' month is an absolute mess

**By JENNIFER MOGLIA**  
Staff Writer

Every year, the NHL holds "Hockey is for Everyone" month, usually around February or March. Since it was implemented in 2018, I've seen it as a sad attempt at making the LGBTQ community feel included.

Each of the league's 32 teams holds a "Hockey is for Everyone Night" or "Pride Night" during one regular season home game. Some teams go all out, displaying rainbow-colored graphics and having their players use pride-themed jerseys and equipment.

Going all out, in this case, is still the absolute bare minimum. It feels performative and all it does is raise awareness of rainbow colors, but it still means a lot to feel represented, even in the smallest ways.

I've been to some New York Rangers Pride Nights and they've been some of my fondest memories. Seeing my favorite players support a community so close to my heart, even if they're just wearing a rainbow jersey, was empowering. It made me especially happy to know that the jerseys were auctioned off each year with proceeds going to LGBTQ charities.

This year, when I checked to see what my favorite team was doing to celebrate the queer community, I was unpleasantly surprised.

According to ESPN, the Rangers stated in promotional materials prior to their pride game that players would wear rainbow jerseys and use rainbow tape. When it was game time, they hit the ice in normal jerseys with regular stick tape, immediately facing backlash on social media.

Personally, I was heartbroken. The queer community barely gets representation in the world of sports as is, and to me, this was that last bit of hope being snatched away.

After the game, USA Today Rangers reporter Vince Mercogliano tweeted a statement from the team.

It explained that the team "respects the LGBTQ+ community," and wanted to "bring attention to important local community organizations as part of another great Pride Night," but to stay true to the "organization's core values," indi-



JSMJR/FLICKR

**The NHL has been holding Pride Nights since 2010, according to ABC7 New York.**

vidual players were supported in their choice to "respectfully express their beliefs."

To me, this translated to, "some of our players didn't want to wear pride jerseys, and we're going to cover for them under the guise of 'free speech.'"' This statement is flawed for a variety of reasons.

First, Pride Night doesn't only exist to bring attention to local organizations; it exists to make queer people feel welcome in a space dominated by cisgender and heterosexual people.

Furthermore, if the organization wanted to give its players the ability to "respectfully express their beliefs," wouldn't the players who wanted to show their support for the queer community be able to by wearing a jersey or using multi-colored stick tape?

This wasn't the only time a Pride Night ended in disaster this season. 10 days before the Rangers' fiasco, Philadelphia Flyers defenseman Ivan Provorov refused to skate with his teammates during warmups on pride night, citing his Russian Orthodox beliefs as the reason why. According to ESPN, coach John Tortorella saw no issue, claiming that Provorov was just "being

true to himself and his religion."

I don't know much about the Russian Orthodox religion, so I won't speak on it. However, I did grow up Christian, and last week, two Christian players, Marc and Eric Staal, said their religious beliefs were the reason why they wouldn't wear pride jerseys for the Florida Panthers.

Growing up in Catholic and Lutheran churches, I was taught to love everyone and treat them with kindness. Seeing backlash come from people using religion as their justification feels incredibly hypocritical.

What's peculiar about the Staal brothers' statement is the fact that they said "all people should be welcome in all aspects of the game of hockey," before saying pride jerseys would go against their religion.

San Jose Sharks goaltender James Reimer released a nearly identical statement on March 18, explaining how Jesus asks him to love everyone and how everyone should be welcome in hockey before stating he would not be participating in his team's pride festivities since it goes against the Bible.

Most recently, the Chicago Blackhawks de-

cided to not offer the players the option to wear pride jerseys due to security concerns involving Russian laws preventing people from supporting the LGBTQ community, per ESPN. It's more understandable than the other reasons, but discouraging nonetheless. In an argument all about personal choices and beliefs, how are the players who are strong advocates for queer rights supposed to feel when they don't get the option to do what they feel is right?

There have been some bright spots throughout this ordeal, including the Sharks redesigning its logo to include pride colors and posting LGBTQ facts and resources on social media. Following the Reimer situation, Brian Burke, president of hockey operations for the Pittsburgh Penguins, openly supported players choosing to wear pride jerseys while on a Sportsnet broadcast. Burke's late son was a part of the queer community.

I've always said that pride isn't political. Empowering people to love who they love and be true to themselves shouldn't be controversial. Unfortunately, in today's social climate, some people, including politicians and lawmakers, feel that it is.

So many people, including countless in the queer community, use sports as an escape from the stressors of day-to-day life. To see those stressors bleed into your safe haven is heart-wrenching.

In the five years of Pride Nights leading up to today, fans have received the bare minimum. For as much as I complain, I realize that the bare minimum could be a catalyst for change. Hockey tends to be a very white, heterosexual and cisgender sport, and someone who hadn't previously been exposed to pride or queer rights could potentially learn from these pride nights.

However, today, even that bare minimum is being taken from us. In a time where pride is unfortunately seen as political, I ask everyone, but specifically NHL athletes, to do what they can to show their support to the queer community. You can do much more than just wearing a rainbow jersey, but putting that jersey on could be the start of some very meaningful change.

## Nostalgia fatigues gaming's good vibes

**By CONNOR YOUNGBERG**  
Associate Design Editor

The year is 2018. School is canceled because there is a foot of snow outside. I wake up and immediately turn on my PlayStation and load into Fortnite. When I load in, all of my friends are waiting for me in the lobby. I have a mug of hot chocolate next to me and I'm feeling at peace.

However, amid the tranquility is one thought: "One day, this won't exist." And well, I was right. As time goes on, video games have started to lose their magic.

One of the biggest reasons gaming has taken a backseat for me is simply finding time for it. In high school, as soon as I got home and all my homework was done, I could hop right on my PlayStation. Weekends were practically holidays for me, as all of my friends were online and playing games together, whether it be the latest Call of Duty or sports games such as the NBA 2K series.

Since then, I have assumed new responsibilities. When I have so much on my plate, gaming has to be put to the side. All of a sudden, work

keeps piling up and I don't play video games at all for a couple of weeks. Even when I do find the time, gaming is simply not the same. I can't help but miss what gaming used to be.

I grew up playing mostly sports games with the occasional shooter or racing game with my brother. I still remember my first time beating him in a video game. It was NBA Live 10 and Dwight Howard had 72 points. Thank you Howard for such a priceless memory.



Then once my brother moved off to college, I still spent a lot of my time playing video games. Although it sucked to play alone, I still had a lot of fun. NBA 2K17 was released and I played it non-stop by myself, which was surprisingly comforting at times.

Once I got to high school, I made friends who just so happened to play all the games I played and also had PlayStations. This was the golden era of gaming for me. Everyday, when I got home from school, I was hopping on a game with my friends. When Fortnite started to gain popularity, we all decided to try it out. Eventually, it became our go-to game.

I played Fortnite for the first time about five years ago and since then, the game has undergone a plethora of changes that have me missing how things used to be. I miss when nobody knew how to build and there were only a few weapons you could choose from.

Now it's so much different and although it can still be fun to play, it's not as simple to just get on and play as I get older. Trying to orchestrate a gaming session with friends now should be an olympic sport. Everyone

has different schedules, responsibilities and jobs that it becomes impossible to coordinate.

There is still some joy in playing single-player, but nothing beats playing with friends. All of the gaming I do while I'm at school is by myself because I don't really have any other options. MLB The Show 23's early access period released on March 24 and while I have enjoyed playing thus far, I'm not quite optimistic that I will continue to have fun throughout the game cycle.

There is so much content out and I usually love grinding in Diamond Dynasty, the team building game mode, but for the past couple years things have been different. While the rewards for playing are great, I simply don't have the time to complete all of it.

The game, and many others like it, feels built for high school kids who can afford to spend hours on end playing a video game. Well, I simply can't do that anymore and as time goes by, I'm missing the days that I could.

While playing video games still has its merits, every time I turn on my console I reminisce on the good old days. I can still find happiness in gaming, but it's often overshadowed by the power of nostalgia.



# Opinion

## Housing priority may be random, but it’s definitely not fair

By **JASON BUPP**  
Contributing Writer

Every year after spring break, undergraduate students at Quinnipiac University wait eagerly for their housing priority numbers, knowing that a randomly-generated numerical value will single-handedly determine their happiness and comfort for the coming year.

For those unaware, a priority number for Quinnipiac housing is given to each student in each year. A student can be given a number from one to over 1,000, determining their place in line to pick their dorm room for next year.

This year, Quinnipiac’s Office of Housing and Residential Life decided to make changes to room selection when it comes to roommates and suitemates. One of those changes is the inability for individuals to purchase the entirety of a double room, which can allow for a “deluxe single.”

So, for students who are “going random,” or entering the selection pool without a previously determined direct roommate, they cannot pick their room unless there is a single available.

If there isn’t one, then good luck. This rule also applies to people with an odd num-

ber of suitemates. If a group cannot fill a double room with a pair, then they cannot stay with their suite and one student will be forced to randomly enter the selection pool, without knowing who their direct roommate will be.

These changes affect more people than one may think.

Quinnipiac requires undergraduate students to live on campus for three years, a directive that began with the graduating class of 2025. More often than not, Quinnipiac shows that it cares more about the money than the students that provide it. This three-year requirement is just another example.

The housing selection process affects most of Quinnipiac’s student body. It surprises me that the problems with the system have not been addressed sooner, as it affects so many students. The issues start with the priority numbers when it comes to housing and the blatant unfairness there is in a system that should be fair.

To the new rule’s credit, in previous years, students who had no roommates and low selection numbers could book rooms in large suites like Hill, Village, Crescent, Townhouse and other desirable residence halls. However, this was unfair to those that

have enough roommates to fill the suite.

It was unjust that an entire suite, meant for five or six students, can be reserved by one singular student and left virtually inaccessible to full groups. This put groups in the less desirable dorms, or in some cases, forced them to split up. It seemed more reasonable if students with predetermined roommates that can fill a suite get priority over the individual.

These new rules attempted to fix the aforementioned problem. However, this created a new problem for groups of three or five students since their odd numbers will not allow them to be able to live together.

This poses the question; then what? Will the third or fifth person have to go random and live in another dorm? These new “solutions” create more issues than they solve.

The housing selection process is meant to be somewhat fair through the random assignment of selection numbers. The reality is that the system has flaws.

However, I feel like there is a way for the housing system to be fair for all the students.

One thing Residential Life could change is give more priority groups of students that can fill entire suites. Filling a room is top priority and doesn’t leave anyone in

the dust when picking. Having two people prevent a group of six people from getting the suite they want is ridiculous. Allowing a full suite more priority than a half-full group or single person makes more sense.

Removing the rule from this year, would make housing selection more fair for the single room individuals. It is not fair to the students to disallow them to pick a room because they cannot fill it with one person.

The structure of the housing system is unfair for both students with a lot of roommates and students with no roommates, so why not change it again?

Maybe it is because no one complained, or because people only complained during the week of room selection. If both ends of the living spectrum are at a disadvantage, what is the purpose behind the sudden change of rules?

Since Quinnipiac is so adamant about requiring students to live on campus for a minimum of three years, they should make the process more fair for all students. By recognizing the mistakes and flaws in the system and changing them in the future, the administration will show that it truly cares about its student body, a principle that was not evident during this year’s housing selection.

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# Arts & Life



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

## More than \$100K raised by QU community at annual dance marathon QTHON

**By JACKLYN PELLEGRINO**  
Copy Editor

Quinnipiac University students and faculty gathered with children from Connecticut Children’s Hospital and their families for the annual eight-hour QTHON dance marathon in Burt Kahn Court on Saturday, raising \$103,956 in donations for the Greatest Need Children’s Fund.

There were 16 patients from Connecticut Children’s at this year’s event. The children, known as Miracle Children, were each paired with a student organization at Quinnipiac to spend the day with.

“(The Miracle Children) have a super fun time because it’s a day where they can be a kid and not think about being sick and their own medical issues that they have to deal with,” said Michaela Bedard, a senior nursing major and the executive director of QTHON. “So, it’s just a fun day to celebrate.”

It began with the “Bobcat Walk,” which introduced each of the Miracle Children and their families. Throughout the day, the parents spoke about their experience with Connecticut Children’s, the Morale committee danced every hour on the hour, a dance competition was held and there were several food options and vendors.

Several organizations on campus, Greek life and the QTHON management team raised money throughout the year. Each organization had to sign up through the donor drive. By fundraising and attending events throughout the year, the organizations earned “miracle points” which ultimately helped them receive a Miracle Child for the day of the event.

Bedard said that all of the money raised will go towards whatever is most essential at the hospital, such as paying for treatments that insurance doesn’t cover.

Alexa Freede, a junior interdisciplinary studies major in the elementary education program and Alpha Chi Omega’s QTHON chair, said she tried to incentivize members of her sorority to fundraise by explaining how great it would be to have a Miracle Child this year, because last year they did not have one.

“I started crying,” Freede said. “I was so happy. It was a lot to get a Miracle Child and I was really hoping that we would because at least the work that we put in, it would pay off.”

Connor Bearer, a first-year health science studies major in the 4+2 Entry-Level Masters Physician Assistant program and member of Delta Upsilon, said his fraternity raised \$600 prior to the event.

“I was glad I was chosen to get a Miracle Child,” Bearer said. “It’s really special and I loved meeting his family and spending the day with him.”

Delta Upsilon’s Miracle Child, Corey, attended the event with his family. His dad, Scott Turken, said they have participated in QTHON before, as well as HuskyTHON at the University of Connecticut.

“Everyone is super welcoming, it’s a really

kind atmosphere of kids trying to help kids who need help from Connecticut Children’s,” Turken said.

Every hour of the event, the Morale committee, led by co-chairs Mia Calore, a senior nursing major and Hannah Eaton, a senior health sciences major in the occupational therapy program, performed a 10-minute dance to keep everyone’s energy up.

“We just keep spirits high all day, like it is a long day and everyone’s probably tired, but we just keep it fun and get everyone on their feet and dancing all day ... we’re just like the positive hype team for the day of,” Calore said.

Calore said that the Morale committee spent months preparing for the day. She said they began choreographing the dance during winter break and have practiced three days a week since. They also worked with the DJ to create a remix of various songs, Calore said.

Amannda Ramsdell’s seven-year-old son Michael was the Miracle Child paired with the sorority Kappa Alpha Theta. It was their first time attending QTHON in person.

“(Michael is) currently out there playing ball with his whole team and he’s the center of attention and they’re giving everything they have to make him feel that way,” Ramsdell said.

She said Michael had a “rough start to his life” due to his spastic diplegia cerebral palsy which makes him unable to walk.

“For him to be around kids that make him feel important and special, despite what he goes through is huge and the fundraising efforts that are done here, help kids just like Michael be able to thrive just like he is,” Ramsdell said.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac University students raised \$103,956 in donations at QTHON dance marathon on March 25.



# The ‘Hunger Games Renaissance’ wasn’t organic, and that’s OK

**By JENNIFER MOGLIA**  
Staff Writer

Lately, my social media feeds have been looking a lot like they did in 2013.

“The Hunger Games” had a huge spike in popularity over the last few weeks, despite the final film coming out over eight years ago. There has been an influx of content surrounding the series, particularly on TikTok, including conspiracy theories, edits of footage from the movies and plans of what users would do if they were chosen to compete in the games.

This resurgence seemed organic at first; humans are cyclical beings, and it makes sense that we go back to things we enjoyed at pivotal points in our lives. However, this one wasn’t as authentic as it seemed.

For those who haven’t shared in the collective trauma that is reading the books or watching the movies during your formative years, “The Hunger Games” takes place in Panem, a dystopian version of the United States. Twenty-four randomly selected teenagers, one male and one female from each of the 12 districts, fight to the death with only one emerging victorious. The games were created as a punishment for the citizens who once attempted to rebel against their government, known as the Capitol.

The first novel and movie center around Katniss Everdeen, a 16-year-old girl from District 12 who volunteers to take her younger sister’s place in the games. Her archery skills and fabricated romance with the male tribute from her district, Peeta

Mellark, make her one of two victors from the 74th annual games.

Throughout the rest of the series, Everdeen becomes the face of a rebellion against the Capitol. She loses friends, family, allies and enemies along the way, but the series ends with the corrupt government system essentially dismantled and Everdeen and Mellark at peace.

“The Hunger Games Renaissance,” as fans have dubbed the recent rise in popularity, has been taken off social media and into the real world as well. “The Hunger Games: The Exhibition,” a hands-on exhibit involving real costumes and props from the films, opened in Las Vegas in 2019, but I’ve seen more visitors posting about their trips on social media over the past few weeks.

“I started to notice more and more people were calling me Cinna (my character) out on the street and I was like, ‘What’s going on? Why are people all of a sudden back on that?’” Lenny Kravitz told Variety on March 24.

The content surrounding the franchise started making a comeback at the beginning of March. On March 1, all four movies in the series were added to Netflix’s catalog for 31 days, urging users to binge-watch them as soon as possible. The streaming platform claimed on Twitter that adding the films was in celebration of the series turning 11 years old this month, but that seems like a weird anniversary to celebrate – time to dig deeper.

A few quick Google searches show that a film based on a prequel to the series, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes,” will be



ILLUSTRATION BY KAYA DONAH

released in November. If you asked me a month ago if I’d be seeing this in theaters later this year, my answer would be no; however, after re-entering the world of Panem on my TV and phone over the past few weeks, my thoughts have changed. It looks like the marketing schemes have worked on me.

This revival probably wasn’t just a few people randomly rediscovering the franchise and posting about it and, more likely, was planned by Lionsgate to build hype around the new film to make sure it wasn’t a box office flop. Maybe this should upset me, but

it doesn’t.

Seeing these books and films talked about on social media once again has reignited my passion for the series. Looking at the story from a more mature perspective, coming back to it as an almost 20-year-old rather than a 10-year-old, has been an incredibly fulfilling experience as well.

Do I wish that this magical-feeling time wasn’t most likely a marketing ploy? Of course. Is it going to stop me from re-indulging in a series that once brought me so much joy? You bet your poison berries it won’t.

# Fall Out Boy’s ‘So Much (For) Stardust’ returns to classic, yet fresh sound

**By ASHLEY PELLETIER**  
Podcast Host

The last time Fall Out Boy dropped an album, I was a bottle-blonde junior in high school. Just like me, the band has grown a lot since.

After the band returned from hiatus in 2013 with its fifth album, “Save Rock and Roll,” Fall Out Boy has leaned more towards the pop in the pop-punk genre. Radio earworms like “My Songs Know What You Did in the Dark,” “Centuries” and “Uma Thurman” and the elephant-in-the-room album that is “MANIA” told fans that the Fall Out Boy of the early 2000s was gone. However, once the first track of “So Much (For) Stardust,” “Love From the Other Side” dropped in January, I knew the Fall Out Boy so many emo kids jammed out to in the 2000s was back.

As with any Fall Out Boy album, members Pete Wentz and Patrick Stump have infused “So Much (For) Stardust” with punchy, relatable lyrics that belong on a Hot Topic T-shirt like “I’ll never go, I just want to be invited,” “Part-time soulmate, full-time problem” and “I can’t stop, can’t stop ‘til we catch all your ears though / Somewhere between Mike Tyson and Van Gogh.” After reading and listening to these lyrics, I can safely say that Fall Out Boy has earned my ears.

The album features two spoken-word interludes. “The Pink Seashell” is a monologue from Ethan Hawke’s character



ILLUSTRATION BY SHAVONNE CHIN

in the 1994 movie “Reality Bites.” Hawke’s character talks about his father’s death from cancer and how it showed him there was no meaning to life and inspired him to enjoy the little things. When I first read that Hawke was featured on “So Much (For) Stardust,” I was really excited, as his wife, Thurman, has obviously been name-dropped by the band before. Who knows, maybe we’ll get Maya Hawke in a future album.

“Baby Annihilation” is spoken by Wentz and is a commentary on the false mask we present to the world and how it influences

our relationship with others. Fall Out Boy has used spoken word in some of their previous albums, but these two interludes add a touch more self-reflection to the album, particularly in a world where COVID-19 and social media overload makes us question our lives and values.

As one line in “Heartbreak Feels So Good” says, “Don’t stop dancing, don’t dare stop.” Believe me, I won’t. I can already picture crowds dancing, jumping around and bopping their heads to several songs on the album, particularly “So Good Right Now,”

“Flu Game” and “I Am My Own Muse.” If you have tickets to So Much For (Tour) Dust this summer, you definitely won’t be disappointed.

“So Much (For) Stardust” is the quintessential Fall Out Boy album, from Wentz’ basslines in “Hold Me Like a Grudge” — the follow-up to “This Ain’t a Scene, It’s an Arms Race,” to Andy Hurley’s linchpin percussion, to Joe Trohman’s criminally underrated guitar skills. However, Stump, even being the face of the album as lead vocalist, shines in this album.

What really makes “So Much (For) Stardust” unique is Stump’s experimentation with strings, brass and piano. “Love From the Other Side” opens with an almost-full-minute-long intro that infuses classical music with the band’s typical sound, showing listeners that while the album feels like coming home for so many fans, “So Much (For) Stardust” still stands on its own as a work of art in its own right.

I’m not sure where “So Much (For) Stardust” stands in my rankings of Fall Out Boy’s albums yet, but I know it’s up there. “Save Rock and Roll” and “American Beauty/American Psycho” remain so high in my rankings in part because of nostalgia, but “So Much (For) Stardust” is more consistent in quality and replayability. Regardless, both pre- and post-hiatus Fall Out Boy fans will find something to fall in love with on the album.

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# Sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll: Amazon’s ‘Daisy Jones & The Six’ has it all

By **ZOE LEONE**  
Associate Arts & Life Editor

The story of “Daisy Jones & The Six,” the fictional band born from the brain of author Taylor Jenkins Reid, came to a close on March 23. If you didn’t find yourself frantically flipping pages after its initial release as a novel in 2019 or white-knuckling the remote as the Amazon adaptation played out these past four weeks, you’ve missed a whole lot of sex, drugs, rock ‘n’ roll and excellent storytelling.

Both the book and the series essentially follow the same storyline at their core. With ‘70s era Pittsburgh, Los Angeles and New York serving as the backdrop for the story, the lives of the dysfunctional dreamer Daisy Jones (Riley Keough) collide with the chaos-ridden rock band The Six. Magic blossoms in the musical world as the personal lines between business, pleasure and heartbreak start to blur for everyone involved.

It’s easy to compare a story about a tumultuous and world famous ‘70s rock band with that of the arguably biggest band of the era: Fleetwood Mac. And while the inspirations are definitely present (affairs, cocaine and excellent music, just to name a few), to chalk “Daisy Jones & The Six” up to a fictionalized biopic is nothing but lazy.

The Hello Sunshine — Reese Witherspoon’s very own production company — backed mini-series begins with the heartbreaking backstories of the main players. Jones is raised in a world of idyllic Los Angeles privilege, but the contempt her parents hold towards her for disrupting their perfect lives sends her into rebellion.

On the other side of the country in Pittsburgh, struggling musicians Billy Dunne (Sam Claflin), Graham Dunne (Will Harrison), Warren Rojas (Sebastian Chacon) and Eddie Roundtree (Josh Whitehouse) grapple with searching for their breakthrough and the familial ties that hold them.

With the addition of keyboardist Karen Sirko (Suki Waterhouse) and Billy’s wife, Camila (Camila Morrone), as their photographer and sudo-manager, The Six is born. As the road of fate drives them towards Los Angeles, legendary music producer Teddy Price (Tom Wright) and eventually their first collaboration with Jones, the cracks begin to form as addiction and rising tension between the band members begin to grab hold.

The show has a slow start until episode three when Jones and Billy Dunne meet for the first time. Keough and Claflin’s chemistry is beyond magnetic. As soon as their characters begin to bicker for the first time, it becomes clear that the two are going to grow into something much more than just reluctant band members. It sends audiences to the edge of their seat as the heat between them continues to rise, amidst the seemingly endless downward spiral of the lives of them and the people around them.

While their chemistry is one of the show’s main attractions — along with the grit and glamor of the world of ‘70s rock music — Keough’s performance as Jones is simply enchanting. She’s captivating from the minute she first appears as a younger version of Jones, with a bright smile and hopeful doe eyes.

The softer version we first meet peels



ILLUSTRATION BY ELIZABETH LARSON

away to the hardened and haywire rockstar that seems to ever evolve amidst copious amounts of drugs, questionable relationship choices and self-destruction. While Keough’s portrayal makes it easy to root for her, Jones’ relationship with disco pioneer Simone Jackson (Nabiyah Be) brings a gentleness to the show.

For a book adaptation, “Daisy Jones & The Six” is fairly faithful to the source material. Most of the changes made actually make the story stronger, except the relationship between Sirko and Graham Dunne. What starts as a secret summer love and ends as a heart-wrenching goodbye forced by two people who want different futures is shoved into a background plot that barely scratches the surface of what

originally existed.

Overall, “Daisy Jones & The Six” is a success. The characters are dynamic, the story is enthralling and the world of ‘70s music and bad decisions is delightfully easy to fall into. Whether you’re in it for the relationships, drama or music, there’s a little something for everyone to love.

While there have been rumors of the fictional band turning semi-real with a tour featuring the actors, for now fans will have to settle for listening to “AURORA,” Daisy Jones & The Six’s album that is actually performed by the cast of the show. The 11-track record is the perfect follow-up once the finale ends.

## PHOTOS: Multicultural Student Leadership Council Culture Night celebrates diversity at QU

By **CASEY WIEDERHOLD**  
Associate Photography Editor

Quinnipiac University's Multicultural Student Leadership Council celebrated diversity by hosting their annual Culture Night on March 23 in the Carl Hansen Student Center.

Cultural and identity organizations shared food from their culture with the Quinnipiac community, including pasta, empanadas and a mango-flavored juice box called “Froot,” to name a few.

Students who immersed themselves in the multicultural space tried new foods and engaged in meaningful conversation with their peers.





# Hamden South

## Quinnipiac fans flood Bridgeport for NCAA Regional Final

By COLIN KENNEDY  
Staff Writer

A 30-minute drive is all that separates Quinnipiac’s campus from Total Mortgage Arena, where the men’s hockey team won the NCAA Regional Final on Sunday.

Normally, come tournament time, most fans are forced to watch their favorite team through a screen. This year, however, the Bobcat faithful showed up and showed out for both nights in Bridgeport.

“Our fans are great, we get so much energy off them,” graduate student forward Michael Lombardi said after the team’s 5-0 win against Merrimack Friday. “The band was great, the crowd was awesome, and I think we just fed really well off that.”

Total Mortgage Arena could have been mistaken for Quinnipiac’s M&T Bank Arena with the sea of gold and navy that swarmed the lower bowl to watch the Bobcats punch their ticket to the Frozen Four.

“Quinnipiac’s just had a great year this year, and I think they’re gonna make a really deep run,” said Bryan D’Esposito, a junior accounting major. “I wanted to come out and support the great team that we have.”

Deafening “Let’s go Bobcats” chants echoed through the rink as the final seconds ticked off the clock on Sunday, sending the Bobcats to Tampa, Florida.

“It was great. I mean everybody was very loud tonight, and it helps get our legs going,” sophomore forward Cristophe Tellier said after the victory Sunday. “We fed off them so thank you to everybody for coming out.”

NCAA regionals have seen low attendance in the past, given that teams often play hours away from campus. Fortunately for Quinnipiac, a 30-win season landed them a No. 1 seed and the closest regional site, which just happened to be in Bridgeport.

“We worked all year to get that one seed, and it paid off in Bridgeport,” sophomore forward Collin Graf said Friday. “It was a great crowd, great energy, and I was enjoying every minute of it.”

The university capitalized on the opportunity to create a home-ice advantage, even while away from home.

“The school was lucky enough to provide us with transportation and free tickets,” said Anthony Rossi, a senior 3+1 finance major. “So I

gotta come out and support the team.”

Having the opportunity to see your school compete in the NCAA Tournament doesn’t come around often, so students jumped at the chance to attend. A wave of gold filled multiple sections, and students created a pulsating energy that could be felt through every minute of playoff hockey.

“They were great, we saw the shirts right when we came out, they had the big wall there,” Lombardi said. “When we have fans in the building they’re our lifeline, and we get so much energy off them.”

The players had a job to take care of this weekend, but the students knew they could play a part in sending the team to Tampa as well.

“I just knew the team needed the juice today, they needed the energy and we had to bring it,” said Will Rotko, a senior health science studies major.

Every fan had their reason for heading down to Bridgeport to support the Bobcats, whether it was the free ticket, a chance to get off campus or just tagging along with friends. Whatever the reason was, a common theme rang throughout the arena: They wanted to see Quinnipiac make history.

Even some super fans were in attendance, hoping to see a win and book a trip to Tampa themselves.

“I’m buying a plane ticket to Tampa Bay when they win,” said Jordan Shankman, a first-year criminal justice major.

En route to punching their ticket to Tampa, the loudest point of the weekend came in the third period, when Tellier knocked home the game-sealing goal. His tally sent the crowd into a frenzy that lasted well into the night.

The student section soaked in every last minute of Sunday’s win, staying long after the final horn to celebrate the moment with the players. At that point in time, it was safe to say that every Quinnipiac student echoed the sentiments of first-year nursing major Lauren Goggin.

“Let’s go Bobcats! We’re gonna win the NCAA Tournament!” Goggin said.

It’s not every day, not even every year, that you get to see your team do something so momentous, and Bobcat Nation took advantage of being close to home, transforming Bridgeport into Hamden South. In the process of doing so they were a part of an iconic moment in Quinnipiac history that won’t soon be forgotten.



Attendance for Sunday’s Bridgeport Regional Final is listed as 4,557, nearly 1,200 more fans than attended the 2022 regional final between Quinnipiac and Michigan in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

**FROZEN FOUR** from Page 1

.....-cats didn’t let that happen Sunday, roaring back in the late stages of the first period to score two goals within 15 seconds to take the lead.

“I just was like, ‘Hey, it’s fine, we have adversity, we talk all the time about it,’” Pecknold said. “I thought we reloaded really well and the boys handled it very well.”

Quinnipiac’s first goal came off the stick of sophomore forward Cristophe Fillion, who put home a rebound off a shot from freshman forward Victor Czerneckianair to equalize the game.

Rebounds proved fatal for Buckeyes sophomore goaltender Jakub Dobeš. The Czech Republic native gave up another on the Bobcats’ next zone entry and they capitalized as

senior forward Skyler Brind’Amour found the back of the net. Brind’Amour’s goal gave his team a lead it would not relinquish.

Ohio State tried its best to even the game in the second period, outshooting Quinnipiac 15-3 in the frame. But outstanding play from Perets and a Bobcats’ defense that limited opportunities close to the net maintained their lead at one.

“It’s frustrating,” Buckeyes fifth-year forward Jake Wise said. “You outshoot them 2-to-1 and nothing’s going in. We had the puck almost the whole period and nothing’s going in ... (Perets) played well. He’s a great goalie. There’s a reason he’s a finalist for the Richter.”

Still unable to crack stout defensive play by its opponent, Ohio State had a golden opportunity to finally break through in the third

period when Quinnipiac freshman forward Sam Lipkin was called for cross-checking. The penalty was reviewed for a major penalty for head contact, but ultimately deemed a two-minute minor, giving the Bobcats’ penalty kill a sign of relief.

Quinnipiac killed the penalty off and then killed any hope of a Buckeyes’ comeback by scoring the dagger with under five minutes to play.

Sophomore forward Cristophe Tellier batted the puck out of midair over Dobeš to himself, finishing the self-alley oop to sink Ohio State.

Officials called the play no goal on the ice to the surprise of an incredulous Tellier, who had already celebrated halfway down the ice. After review, it was deemed the puck crossed the line and the Bobcats took a two-

goal advantage.

“I didn’t see much to be honest,” Tellier said. “I just flipped the puck up and it came back to my backhand and I just tried to whack at it and it went in.”

Senior defenseman Jayden Lee added an empty net tally in the minutes that followed and Quinnipiac skated into the Frozen Four with a resounding 4-1 win.

It’s the third Frozen Four appearance in program history for the Bobcats (2013, 2016), who will return to the site of the 2016 national title game that they lost to North Dakota.

“It’s exciting,” Pecknold said. “The third one’s as good as the first two. Just happy for the guys in the room ... thrilled for them, happy for Bobcat nation and everybody at Quinnipiac to get to experience this.”



# Raggio’s Rally: Heading into MAAC matches

By RYAN RAGGIO  
Staff Writer

With MAAC play starting next week, both the Quinnipiac men’s and women’s tennis teams chose the right time to get red-hot.

The women’s program started the season with a 2-3 record and have since turned it around to go 6-5 in its last 11. The Bobcats are a streaky team – as evidenced by their 8-8 record – in some matches they dominate and others they battle, but come away with a loss.

An impressive feature of the 11-match stretch was that four of the team’s six wins came via the shutout. Graduate student Kamilla Nella and senior Claire Koscielski were named captains of the women’s team before their first conference match against Niagara, which they won 7-0.

Nella earned her 100th career win after winning a singles match in Quinnipiac’s 7-0 win over Sacred Heart on March 22.

“Coming in as a freshman, I never thought in a million years that I’d get to 100 wins,” Nella said. “Being a part of Quinnipiac for five years now it’s just been a great experience.”

Bobcats head coach Paula Miller added an accolade of her own after the Bobcats defeated Niagara: her 100th career win with the team.

The women’s team has a deep singles lineup. Koscielski plays at the No. 1 spot and continues to impress. Miller feels she can look to Koscielski when the team needs a win.

“Claire has been playing great,” Miller said. “She’s been very consistent at winning and I can always depend on her. You don’t

know if she’s winning or losing if you look at her, she’s just so calm and collected on the court and she ends up pulling through.”

Quinnipiac is also getting support from the rookies, as freshman Nikole Lisovyy holds an 8-5 singles record. She’s won her last three matches and looks to ride that momentum heading into this weekend.

The defending MAAC champions head into conference play roaring after two consecutive shutout wins over Sacred Heart and New Haven.

The men’s program has seen recent success at the right time with MAAC play starting for them. Much like the women’s team, the men are inconsistent as well, as they too have found a groove and are on a four-match win streak.

Junior Donovan Brown has been cruising through his singles matches heading into conference play. Sprinkled into the mix of non-conference matches was one against Niagara, an opponent who Quinnipiac has had great success against. With the match tied at three wins each, Brown took his match into a third set. The New York City native won the match to give Quinnipiac a 1-0 record in the conference.

Men’s tennis head coach Bryan Adinolfi has said in the past that winning the doubles point is monumental to swing the momentum of the match to Quinnipiac’s favor.

“The doubles point is big if we want to have a chance at winning the conference,” Adinolfi said.

The grind-it-out mentality he presents keeps his team motivated when they’re down in a match, along with looking to one another for motivation.

A big part of Quinnipiac’s doubles matchups has been the team of junior Shaurya Sood and senior Kemal Karagozoglu. They were unstoppable as they manned an 8-1 record in their last nine matches.

Just like the women’s team, the men’s team announced that Karagozoglu would be captain for the remainder of the 2023 campaign on

March 2.

“I just try to look at my teammates and smile with them to loosen up a bit,” Karagozoglu said. “I was looking at (Sood) and Andreas (Whelan-Merediz) and they helped me relax and get in my groove.”

Both teams are looking to make noise in the MAAC. The men’s team seeks redemption following last year’s loss to Monmouth in the MAAC finals, while the women look to continue their reign as MAAC champions and earn another shot to compete for the NCAA title.



PEYTON MCKENZIE/CHRONICLE

Quinnipiac women’s tennis heads into MAAC play on the heels of back-to-back 7-0 wins.

# Quinnipiac esports brings home two conference titles

By ALEX MARTINAKOVA  
Staff Writer



CONNOR LAWLESS/CHRONICLE ARCHIVES (2022)

The Quinnipiac club esports team won two championships in Atlantic City this year.

The Quinnipiac club esports team traveled to Atlantic City from March 9-11 for the 2023 MAAC Esports Championships and earned MAAC Championships in Valorant and Super Smash Bros. Ultimate.

For the second consecutive year, the tournament was held at the Showboat Hotel in Atlantic City. And for the second consecutive year, the Quinnipiac team brought back the trophy for the Super Smash Bros. Ultimate, along with a first-time trophy for Valorant as well.

“It was really exciting. It was a lot like what sports in high school were, where we got on a big bus and traveled down together as a team,” said Lance Regan, a freshman captain of the Valorant team.

Quinnipiac is part of the MAAC Esports Conference alongside nine other universities: Canisius, Fairfield, Iona, Manhattan, Marist, Mount St. Mary’s, Niagara, Rider and Siena.

The teams compete in five games total: Valorant, Overwatch, Rocket League, Super Smash Bros. Ultimate and League of Legends.

The Bobcats entered the tournament seeded No. 5 in Rocket League, No. 4 in both League of Legends and Overwatch, No. 2 in Valorant and No. 1 in SSBU. 24 different players represented the Quinnipiac’s navy and gold over the event.

As a high-seeded team, Quinnipiac earned a bye to the quarterfinals in each bracket. During the first day of the tournament, the Bobcats managed to just narrowly edge out the Fairfield Stags in Overwatch, pushing the match to the last map. Similarly, they slipped past both the Canisius Golden Griffins and Marist Red Foxes to advance into the Valorant and Rocket League semifinals, respectively.

Quinnipiac closed the opening day of the tournament with a loss to the Stags, falling in League of Legends 2-0.

In the beginning of day two, the Bobcats lost their spot in the Overwatch finals, falling to the Mount St. Mary’s Mountaineers in three straight maps. Fairfield blocked the team from getting into the Rocket League finals as well. On the other hand, in Valorant, the Bobcats slipped past the Mountaineers to enter the finals.

Since SSBU was skipped over the first day, both the quarterfinals and semifinals were held on the same day. Quinnipiac easily moved through both of those rounds, defeating Iona and Marist.

Day three was reserved strictly for the final rounds of each game. The top-seeded Bobcats faced Siena in the grand final for the third year in a row. For the second time, they took home the win, being crowned 2023 SSBU MAAC Champions.

Quinnipiac junior and SSBU team captain Jonathan ‘Bakko’ Mason was also named the SSBU MVP for the third year in a row.

“Beforehand, I was fairly confident with the whole event itself, because we had a nearly undefeated season, with just one loss,” Mason said. “A lot of our early matches were pretty tough, but once we got to Siena, everything just kind of fell into place.”

In the Valorant finals, Quinnipiac edged out Marist 2-1 and grabbed its second ever title, as the 2023 Valorant MAAC Champions. The win is even more impressive given that the team is composed of four freshmen and a single junior.

“The upperclassmen are very open arms about us being freshmen, especially since we make a lot of mistakes, but they completely understand that and they help us,” Regan said.

The win led to another MVP title awarded to a Quinnipiac player, Javier ‘Torn’ Flores.

With Iona winning League of Legends, Mount St. Mary’s taking Overwatch and Fairfield snatching Rocket League, the Quinnipiac esports team was the only team to bring home two titles in 2023.

“It was an amazing experience, not only because I got to play video games but also because I got to have a really competitive environment,” Regan said.

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stepped onto campus.

“I mean what’s not to love about Quinnipiac,” George said. “Beautiful campus, great coaching staff, great group of guys here, and when I came on my visit I felt welcomed and I knew this was the spot I definitely wanted to be at.”

Coming out of the Westminster School, George was destined for the next level.

“Demitri is the ultimate teammate and a hell of a guy,” former Westminster teammate Riley Larsen wrote in a statement to the Chronicle. “It’s hard to put it into words, but he carries himself in a way that’s hard to find in people.”

As of publication, the midfielder currently ranks 25th nationally in face-off winning percentage throughout men’s NCAA Division I. Ranked out of 150 eligible specialists, this places George in the top 17% of the entire country.

George is usually limited to just face-offs during a normal game. Most of the time after the face-off is finished, George will run back to the sidelines and begin to immediately prepare for the next one.

So while he is clearly gifted in the sport of lacrosse, racking up multiple awards and achievements during his collegiate career, why does he limit himself to just a face-off specialist?

The answer is simple – family ties.

“My middle brother started taking face-offs in high school, he turned out to be pretty good

so I said ‘Hey I’ll be your backup’ and he started training me in middle school,” George said. “Then come high school we were both on the same team on varsity and we just kept practicing everyday in the backyard which made it a lot easier on me. He was a big part of that.”

Five years into his collegiate career, he has gotten better with every passing season. He continues to put up impressive numbers for the Bobcats, yet he believes that he is far from mastering his craft.

“There is always more to learn,” George said. “You know every single game when I go back into the locker room I think about all the stuff that I could’ve done better ... I’m always trying to evolve and become better.”

As George is in his final year of eligibility, the

next six games on the Bobcats schedule could be his last playing lacrosse at the collegiate level. The season has gotten off to a middle-of-the-road start, with the team currently sitting at 4-3, but it’s still in control of its own destiny.

“(I) definitely still try to watch him and keep up with the program as much as I can,” Larsen wrote. “Truly a friend and one of my closest buddies.”

The team has the ability to finish the season strong and its members are well aware of that.

But no matter how the season ends for the Bobcats, one thing is for certain: George has carved out a legacy at Quinnipiac that will be remembered long after he’s gone.





# Demitri George: One of Quinnipiac lacrosse’s greatest

By MICHAEL PETITTO  
Staff Writer

When looking at the best players in sports, specialists are often forgotten or glanced over. However, at Quinnipiac, the story is a bit different. The men’s lacrosse team is in possession of one of the best face-off specialists, not only in the MAAC, but in the entire country.

Graduate student midfielder Demitri George is a Connecticut native from West Simsbury, a town with a population of just over 3,000 people. But being from a small town hasn’t stopped George from achieving big things, as his lacrosse career has only improved as time has gone on.

George immediately made an impact the moment he stepped onto the Quinnipiac lacrosse field, appearing in all 16 games during his first season and being named to the All-MAAC Rookie Team in 2019.

It all seemed to come naturally to George, who grew up around the sport.

“I come from a lacrosse family, since both my brothers played in college, I was thrown right into it whether I liked it or not,” George said. “Lacrosse was definitely what I wanted to focus on down the road so that’s what I’m doing here now, I got a lot of guidance on the sport from my older brother.”

During his junior year, George not only shined on the field, but off it as well. On top of winning the first of his back-to-back Faceoff Specialist of the Year Awards and being awarded the MAAC Player of the Week in April 2021, George was also named to the MAAC All-Academic team.

Choosing Quinnipiac was not difficult for George, who felt welcomed from the moment he

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# Shutdown pitching, star newcomers fuel underdog softball team toward MAAC play

By MICHAEL LAROCKA  
Opinion Editor

Quinnipiac is just the little school of over-achievers this year, isn’t it?

Softball is playing like it’s next in line.

After being picked to finish last in the MAAC in 2023, the Bobcats are heading into conference play standing in third place with an 11-8 record. With that, the team is now one win away from matching its win total during the entire 2022 season.

Quinnipiac’s mostly successful non-conference stretch has included some major ups and downs. Of the Bobcats’ 11 wins so far, five came against teams ranked higher than them in the RPI rankings, including a 1-0 win on opening day against No. 82 Lehigh on Feb. 18.

However, of the team’s eight losses, three came against teams ranked lower than them, the most egregious of which coming on March 11 — a 3-2 loss to No. 305 South Carolina State. For reference, there are only 306 teams included in the RPI rankings.

Then again, the positives impact Quinnipiac softball’s success more, which the team has had plenty to be happy about.

The team’s biggest issue in 2022 was a lack of consistent pitching and timely hitting. A 5.28 team earned run average made for a lot of deficits that the Bobcats’ .640 team on base plus slugging couldn’t climb out of.

So far this season, those numbers have become much more manageable. A miniscule 1.98 team ERA is a direct result of breakout sophomore seasons from pitchers Sydney Horan and Jaclyn Gonzalez. As a

team, the Bobcats have pitched 10 games where they allowed two runs or less, including seven total shutouts, four from Horan and three from Gonzalez.

Horan has a 1.94 ERA and a 0.920 WHIP across 12 appearances, earning MAAC Pitcher of the Week honors on Feb. 21.

Gonzalez has arguably been greater, pitching to a 1.14 ERA across 10 appearances and earning MAAC Pitcher of the Week honors as well, this time on March 7.

“Our pitchers have been lights out for us,” head coach Hillary Smith said after the team’s doubleheader against Holy Cross on March 21. “We’ve got to keep that rolling and keep playing our game.”

The Bobcats’ non-conference schedule has also given their newcomers an opportunity to shine.

Freshman outfielder Mary Fogg has been an on-base machine for Quinnipiac from the leadoff spot in the lineup. Fogg leads the team in batting average (.375), qualified OPS (.810), runs (11) and total bases (21). She has sparked the Bobcats while in the field as well, making plays like a spectacular catch against Holy Cross on March 21.

Freshman infielder Natalia Apatiga has also made strides in the Bobcats’ lineup. She is currently batting .327, good for second on the team among qualified players. Apatiga has also been successful on the basepaths, going 4-for-4 on stolen-base attempts, the most on the team.

When looking at Fogg and Apatiga, as well as freshman infielder Sofia Vega and



YAMINI DALAL/CHRONICLE

**Freshman infielder Sofia Vega is batting .262 with 11 hits in 19 games this season.**

transfer sophomore utility player Amanda Engel, there is a lot to look forward to in the Bobcats’ future.

“We’re learning every game how to get better,” Smith said. “We have a lot of young girls starting, so just to see them go through the little speed bumps that we’ve been going through but growing every time, that’s all we can do.”

But with everything going well for the Bobcats, does any of this ultimately matter?

Quinnipiac might be in third place right now, but on April 1, that clock resets. It’s time for MAAC play, and the Bobcats open it

up with a doubleheader against Canisius, the reigning conference champion.

“I think we’re setting ourselves up so that we can go into that opening weekend and we can be confident playing Canisius,” Smith said on Feb. 3. “It’s going to be a tough battle, but we’re ready for it.”

The last time Quinnipiac finished with a record above .500 in MAAC play was back in 2016. These Bobcats have shown they can play winning ball against teams from all across the east coast, but now, they need to prove they can do it against the competition of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference.