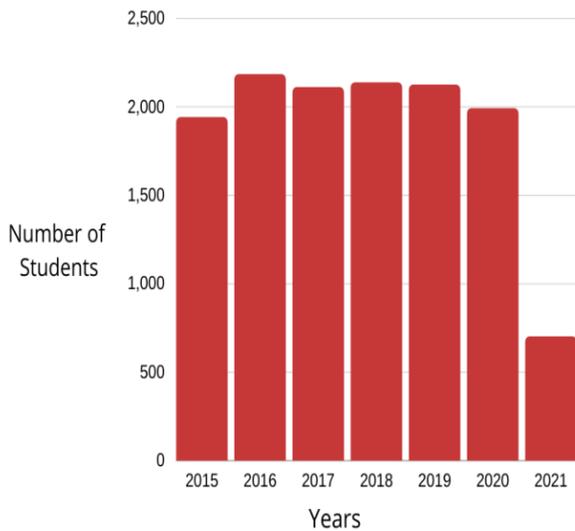


THE RECORDER

February 4, 2021

Volume 123 | Issue 1

Students In Housing For Spring Semester



Julia Moran

Central Connecticut has 700 students returning to live on campus this spring, down from the 997 that lived on campus in the fall.

CCSU President Zulma R. Toro said she does not expect these numbers to return to normal this fall.

CCSU's New Testing Plan

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut State University will be increasing the amount of weekly testing done for COVID-19 this semester.

The university is once again partnering with Griffin Health to administer tests to students. Each week, Central Connecticut will be testing all resident students, student athletes, students in work study, residence hall staff and commuter students with on-ground classes.

If all goes according to plan, there will be more than 1,000 tests administered each week.

Though some things could be subject to change, the plan is to have two days a week -currently Monday and Thursday- where everyone can get tested. The school will be using an application called Bookings for scheduling purposes.

Interim Chief Facilities Officer Sal Cintonino, one of the people spearheading this new plan for the spring, said that "this whole thing does not work without the compliance [of the students.]"

While the cooperation of CCSU students is a necessary part of the university's plan, there are "additional suspenders in place" this semester to monitor things, Cintonino said.

One suspender Cintonino noted is keeping a more watchful eye on the symptom survey. Each day, students are sent a symptom survey to their emails where they can report any irregular symptoms.

During the fall semester, Cintonino said that the list of students completing the survey was only being checked once per week. This spring, residence hall directors will be sent an updated list every day of who did or did not complete the survey in their buildings.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Spring Housing Numbers For CCSU Decline

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The number of students living on campus this semester at Central Connecticut State University has dropped nearly 30 percent from the fall, according to CCSU President Zulma R. Toro.

During the fall semester, 997 students were living on CCSU's campus. As the spring semester gets underway, only 700 have returned.

Though Toro is hopeful for an increase in both enrollment and the number of students living on campus next fall, she said that she does not expect them to be at the levels they were before the pandemic

for quite some time.

"I am anticipating that [fall enrollment] will not be back to the level that we saw in fall 2019. I guarantee you that we will not be at that level yet. I am anticipating the effects of COVID-19 will be with us through the next two academic years," Toro said in an interview with the Recorder.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic sent CCSU students home on March 12, there were 1,990 students living on campus, according to Central Connecticut's Office of Institutional Research and Assessment's semi-annual report.

These reports are collected and filed after the first three weeks of the semester, so their official count for this semester has not yet been published and thus the 700

number could fluctuate if any students decided to enroll in housing or leave.

Toro said that if the school is allotted money through another government stimulus package, the budget can be balanced. Central Connecticut has already received two stimulus packages, as well as reimbursement from the state of Connecticut for new COVID protocols, according to Toro.

The decline in students living on campus has made the university reconsider what its housing model might look like moving forward.

"This is an opportunity for us at Central to take a close look at what we are doing," Toro said.

Elmer's Place Recieves Aid From Barstool Fund And GoFundMe

BY SAMANTHA BENDER
NEWS EDITOR

Elmer's Place, a popular bar among college students and New Britain residents located on the edge of Central Connecticut State University, has recently received aid from Dave Portnoy, owner of Barstool Sports.

Portnoy launched a fundraising effort, "The Barstool Fund", with \$500,000 of his own money on Dec. 17 in an effort to support small businesses across the nation impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I don't care how I get the money. If I need to raise more money, if I have to pay it myself, whatever it is, I'll get creative," Portnoy said in a video on The Barstool Fund website. "Once you are in our program, we will pay whatever you need, the necessities you need, the money you need, to get through this thing and give you a fair chance to run your business."

When they heard about the movement, owners Kenneth Cook, his wife Melissa and their son Michael Cook applied by filming a video to submit to The Barstool Fund.

Shortly after, the Cook's received a Facetime call from Portnoy announcing Elmer's Place had been selected to receive aid from the fund.

The bar, which has been operating for 40 years, is set to receive \$20,000 a month for the next three months. To qualify for money from The Barstool Fund, small businesses like Elmer's Place must still pay their employees. Beyond that, the money can be used toward whatever necessary, whether it be rent relief, tax relief, etc.

The donation from Barstool came shortly after CCSU student, Emily Bowtruczyk, created a GoFundMe page to help save the bar she refers to as a "second home."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5



Owners of Elmer's Place Mike, Melissa and Kenneth Cook (from left to right) celebrate their donation from Barstool Sports

@elmersplace Instagram post

THE RECORDER

Student Center
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06053
860.832.3744
editor@centralrecorder.
org
centralrecorder.org

Editor-in-Chief

Ryan Jones
ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu

Managing Editor

Kelly Langevin
kelly.langevin@my.ccsu.edu

News Editor

Samantha Bender
samanthabender@my.ccsu.edu
Ryan Brooks, Assistant
rbrooks@my.ccsu.edu

Lifestyle Editor

Julia Conant
juliaconant@my.ccsu.edu
Sarah Wall, Assistant
sarahwall@my.ccsu.edu

Sports Editor**Layout Editor****Copy Editors**

Jurrel Racine
jurrel.racine@my.ccsu.edu

Social Media Editors

Isabella Chan
chan2017@my.ccsu.edu

Naugatuck Students React To Racist Statements From Police Chief's Daughter

BY MOLLY INGRAM
STAFF WRITER

Students at Naugatuck High School (NHS) participated in walkouts and rallies this week after photos of a student captioned with racist remarks were made public.

The student in question is the daughter of Naugatuck Police Chief, Steven Hunt, and Naugatuck High School Assistant Principal, Joanna Hunt. The content of alleged the messages, paired with the student's relationships with town officials, has sparked fear and outrage amongst the Naugatuck community.

Naugatuck High School sophomore Ayana Williams spoke out about the current climate at her school.

"Overall the black community [and their allies] are outraged," Williams said. "The posts are threatening and make the black students

at Naugatuck feel unsafe, unvalued and uncomfortable."

Students immediately began planning events to denounce racism in their community and show support for their black peers. Williams said that the events have facilitated "more conversation about these issues with white students as well as teachers."

"In our library, for two days we had an open forum where students were able to speak publicly to the principal as well as the superintendent," Williams said. "The students are angry and I feel like this did give white students more of a look into the struggles that the black community faces."

However, there were members of the Naugatuck community who were not supportive of the students efforts to denounce their classmate's actions.

Naugatuck High School senior Alexis Siggars said that there were two groups of people

when the racist statements were made public.

"[There was] a side who was supportive and empathetic and then a side that wants to label us as 'rebellious' and 'overreacting' while ignoring the racial slurs and threats bestowed upon the black community," Siggars said.

The main goal of the community action events was to spread awareness about the injustices that people of color continuously face. Many community members additionally called for the replacement of the assistant principal and police chief.

The messages posted by the daughter of high ranked members of the Naugatuck community have led some black students to fear for their safety both in and out of school.

"Children are not born racist, racism is taught," Williams said. "If Mrs. Hunt continues to represent NHS, our black students will not

feel safe. Community-wide, I think that Chief Hunt should step down from his position as well."

In speeches made during the rallies, students also expressed their disappointment with the school's current curriculum. Siggars said she envisions "a curriculum that includes more than just slavery for our black ancestors."

Besides the curriculum, Williams also pleaded for, "black staff in our schools, to hire black leaders in our community, to implement a no-tolerance policy for racism/hate speech and teach empathy in school at a young age so that students understand the power of their words and how much they can hurt people when used wrongfully."

The parents of the student who allegedly posted the messages were not reached for comment on this story.

Housing Numbers Decline

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

One idea that Toro mentioned was a change in the way meal plans were set up for resident students.

Students living on campus currently must also enroll in a meal plan which costs roughly \$2,600 per student. Though there have not been any official decisions made yet, Toro said that letting students decide if they would like the meal plan or not is something that could happen moving forward.

This idea, along with other possible changes, have come from feedback made by CCSU students as well as conversations had with the executive committee of the university and academic teams, Toro said.

The goal of changes like these are to "make living on campus more attractive to all of the students, not just incoming freshmen and sophomores, but all of the students," Toro said.

The regular capacity for CCSU's residence halls is 2,512. Due to the pandemic, that number dropped down to 1,985 in the fall.

Before the pandemic, housing numbers were still down from prior years.

The 1,990 students living on campus in the spring of 2020 was a 6 percent decrease from the 2,124 students in residence halls for the spring 2019 semester.



Central's capacity for housing during the pandemic is 1985.

Ryan Jones

R

**We need writers!
Interested in
having your work
featured in the
Recorder?**

**Contact an Editor
(see list to the left)**

CCSU Residents Move Back In For Spring Semester

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Move in day for resident students at Central Connecticut State University was unlike any other.

Upon arriving to campus on January 19, students were administered a rapid Binax COVID-19 test. Students then waited in their car for fifteen minutes for results.

After the tests were administered to the student, they were instructed to wait in their car for results for 15 minutes.

If the student tested negative, they were escorted to their residence hall along with workers from a moving company hired by the university.

Students who tested positive were sent to Beecher Hall to isolate for 10 days. According

to Sal Cintorino, Interim Chief Facilities Officer, only two students were put into isolation following the initial round of tests.

The low number of positive tests was a sigh of relief for everyone involved.

"It was a definitely a very encouraging sign and a very good starting point," CCSU President Zulma R. Toro said in an interview with the Recorder.

Students from the nursing program as well as faculty supervisors helped with the process of administering tests, something Toro said was a "highlight" of the day.

"I was most impressed with the nursing students and the faculty from that program," Toro said. "That made our move in day unique in the sense that we provided real world experience

to the nursing students and at the same time they help the institution and help our students."

Two hours after students moved back into their dorm rooms, they were administered a COVID-19 RT PCR test, which takes two days for results to come back.

Resident students were again given a PCR test on January 24, the fifth day of a seven day quarantine period students were required to undergo.

Now that the quarantine period is over, all resident students will continue to be administered tests each week until March, when a random 25 percent of students will be selected for tests.

Last semester, students were required to take a test within 14 days before arrival to campus.

Cintorino said the plan for this semester changed after

"many students had taken a test and days after had tested positive" last semester.

"It was a lot of work," Cintorino said of the day, "but we felt it was

the best plan and safest plan for our community."



Students were administered a rapid COVID test upon arrival.

Julia Moran

CT Colleges And Universities Struggle With Budget Deficit



CONNECTICUT STATE
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

BOARD OF REGENTS FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

CCSU was recommended to cut 20 faculty positions to make up for deficit.

BY RYAN BROOKS
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

As the Connecticut General Assembly and Board of Regents (BOR) begin their 2021 budget deliberations, legislators and professors are expressing their concerns about the proposed Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) budget cuts.

Last fall, former CSCU President Mark Ojakian and the Board of Regents announced that all Connecticut Colleges and the four Connecticut State Universities would face up to a \$70 million budget shortfall.

In an effort to make up for the deficit, the BOR proposed a number of controversial actions, resulting in faculty and student-led protests.

According to the BOR meeting packet released in October, "revisions [to the budget] are to include details of across-the-board cuts at universities and colleges."

For CCSU, the packet recommends "the elimination of 20 faculty positions, 10 percent reduction in peer tutors, [and a] reduction in library resources and funding that supports recruitment and student success endeavors."

The packet also proposes a hiring freeze at all CSCU institutions.

Lisa Mangini, a professor at Asnuntuck Community College, expressed her displeasure with the board's proposals in a letter.

"The vast majority of students who enroll in these institutions are in-state residents. Maintaining the high-quality education available to them at CSCU schools will attract and retain students. Cutting corners on allocated time for faculty research, administrative duties, and student recruitment and support while increasing faculty course loads by 20 percent (without additional compensation) will surely impact students negatively, as will the elimination of enrichment programs, such as guest speakers."

Christopher Dean, a former Southern Connecticut State University assistant professor, expressed similar concerns to the Board.

"If the contract proposal that you have brought forward, with the cutting of funds for academic research, the loss of intellectual property, and an increase in teaching load for all CSCU faculty, is at the heart of your negotiations, then you are dooming people in Connecticut, first-generation students in particular, to a grim collegiate experience," Dean said.

Now, several months later, some CT legislators are optimistic by the unexpected \$130 million surplus in the state budget.

Looking to prevent cuts to both CSCU Colleges and Universities, Cathy Osten, D-Sprague, a leading Democrat in the General Assembly Appropriations Committee, told the CT Mirror, "legislators need at least to study the pandemic's impact on two key program areas: social services for the disabled and poor, and the state's community college system. I think we should be having a discussion about these groups' funding needs, [the] community college system is vital for helping the state's economy climb out of the current recession."

In addition to the excitement over the surprise surplus, Chris Murphy, one of Connecticut's two Democratic Senators, is pushing the Senate to move on the new Biden administrations COVID relief bill.

"My clear message is that our priority needs to be this package or a version of it that can pass the Senate," Murphy told The Hill, a U.S. political website.

The BOR is scheduled to meet on Friday, Jan. 29, to discuss any further steps.

Central Students React To Inauguration

BY KELLY LANGEVIN
MANAGING-EDITOR



Juliana Rosario, Junior
Sociology Major

“We’re living at a moment in history that’s full of uncertainty in many aspects. Because of our economic, health and political crises, this past election was definitely one of the most significant events of the past decade. This year’s inauguration was impressive and inspiring. Kamala Harris, the United States’ first female vice president, has inspired thousands of women around the world and has shown them that anything is possible and we should never stop fighting for our dreams.”



Jenna Dube, Senior
Psychology Major

“I’m looking forward to having Biden as president and hoping he’ll help unite our country considering how divided it has been in the last four years. I think he will help us heal from the pandemic and provide the relief Americans need. He’s not perfect, but he is what our country needs right now.”



Steven Scougall, Senior
Psychology Major

“The inauguration went as well as you’d expect. Biden was responsible and had very few people attend the ceremony due to the current pandemic. It was refreshing to see a president give a speech about uniting our country instead of playing the party versus party game. Joe Biden was not my first choice and I disagree with him on many things, however, it’s clear his intentions are pure. Saving lives, fighting injustice and financial relief for those who need it most I believe are all movements we should get behind.”



Joseph Riley,
Criminology Major

“After watching the inauguration, it made me seriously worried for our country. Not only did you see what looked like a serious amount of hatred, specifically from the armed forces there, but you could also feel the awkwardness that was overwhelmingly in the air. Over the last year we’ve seen what will go down as the most controversial election in history.”

CCSU Begins Testing Students Weekly

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Students who have not completed the symptom survey will be contacted by the university, though Cintorino added that he hopes that that does not have to happen often.

“We certainly want them to comply,” Cintorino said. “What we don’t want to do is bring them in and have enforcement for that but we’re prepared to do whatever it takes to keep the university safe. That starts with clear communication from us but then

being steadfast and making sure that people do comply.”

The university has also put together a team of more than 30 contact tracers this semester to try and slow down the spread of the virus when someone does in fact test positive. The positive cases recorded on move in day did not require much work from the tracers because these students were put into isolation in Beecher residence hall.

“We’re really excited about the plan,” Cintorino said. “We’re

confident based on what we did from the fall that this is even better and it’s going to help us continue to move forward.”

Three work groups were put together by Central Connecticut with the goal of “reaching out and talking to people to try and get some feedback about what we could do better,” Cintorino said.

The groups each had roughly 60 people in total. The opinions from students heard in these groups “had some strong influence on us,” Cintorino added.

After March, the group of people being tested each week drops down to 25 percent from each of the aforementioned categories. Student athletes in season would be an exception to this. This group would include the teams that play in the spring season as well as the fall sports, which will be playing this spring after the Northeast Conference voted to play. The only sport not participating is football, which is significant considering that team would require roughly 90 tests per week.

Biden Signs Several Executive Orders In First Week

BY AVERY JONES
STAFF WRITER

On January 20 President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris were sworn in at the U.S. Capitol. History was made as Harris became America's first female and Black and South Asian Vice President.

In the few hours that followed Biden's inauguration, he signed several executive orders including the revision of civil immigration enforcement policies and priorities.

The order recognizes the benefits immigrants bring to America's economy, communities and culture.

"Immigrants have helped strengthen America's families, communities, businesses, and workforce, and economy, infusing the United States with creativity, energy, and ingenuity," Biden said in section 1 of his executive order.

The order will also revoke Executive Order 13768 of Jan. 25, 2017, an order signed by former President Trump that claimed a need to remove thousands of "aliens" or individuals who do not have U.S. citizenship.

In another executive order, Biden created the position of Coordinator of the COVID-19 Response and Counselor to the President. The individual assigned to this role will report directly to Biden, but they also will be essential for advising the executive departments on responding adequately and correctly to the coronavirus and other possible future pandemics.

In total, Biden signed 17 executive orders aimed at pressing issues currently facing Americans, including wearing masks, formulating a response that will stop the spread of COVID-19, immigration, racial inequality, climate change, federal review and regulation, and other matters.

Biden and his team have also taken further steps to tackle these problems. On the day of the inauguration, the United States rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, a treaty signed by various nations to help mitigate climate change.

The United States also reversed its decision to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO). This allows the U.S. to once again exercise leadership and set an example, participate in international efforts to advance global health, eradicate threats and reform the WHO.

Biden also announced that the pause on federal student loan payments and collections would be extended, and interest rates would be kept at 0%.

"Too many Americans are struggling to pay for necessities and to provide for their families," a statement from the White House said. "They should not be forced to choose between paying their student loans and putting food on the table."

The freeze is said to last through Sept. 20 and is expected to provide relief for upwards of 41 million student borrowers.

On Jan 22, Biden issued another executive order that calls for a government-wide effort to bring "equitable emergency economic relief" to struggling families and communities all over the country. This executive order will address the growing hunger crisis, getting financial assistance to those who need it, aiding veterans to maintain their finances and distributing government assistance.

More information about President Joe Biden's executive orders can be found on the Federal Register.gov website.

Editor's Column: Will Anything Ever Be Normal Again?



BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Wake up. Roll out of bed. Open your laptop. Welcome to the college experience of 2020-21.

I don't think I'm alone when I say that I will never forget the email we all got on March 12 of last year from Central President Dr. Zulma Toro.

"Dear Central Family, this is a time for calm, compassion and patience. We just received word that a CCSU student has had potential exposure to an individual who is currently being tested for the COVID-19 coronavirus," the email stated.

As the entire campus shut down, it seemed the world did too.

In the time since March 12, so much has happened. The world transformed into panic, we went through the trials of finishing a semester online, Black Lives Matter protests flooded streets, America elected a new president...and that's just the tip of the iceberg.

But in some ways, the change we thought we'd see seems oh so slim. We went home March 12, and many of us are still there. When we first left, many people (myself included)

believed that this would not be the "new normal" it came to be.

"This will all be over in a few weeks" became a common phrase, as long as we just washed our hands, stayed inside and wore masks.

Spoiler alert: that did not happen.

We are soon approaching a year since we were sent home from school and the idea of returning this semester in a regular fashion is all but a dream. "Once this is all over," we say time and time again that we often step over and walk around that we have no idea when "this is all over," can be. A simple phrase that gives us hope can also put our spirits down.

Remote learning is the only option for many. What may have felt like a nice vacation and break from real class now just feels like a never ending stare at bright laptop screen and tired droopy eyes.

The idea of anything going back to how it was the morning of March 12, feels foreign and man is that upsetting.

As vaccinations become more readily available, maybe things will start to look like they did pre-covid. But the reality is that many of the things we loved from those days will not be returning. There are many things we did before the pandemic that we might have done for the last time and not have known it. I can't speak for everyone, but I know I am not going to be running back to concerts, sports games or packed restaurants anytime soon.

You might say that I'm being too pessimistic and you're probably right. There are a number of reasons why we all might feel a bit gloomy right now.

Since March 12, optimists have become a dying breed. COVID-19 cases continue to rise and many people increasingly act as if it no longer exists while the death count attributed to the virus keeps climbing. It's tough to be an optimist when you've got no say or control in the craziness thrown at you each day.

Even though times are incredibly difficult right now, there is hope that we will one day get back to the ancient time period of pre-March 12.

In the meantime, we must boost each other up and not tear each other down. Every single person in the world is dealing with the stress of navigating through a pandemic. If we all can show some compassion to that, along with the struggles that come from it, the world can be a better place, even during a pandemic.

Elmer's Place Recieves Aid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"For someone like myself who has spent more time here than not, you quickly learn Elmer's is not just a bar; rather a place to bring people together," Bowtruczyk wrote in the GoFundMe description. "Celebrating after big wins, graduations, the end of the semester, or even just a spot that you knew would never let you down after a long week of school, Elmer's Place was always the place to be."

As of Saturday, her fundraiser has raised \$18,456 and continues to receive donations. According to Bowtruczyk, after everything Elmer's Place has done for the community and students, she knew she had to help.

"I wanted to do my part in making sure that generations of students to come get to experience the fun nights at Elmer's that we all got to," Bowtruczyk said. "I was never expecting such a positive response. When I first made the [GoFundMe], I set the goal for \$5,000 but within two days the GoFundMe page had gone viral on social media and before I knew it we were over \$10,000"

The Barstool Fund, as of Saturday, has raised \$33,257,701, has 208,805 supporters, and has supported 200 businesses.

Elmer's Place remains open seven days a week, with last call for alcohol at 9:30 p.m. and everyone out of the bar by 10 p.m.



Dave Portnoy calling Michael Cook @BarstoolFund on Twitter receiving help.

Family Feud With The CCSU Family

BY JULIA CONANT
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

In the week leading up to the first day of classes this semester, the office of Student Activities and Leadership Development introduced an initiative to keep students involved in the campus community while maintaining social distancing.

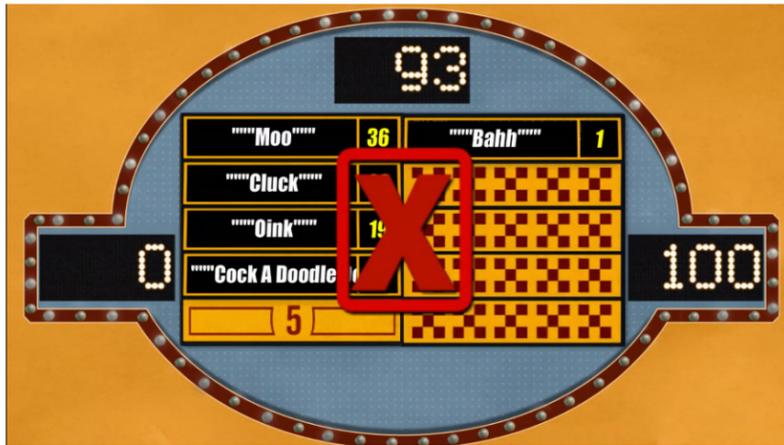
The lineup of events was titled “STAY INVolved,” and featured photo captioning contests, TikTok challenges, trivia, bingo games and other ways to get involved virtually.

“CCSU has exciting news,” an Instagram post from @ccsusald on Jan. 15 said. “From January 19th-25th we have virtual programs EVERY day available for students. Keep an eye on our ‘STAY INVolved’ highlight to keep up with the fun we have in store!”

The final event of “STAY INVolved” week was a virtual “Family Feud Game Show,” held on Microsoft Teams.

“This interactive game pits contestants against each other in a contest to name the most popular responses to survey questions,” the @ccsusald Instagram post said. “You can win prizes throughout the show!”

Upon entering the Microsoft Teams call, students were split into three teams and pitted against each other two at a time in true “Family Feud” fashion. The host asked a



Team Three could not come up with the correct answer and steal the points.

Julia Conant
(Screenshot)

survey question and the team representative who buzzed in first gave an answer. If the given answer appeared on the board, that student was given the option to pass or play.

If the team in play was able to provide all of the answers without receiving three strikes, they received all of the points. If not, the other team was given a chance to steal.

Some questions asked were, “Which animal sounds are you most likely to hear at a barnyard?” and “What

is something kids wouldn’t do in the morning if it weren’t for their parents?”

After three rounds of play, the winning team was determined. However, with some time to kill, a few bonus rounds were played just for fun.

The winning team faced off against the other two teams combined into one. The now mashed-up team had a chance to regain their pride.

The winning team began the bonus round with a win, but the underdog mash-up team won the next two rounds. They pulled ahead by knowing that “playing with your food” is something you shouldn’t do at the dinner table and stealing the winning team’s points.

Once the game ended, each member of the winning team received a \$20 gift card and the other players at least won a night of bonding with their fellow peers through a game show.

Be on the lookout for more events that Student Activities and Leadership Development hold throughout the semester, as well as events hosted by other Central organizations.

NETFLIX IT

‘Fate: The Winx Saga’ Has Its Own Kind Of Magic

BY MELODY RIVERA
STAFF WRITER

As a kid, I always dreamed that the “Winx Club” would become live-action. Earlier this month, that dream finally came true.

“Fate: The Winx Saga” is a Netflix drama about a group of five teenage fairies that debuted on January 22.

The show is a live-action spin-off of the 2004 “Winx Club” cartoon, created in Italy by Iginio Straffi. American viewers caught the show on Nickelodeon and 4Kids TV during its runtime. The cartoon currently has eight seasons with a ninth season in progress.

The original “Winx Club” follows 16 year-old Bloom, a girl who lives on Earth. After helping Stella, a fairy who was attacked in battle, Bloom discovers that she has powers and is a fairy herself.

Stella introduces Bloom to the Alfea College for Fairies in the Magical Dimension. There, Bloom meets four other teenage fairies named Flora, Musa, Tecna and Aisha. Together they form the Winx Club and fight villains such as Trix, a group of three witches.

The “Winx Club” works together with a group of teenage boys known as the Specialists. These boys go on to become the future love interests of the “Winx Club.”

The cartoon follows Bloom as she searches for the truth about her mysterious past.

“Fate: The Winx Saga” mirrors some details from the animated series. The Netflix edition returns characters such as Bloom, Stella and Musa, along with two of the Specialists, Sky and Riven. Side characters such as Bloom’s parents, the Headmistress of Alfea and Stella’s mother are also present in the live-action series.

Stella is still the princess of Solaria and even has the Ring of Solaria; a special item

she possessed in the original series. Bloom and Sky’s romance is also something “Fate: The Winx Saga” focuses on occasionally.

There are more similarities in the live-action show, but they’re considered major spoilers.

Some characters are missing from the live-action series, such as Flora, Tecna and two of the Specialists, Brandon and Timmy. In contrast, Aisha, who isn’t introduced into the original “Winx Club” until season two is included in season one of the spin-off.

In terms of new characters, the live-action show introduces Terra, who is Flora’s cousin. The Trix have been replaced with a new villain named Beatrix, who is meant to represent all of the witches combined.

In “Fate: The Winx Saga,” Stella and Sky have romantic history, which is something that didn’t happen in the original cartoon. Musa is also in a relationship with a new character named Sam, as opposed to having feelings for Riven.

Unlike the original “Winx Club,” there are moments of bloody violence and vulgar language, making “Fate: The Winx Saga” rated TV-MA.

The live-action series is very different, but not all of the differences are bad. After binge-watching the series in one day, I can confidently say I enjoyed the show from start to finish. There are many aspects of it that I really liked, but there are also a couple of things I did not.

“Fate: The Winx Saga” only has six episodes, and has a strange pacing at times. Some parts feel slow while other parts feel more rushed.

The romances are not great. The only relationship I genuinely cared about is the one between Bloom and Sky. The rest of them are either bland or too problematic.

Bloom and Stella were best friends in the original, but in “Fate: The Winx Series,” Stella is portrayed as mean. Thankfully this is mostly a problem in the first half of the series, but they made her far too rude at times for me.

I also didn’t like how Aisha seems to only be relevant when she’s involved in Bloom’s story. She deserves to have something going on for herself.

My last problem with the show is that it has way too many new characters and some of them are unnecessary. I hope all of these problems are solved and that Flora and Tecna are added to the next season.

I enjoy all of action scenes. The special effects are absolutely gorgeous and there are a lot of scenes where the fairies show off their cool magical abilities.

I love how Bloom’s story is similar to the cartoon, but with some interesting changes. The friendship between the five main fairies feels realistic. It takes time

for them to get close with each other and I appreciated that element.

The show also has a good balance between dark themes and funny, feel-good moments. I was worried that the show was going to be too dark and edgy, but the mature themes were not overwhelming.

As a huge “Winx Club” fan, I was very excited to watch “Fate: The Winx Saga.” I grew up with this franchise and it meant a lot to me that the creator of “Winx Club” made a show for the fans of the cartoon who are now adults. While I was watching the last episode, I felt emotional and teared up because of a particular scene I will not spoil here.

Overall, “Fate: The Winx Saga” is definitely worth the watch, especially for fans of the original. This means something coming from a huge “Winx Club” fan such as myself.



The Original Winx animated series aired in 2004.

NETFLIX

Play The Hits! Volume One: February 1985

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Welcome to the first edition of a weekly column, "Play the Hits!"

Each week, we'll be picking a random year and week and go over the top five from the Billboard Hot 100.

All archives used for the rankings come from billboard.com.

For our first edition, let's travel back to 1985 and take a look at the hits from February 3-9.

"Back To The Future" still is not out, Michael Jordan is wrapping up his rookie season with the Bulls and the only pandemic on people's minds are which scrunchie to wear with which fishnets. It was a simpler time, but the music was anything but that. Without further adieu, here's Billboard's top five from the week of February 3-9, 1985.

5. Boys Of Summer - Don

Henley

Coming in at number five we've got the Eagles' drummer and lead singer Don Henley. Henley's vocals are accompanied by a gripping riff done on a synthesizer, an instrument we will be seeing a lot today, as well as some muted guitar plucking.

When Henley demoed this track to Tom Petty, Petty scoffed at the heavy use of synthesizers, something that was not seen as very "rock and roll" for the time.

Despite Henley's departure from the rock sound of the Eagles, he lays down a catchy tune on "Boys Of Summer" and as he always did with the Eagles, he wrote some great lyrics to accompany them.

It's a classic "old dude reminiscing" song à la Springsteen's "Glory Days." The subject is cruising around as summer begins to wind down. He thinks back to his past love, how he messed things up and how he wishes he could go back to her.

Henley won a Grammy for the song in 1986 for Best Male Rock Vocal Performance. In 1985 the music video won video of the year at the second-ever MTV Music Video Awards.

4. Lover Boy - Billy Ocean



A screenshot from Ocean's "Lover Boy" video. Youtube

This song is just awesome. It's like a disco, funk soul mash up and it just works so well.

A rocking guitar riff with some over-the-top synths play over Ocean's pleas to someone to let them be his lover boy.

This one surprisingly had a guitar solo that didn't really fit with the rest of the song, but the instrumental interlude that preceded it was perfect so I will look past that.

Looking past the musical part of the song... this has to be one of the weirdest music videos I have ever seen. Please, watch it if you haven't before. Ocean is seen singing in some sort of hologram, but the video is highlighted by an alien on horseback in a space bar trying to pick up another alien. The couple ride off on said horse as the video ends. Yes, I'm serious and no

I don't know what to make of it.

3. Careless Whisper - Wham!

with George Michael

Quite possibly the most iconic saxophone riff of all time, and that's not hyperbole.

George Michael's 1984 hit with his group Wham! reached number one in 25 different countries. The song and infamous sax riff was first composed when Michael was just a child and the song was one of the three that Wham! recorded for their demo tape. It's the quintessential 80's love ballad.

The great albeit cheesy saxophone, the smooth guitar backing, the synth and of course Michael's fantastic voice bring this song to another level. You can't listen to this song and NOT sing along to the chorus and of course the saxophone will be stuck in your head the rest of the day. "Careless Whisper" might be my favorite from this week's top five, I don't care how cheesy you think it is.

2. Easy Lover - Philip Bailey

with Phil Collins



Bailey and Collins in studio.

Lester Cohen

What a tune. What a collaboration.

Two of the '80's best, Philip Bailey of Earth, Wind and Fire and Phil Collins of Genesis unite for this classic song.

The gripping bass-line, Bailey and Collins harmonization and Collins' classic drums combine together for that glam rock sound of the '80's that we all know and love, but it has its own unique flavor that you could only expect to get from these two legends of the music industry. The story behind this song is as interesting as the song is catchy.

Collins was hired to produce Bailey's first solo

album Chinese Wall. According to Collins, Bailey asked Collins to write a song with him at the end of the session. The two came together and recorded the entire five-minute hit that night. Collins went on to say in a Rolling Stone interview that the "song doesn't sound like any particular era. It's just fantastic."

1. I Want To Know What Love Is - Foreigner



A screenshot from "I Want To Know What Love Is" showing Jones singing the chorus. Youtube

And finally...we've reached number one.

Foreigner certainly took a step away from their original sound with this one. I mean, "Jukebox Hero" sounds like a completely different band.

Though the band's rock and roll sound was successful with their debut album 4, "I Want To Know What Love Is" brought Foreigner to otherworldly heights.

Lead singer Mick Jones thought of the song during a late night writing session at a tumultuous time in his life.

The song features vocals on the chorus from the New Jersey Mass Choir. It's seen as one of the greatest rock ballads of its time and sold more than 20 million copies in the United States.

It's also been covered 34 different times from Mariah Carey to Alvin and the Chipmunks. The booming chorus accompanied by the choir is a perfect accent to the slower, more subtle approach Jones takes to the verses. It might be a bit overplayed by now, but there's no doubt it was deserving of the number one spot in 1985.

Thanks for following along through the first week! We'll be picking random weeks and years for every edition of the Recorder this semester. Up next, we've got a week in the '60's that changed music's course forever. Tune in next week to find out what that means!

Suggestions for next week can be sent to my email at ryan.michael.jones@my.ccsu.edu.

How Olivia Rodrigo Took Over 2021

BY JULIA CONANT
LIFESTYLE EDITOR

The beginning of 2021 marked the inception of Disney star Olivia Rodrigo's widely successful music career.

Rodrigo previously sang songs for the Disney shows she starred in, "Bizaardvark" and "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series." However, on Jan. 8, she released her debut single "drivers license."

The title may seem straightforward, however, as the song continues the lyrics spin its wheels in another direction—heartbreak.

A song that seems so innocent has the power to move anyone to tears. It is more than a girl getting her license; it's the ending of a relationship Rodrigo never saw coming, leaving her crying through the suburbs reminiscing of times before.

"Drivers License" garnered attention from listeners all over the world, reaching number one on Billboard's "Global 200." On Jan. 11, the song broke Spotify's record for most streams in one day from a non-holiday song. On Jan. 12, she broke the record again.

Getting a driver's license and getting your heart broken are both things people consider "a right of passage." Since these two life events are regarded as widely universal, it makes sense why so many fans are identifying with the song. Even those currently in a healthy relationship posted videos screaming the lyrics.

While Rodrigo has not revealed who the song is about, the general assumption among fans is that it is about Joshua Bassett, Rodrigo's "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series" co-star. This is because certain lyrics seem to refer to Bassett's rumored new girlfriend, Sabrina Carpenter.

In the first verse, Rodrigo sang, "And you're probably with that blonde girl / Who always made me doubt / She's so much older than me." Carpenter is 21-years-old, four



Rodrigo (above) celebrating her new license and hit song @olivia.rodrigo on Instagram

years older than Rodrigo. Carpenter also has blonde hair.

Fans also assume the song is about Bassett because he allegedly taught Rodrigo to drive in an In-N-Out parking lot. This correlates to the opening line of the song, which is, "I got my driver's license last week / Just like we always talked about."

Amongst all of the praise for "Drivers License," Bassett and Carpenter received backlash from Rodrigo's fans. As of Jan. 24, Bassett has limited his Instagram so that only his followers can comment on his posts.

Bassett released a song titled "Lie Lie Lie" six days after Rodrigo released "Drivers License." The title is self-explanatory, as the song is addressed to someone who is spreading lies about him.

Upon the first listen, the song seems as though it could be about Rodrigo. However, Bassett posted a video of him singing an early draft of the song to his Instagram in November of 2019. The timing of "Lie Lie Lie" could've been coincidental, but it's more likely that the songs were scheduled to be released one after the other as a publicity stunt.

While Bassett's song may be unrelated to Rodrigo's, the song Carpenter released on Jan. 22 was much more direct. "Skin" is directed toward someone who put Carpenter in the spotlight, who is attempting to get "under her skin."

In Carpenter's first verse, she sings, "Maybe you didn't mean it / Maybe blonde was the only rhyme." This seems to be an obvious reference to Rodrigo's line about "that blonde girl" in "Drivers License."

Carpenter also sings, "Don't drive yourself insane / It won't always be this way." Her use of the word "drive" could have been an intentional reference to Rodrigo's song. The line could also reference the tortured, emotional tone of Rodrigo's song. The love Rodrigo still holds for this person seems to be driving her insane, to the point where she's driving by their house, crying.

While the lyrics of "Skin" seem to be directly pointed at Rodrigo, Carpenter made an Instagram post on Jan. 24 stating that the song wasn't directed at anyone specifically and even complimented "Drivers License."

"I wasn't bothered by a few lines in a (magnificent) song and wrote a diss track about it," Carpenter wrote. "Some lines address a specific situation, while other lines address plenty of other experiences I've had this past year."

It's unclear whether all of the drama that comes along with "Drivers License" is real, or if it was manufactured in order to boost Rodrigo, Bassett and Carpenter's popularity. It's possible that this could be an attempt to promote the second season of "High School Musical: The Musical: The Series," which is set to come out sometime this year.

Either way, there is no denying that Rodrigo has surged in popularity through the entire situation, as well as Bassett and Carpenter by association. If the situation was in fact a publicity stunt, it succeeded. And if it wasn't, then the attention that came along with it is a silver lining.

Dale And Clare: Mean To Be Or Destined To End?

BY SHWAR ZAIDI
STAFF WRITER

The couple who infamously broke "The Bachelorette" has now broken up themselves.

Clare Crawley, the runner up of season 16 of "The Bachelor," got another chance at love when she became the star of season 18 of "The Bachelorette."

Crawley's season ended in two short weeks after she instantly fell in love with contestant Dale Moss. The former football player proposed to Crawley on the show, and she accepted.

According to US magazine, Crawley felt instant chemistry with Moss when they met on the show. She ignored the other contestants, only spending time with Moss. The newly engaged couple left the remaining male contestants behind. For the rest of the men in the house, however, their journey to find love did not stop there. Tayshia Adams, the runner up for season 23 of "The Bachelor," became the new Bachelorette, giving Crawley and Moss the chance to

dive deep into their whirlwind romance away from the show. Once Crawley and Moss were in the real world, however, it seemed the final rose was starting to fall apart. According to US Magazine, Crawley wanted to have kids, while Moss wanted to get married first. In a now deleted Instagram post from Jan. 19, Moss confirmed he ended his relationship with Crawley.

"I wanted share with you all that Clare and I have decided to go our separate ways," Moss wrote. "We appreciate the love and support we've received from so many people, but this is the healthiest decision for both of us at this time. We strongly believe in leading with love and always remaining true to oneself – something our families have taught and instilled in us throughout our lives. We only hope the best things for one another." Despite Moss making the split appear mutual, Crawley's Instagram

post from Jan. 21 suggests she was actually surprised and did not see the breakup coming.

"I was made aware of a 'mutual' statement at the same time you all were, so I've needed some time to really digest this," Clare said. "Speaking for myself, my intentions with this relationship have always been very clear, so the truth is I am crushed. This was not what I expected or hoped for and am still trying to process this."

As for the cause of the split, there are rumors and speculations that Moss had cheated on Crawley throughout their engagement with Eleonora Srugo, a New York City-based real estate agent. According to E-News! Srugo and Moss met on a date where they were seen laughing and having a good time. However, Page Six reported that Moss was at a separate dining table eating with his friends while Srugo was with someone else.

On Jan. 23, Moss posted a picture on Instagram posing with his sister, and captioned it, "Lil sis popped up in NYC and surprised me yesterday. Love you @robynmosse."

Fans attacked Moss in the comments, claiming that he seemed too happy for just having gone through a breakup. This caused Moss's sister to fire back in the comments. "Super sorry you can't post a picture of you smiling with your sister either. I came here to lift your spirits up after everything you've had to go through," Moss's sister wrote. "People can continue to spread lies and bash you, but you in your heart know the truth along with the ones close to you. Glad to be here after these tough last few weeks."

The comments on that post have since been disabled. Do you think Moss is to blame for the breakup? Or is Crawley the one at fault?

Making The Perfect Super Bowl Wings

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CHRISTOPHER CACERES
STAFF WRITER

The Bills may not have made it to the Super Bowl but their contribution to football goes beyond the game.

It was in Buffalo, New York that fried wings were combined with hot sauce and butter to redefine how people would consume poultry and watch sporting events forever.

As the legend goes, the Buffalo wing was conceived at the Anchor Bar. According to the National Chicken Council (yes that's a thing), "the concept of cooking wings

in peppery hot sauce was born in 1964 at the Anchor Bar in Buffalo, New York, when co-owner Teresa Bellissimo cooked leftover wings in hot sauce as a late-night snack for her son and his friends." They quickly became part of the Buffalo bar food scene.

It should be noted that there are a lot of recipes which bake the wing. But to be considered a TRUE authentic Buffalo wing, it needs to be fried naked and tossed in buttery hot sauce. They shouldn't be battered or breaded.

Some of you might be tempted to bake the wing because of how easy, clean, and healthy they will turn out. Don't. Frying is just as easy and baking almost never generates as crispy a result. If you use a deep enough pot or pan, it will minimize the mess from the oils. If you're thinking about being healthy on Super Bowl Sunday, might as well just eat carrots and celery. I mean, what's the point?

Now that we've got that out of the way, let's break down how to make the perfect Buffalo hot wing.

Prep: 10 mins Cook: 30 mins

Ingredients

- 12 chicken wings
- One quart oil (canola or vegetable work best)
- Two tablespoons Frank's hot sauce (for an authentic Buffalo wing, it needs to be Frank's)
- Two tablespoons melted butter
- 1/2 teaspoon distilled vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon brown sugar (optional)
- Salt and pepper to taste (optional)
- For Serving: blue cheese dressing and celery



1. Heat oil in deep frying pan or large pot to 375 degrees F. You want to be able to coat the whole wing but can be shallow.
2. Remove tips and separate each wing at the joint (I normally buy a frozen bag of chicken wings and skip this step).
3. Season with pinch of salt and pepper.
4. Depending on the size of your equipment, place half of the wings in the pot or pan. Let fry for 13 to 14 minutes. If the wings are floating, they're done. The wings should be a golden blistering brown and crisp. Remove wings, set aside and let excess oil drain.
5. Add remaining wings and repeat frying process.
6. Salt wings to taste (optional).
7. Place wings in a large mixing bowl.
8. Melt butter in a saucepan. Mix in hot sauce and vinegar. Whisk one minute.
9. Pour sauce over the cooked wings. Toss until wings are coated with sauce.

WORD SEARCH

L	Q	Z	M	Z	H	B	K	N	O	L	D	V	V	T
P	K	B	R	U	U	O	P	V	L	D	V	O	P	O
N	C	W	C	D	G	R	W	P	M	P	W	A	C	W
J	D	B	G	J	S	P	M	A	S	N	O	A	Y	E
I	Y	E	D	G	O	O	U	K	R	W	G	H	W	W
C	T	E	G	D	X	A	G	O	U	D	B	W	Z	A
D	T	Z	J	M	Y	H	W	I	A	K	W	X	A	V
T	S	S	M	U	Y	S	E	N	R	P	F	R	P	O
T	G	Y	I	K	L	F	O	B	H	D	G	H	Z	Y
W	R	I	M	Z	S	L	J	F	T	N	O	Y	D	I
Q	E	Y	Y	L	K	B	B	F	I	Z	N	R	T	V
E	L	M	E	R	S	H	I	S	Z	Q	X	L	N	O
W	N	Z	T	I	Q	G	U	E	P	S	G	Y	Y	U
T	X	J	Q	B	H	O	B	B	E	M	K	N	T	V
D	I	V	O	C	H	C	W	O	H	M	R	J	Y	W

WORD BANK

Rodrigo

Elmers

Housing

Budget

Howard

COVID

CCSU Softball Player On Front Lines Of COVID Testing

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The normal uniform Kim Howard dons for Central Connecticut State University includes a glove, cleats and jersey. For move in day at CCSU, this uniform was full personal protective equipment (PPE) for COVID-19.

Howard, a sophomore softball player for the Blue Devils, was one of the nursing students who helped with the testing of resident students for move in day.

After Central students were sent home on March 12 of last year, much of Howard's learning was done behind a screen. Helping administer tests on move in day was one of Howard's first hands on experience in the medical field.

Howard's position on the diamond is in the outfield, but on move in day she was known as a "runner."

"I was the one that would assist the person swabbing when the cars came up," Howard said. "I would take down [the student's] information, give their information to the swabber then I would take the results back to the car and give them their wristbands to move in."

Apart from getting some education in the experience, Howard said she also felt immense pride in the work she did.

"It felt really good at the end of it to talk

to other students who helped and just be like 'wow, we actually did it,'" Howard said. "We just helped out in this global pandemic to help try and keep Central Connecticut safe."

Howard and the rest of the nursing students volunteering had a busy day for themselves. More than 700 resident students had checked in to get tested, making it a tight schedule for all those involved.

"In the beginning it was a little hectic," Howard said. In the afternoon, many of the resident students started to come in droves.

"Everyone was switching jobs and running around everywhere," Howard said, "but it ended up going really efficiently and smoothly. We all just worked together and made it happen."

There was not much of a plan going into the day for the volunteers, Howard said. "There were a lot of unknowns as to how it was going to go," she said but "once we got there we got all the information and went right to the testing."

As a nursing student, Howard said she likes to keep her team up to date on any COVID news.

"It's good to be there because I can help inform my teammates about everything that's going on," Howard said, adding that she "tries to be a good source."

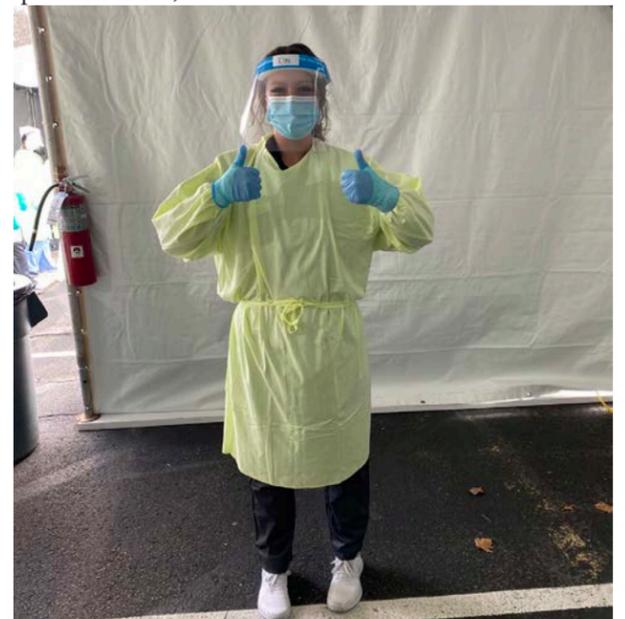
The Northeast Conference recently

announced that softball would have a season played this spring. The season will look different than a normal one, consisting of just conference games played.

"There are a lot of things still up in the air," Howard said. "We're really excited to play but we still don't know what's going to happen or what it will look like yet for sure."

In the healthcare world, Howard said that her goal is to become a pediatric nurse, though she said that could change based on the things she learns at Central.

Howard and the rest of CCSU softball will be returning to action on March 20 against Mount Saint Mary's. The game will be the team's first since February 23. It will also be Howard's first conference game as a Blue Devil.



Kim Howard was one of the nursing students helping administer COVID tests on move in day.

@CoachGleason on Twitter

Women's Basketball Drops Two To Sacred Heart

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut women's basketball team was bested by Sacred Heart in the team's latest doubleheader series.

More importantly for the Blue Devils' future, senior Emma McCamus suffered an ankle injury during the fourth quarter of the first game.

McCamus is the Central Connecticut's second leading score, contributing 14 points per game. Her return to the lineup is questionable after she missed out on the second game of the doubleheader.

McCamus' absence comes at an inopportune time for the Blue Devils, who are also without senior Ashley Berube after she suffered a knee injury prior to the second half of the season. Berube was the team's leading scorer this season.

On top of this, senior Tiffany Slicklein has not played since a December 15 game against St. Francis Brooklyn due to injury.

The Blue Devils offense could not get things going offensively in game one. The team was able to keep things close in the first quarter, but the second quarter brought with it some serious shooting slumps for CCSU.

In the second quarter, the team was only able to knock down two of the 13 shots they attempted and missed out on all five of the three's that they took. Central Connecticut's defense was able to keep them in the game still, forcing the Pioneers to shoot a measly 20 percent from the floor in the second.

While the "bend don't break" mentality worked in the first half, the Pioneers caught fire in the second half.

Sacred Heart shot 48.5 percent from the floor through the second half. The Blue Devils never found their offensive spark, shooting just 24.4 percent.

Senior Ashley Forker led the Blue Devils in points, rebounds and steals for the game.

During the fourth quarter, McCamus could be seen on the sidelines getting work done by the physical training staff. Despite any pain she had been feeling, she still cheered on her teammates until the final buzzer sounded.

The second game of the week's doubleheader was a home game for CCSU against their in-state rivals.

The Blue Devils came out of the gate cold and could not battle back for the lead in this one, though their performance in the second half was far improved from the first.

After some rough shooting in the first half, Central Connecticut came out with aggressiveness to open up the second.

Junior guard Forever Toppin scored 10 points in the third quarter as the team shot 50 percent from the floor and 40 percent from deep, both game highs for a quarter.

The team trailed by just four points heading into the final frame, but the comeback unfortunately was halted there.

The Pioneers' defense stifled CCSU in the final quarter, forcing the Blue Devils into some difficult shots that resulted in a shooting percentage of just 23.5 percent. The three ball was not hitting at the same consistency either, as the team missed all seven of their attempts in the fourth.

Toppin set a personal best in scoring against the Pioneers as she took on some of McCamus' load. The New Jersey basketball product dropped 17 points against Sacred Heart in the second game on some very efficient 6-for-11 shooting.

The Blue Devils' record now sits at 2-6 on the season, ranking them seventh in the Northeast Conference out of 10 teams.

The Blue Devils will next be back in action in a series against Bryant on February 9 and 10. These games were scheduled for earlier in the month, but Bryant's program was shut down following positive tests.



Emma McCamus (above) was injured in the game against SHU.

CCSU ATHLETICS



The Blue Devils now sit at 2-6 on the year.

CCSU ATHLETICS

Baker and Mitchell Lead the Way In Men's Basketball Victory

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After a close loss in the first game, Central Connecticut men's basketball defeated Saint Francis University in the second game of the team's double header 85-77.

Myles Baker and Tre Mitchell combined for 43 points in the victory, both players matching career highs - Baker scoring 24 and Mitchell with 19. Mitchell scored 16 of his points in the second half.

"Today shows you the team's resilience and the guys learning that we have to pick it back up," head coach Donyell Marshall said following the game.

The win marked CCSU's fourth victory of the year, improving the conference record to 4-7.

Baker was torching the defense as soon as he came into the game Sunday. The sophomore guard from Chicago shot 5-6 from the field in the first, good for 13 points.

The teams went back-and-forth with the lead throughout the first, but the Blue Devils were able to close out the half with momentum and took a 34-33 lead into the break. This was only the third game of the season that CCSU led going into half time.

While Baker stayed hot from the floor, the second half was all Tre Mitchell's. The most important -and perhaps impressive- moment from him came in the final minutes of play.

Saint Francis U had cut Central's lead down to six with just under four minutes to play. The Blue Devils have blown some leads late this season, but Mitchell would not let that happen Sunday. The junior transfer from Phoenix College made a three, then stole the ball, then made a layup through a foul and then hit his foul shot, all



Tre Mitchell (Above) scored 16 points in the second half.

in succession. Mitchell's six points in 26 seconds put CCSU back up by 12, making for a safer cushion for the Blue Devils as they closed things out in Pennsylvania.

Marshall said after the game that he noticed a difference in both the style of play as well as the mentality in his team.

"The excitement was there. It was 'we' over 'me,'" Marshall said. "Everybody did a good job of making sure there was excitement in the gym for us. I think you could see that in the assists for us."

Stephane Ayangma did not load up the stat sheet in the same way Baker and Mitchell did, but his play was critical in the Blue Devils win Sunday.

After the game, Marshall described how the senior has earned his spot on the floor.

"There were a couple of games earlier this year where Steph didn't play," Marshall said. "I knew he was frustrated but he stuck with it. He continued to play and if you look at the past couple of games, Steph has been a very important part of the rotation. He's going out there, he's trying to play the way we ask him to play and he's just really playing hard and playing capable."

Ayangma led both teams in rebounds, grabbing seven boards.

Thanks to Mitchell and Baker's 43 combined points, the bench of the Blue Devils finished with 60 points in the game. That number sets a season best for CCSU.

After playing just two home games in January, the Blue Devils will be at home for five of their final seven games.

In their next contest, the Blue Devils will be hosting Sacred Heart. The Pioneers won the last match up 65-48.

Marshall has high expectations for the final stretch of the regular season.

"We know this is what we can do. We want to come in here and try to win a couple of games in a row."

Swimming And Diving Wins First Competition

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Central Connecticut's swimming and diving team took home a victory in the first meet they have swam in since February 22.

The Blue Devils traveled to in-state opponent Sacred Heart and defeated the Pioneers by a final score of 184.5-112.5.

CCSU placed first in 14 of the 16 events with Sacred Heart grabbing first place finishes in the 100 yard butterfly and 1 meter dive.

The last time CCSU was competing in the pool was in the Northeast Conference Championship in which they took home second place out of the nine other NEC schools. The team returns a strong core of nine juniors from last year's team. A relay team comprised of four juniors broke a pool record in the season opener.

Katie Czulewicz, Hallie Perrin, Jeannette King and Simona Visinski broke the record in the day's final event, the 400 freestyle relay. The group finished with a time of 3:38.83.

King had a successful individual showing against the Pioneers. Apart from the aforementioned relay, King also finished first in the 100 yard free (54.21), 200 free (1:56.42). She also placed first with Perrin, Mariana Espino and Ashley Calderon in the 200 medley relay with a time of 1:50.01.

Connecticut native Czulewicz won two individual events for the Blue Devils. She finished 5:11.65 in the 500 free and 25.12 in the 50 free.

Though the juniors have a strong presence on the team clear through their scores, the freshmen swimmers for CCSU competed hard in their first ever meet. Abbey Keane won the 100 free with a time of 10:44.47. Natalie Pena finished the 100 backstroke in 1:00.66, a first place finish.

Fellow rookie Morgan O'Hara finished right behind Pena for second place with a time of 1:02.45. O'Hara also finished second in the 200 yard IM.

Several other Blue Devils gathered first place finishes in events. Calderon won the 200 fly with a time of 2:12.29. Lindgren



Swimming and Diving defeated Sacred Heart by a final score of 184.5 to 112.5. CCSU ATHLETICS

finished first in the 200 yard IM with a time of 1:12.44. Alex Lindgren won the 200 yard breaststroke with a time of 2:24.58

The Blue Devils were next scheduled to swim at UConn on January 29, but "testing revealing COVID-related issues within the

Huskies' program" caused the cancellation of the event, per CCSU Athletics. Central Connecticut will be back in the pool competing February 20 against Bryant at 1 p.m.

WEEKLY SPORTS SCHEDULE

Men's Basketball

CCSU vs Sacred Heart. February 5, 6 p.m.

Women's Basketball

CCSU vs Bryant. February 9, 4 p.m.
CCSU vs Bryant. February 10, 7 p.m.

Women's Basketball Shut Down Following Winter Break

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After time away from campus over winter break, the fear at the forefront of everyone's minds was athletes or other team personnel returning to campus with a positive COVID-19 result.

This fear turned into a reality for CCSU's women's basketball team and a number of other programs, leading to a complete restructure of the CCSU's schedule.

On January 6, CCSU announced positive COVID-19 test results from "tier one personnel."

While the team would not comment further on who the personnel was, as "tier one" person encompasses everyone the team comes in direct contact with. This includes players, coaches, athletic trainers and team managers.

The results shut down all team activities for 10 days, forcing games against Bryant to be moved to January 18 and 20. However, these dates would not hold for long.

Bryant shut down its program on January 16 for positive results. Just four days later, CCSU's next scheduled opponent, Saint Francis U, did the same. In a span of 14 days, three teams in the Northeast Conference had been shut down due to COVID-19 outbreaks.

"It's something you kind of have to anticipate," CCSU women's basketball interim head coach Kerri Reaves said. "You don't really prepare for it but you anticipate something like this happening. Going day by day is probably the most intelligent thing to do."

Reaves said the quarantine does mess up the cohesion of the team, but also acknowledged the veteran core of the team making the situation smoother than she had anticipated.

"Once we did get back on the court it was like we just picked up where we left off," Reaves said.

The team's 10 day quarantine came at an awkward time for the Blue Devils, who had just gotten back to campus and did not have classes or coursework to bide the time, Reaves said.



The Blue Devils were shut down for 10 days on January 6. CCSU ATHLETICS



This is Coach Reeves first full season as head coach. CCSU ATHLETICS



CCSU has a 2-6 record on the year.

CCSU ATHLETICS

"It was a long 10 days for them," Reaves said. Reaves and the coaching staff were still able to keep in contact with the team during their quarantine. The team did their scouting for upcoming games and presented what they found and was able to do some film work as well. Away from the basketball, the team played an online jeopardy game which was very competitive, Reaves said.

"We're ready," Reaves said following the quarantine. "We're itching to get back out on the court."

After the program got shut down on January 6, the Blue Devils have lost four games in a row by an average score of 25 points.

As if the Blue Devils had not faced enough challenges to start the second half of the season, there have been two injuries to the team that could be detrimental if they prove to be long term.

CCSU's two leading scorers and most veteran players on the roster, seniors Ashley Berube and Emma McCamus, have suffered injuries since the team has returned.

Berube suffered a knee injury before the team's first game back and has not played since. McCamus's ankle was injured in the team's game against Sacred Heart. She did not return for the next game the following day.

There is currently no time table for when CCSU's stars will be returning to the lineup.

While the news of positive tests at the tier one level came at a surprise to Reaves, she said it was atypical for the year it has been already.

"I don't know how to explain it," Reaves said. "It's just been so 2020, in 2021."

The Blue Devils replaced their games scheduled against Saint Francis U with games against Sacred Heart.

The games against Bryant that were rescheduled will be played on February 9 and 10. Both games will be at home for the Blue Devils.

Football Opts Out Of Spring Season

BY RYAN JONES
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The reigning Northeast Conference champions will not be playing in the this year's spring season.

Central Connecticut football released a statement on January 27 announcing that it would not be participating in the NEC's spring football season.

Head coach Ryan McCarthy said the decision was a difficult one, but ultimately the right one.

"[The team] hasn't played a game in a year and a half," McCarthy said. "They want to play, they want to get out there and compete. We do as well as coaches, but we also want to make sure we're doing it in the best manner for the health and safety of our team."

The training that goes into a football season was one of the leading concerns for McCarthy and staff. "Football is really a year-round operation. You have to be in the weight room for a long period of time and we didn't feel great about the health and safety of the kids putting them out there without being able to fully train for a live football game in the right way."

Almost a year and a half removed from their last game, McCarthy said the focus right now is getting his players "back to square one" and ready to play in a full length season as opposed to a five game one.

The sheer number of people involved with a single team was another factor into the school's decision. 80+ players, 10 coaches on staff and athletics trainers make for a large group of people to keep healthy and negative from COVID-19. McCarthy also pointed out some possible



The Blue Devils had a school record 11 wins last season.

CCSU ATHLETICS

nightmare scenarios for a team: if a player tests positive, it could wipe out an entire position group from practice and games.

McCarthy said making the final call was a "long process" and involved numerous discussions between himself, Interim Athletic Director Tom Pincince and Interim Chief Facilities Officer Sal Cintorino.

The NEC announced the plan to play spring football on December 3. The spring schedule would have consisted of four conference games concluding with the NEC Championship played on April 16 or 17.

Conference opponent Saint Francis University's decision to not play this spring factored into their

decision as well, McCarthy said. "There was a lot of uncertainty" regarding travel and finances.

While the Blue Devils will not be playing games this spring, they will still be returning to campus to sharpen their swords for the fall.

During a normal spring, football would be working out four days a week. Due to COVID protocols, this number was brought down to three days a week: running in the morning and lifting later in the day on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

The Blue Devils won a school record 11 games last season and the expectations are as high as ever for when they return to the field.