

The Recorder

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Time for Change: Getting Involved in Local Politics

BY MADISON MUSCO
Staff Writer

While the process of having a bill written into law is complex, getting involved in the 2024 legislative process can be as easy as making a phone call to local officials or testifying at a public hearing.

Angie Waszkiewicz, the director for internships with the Connecticut General Assembly, demystified the process for CCSU students during a presentation on Wednesday, Feb. 14.

"This is where the legislators are really wanting to hear your opinion," Waszkiewicz said. "How is this affecting you, people you know, people you work for, your friends, your family, your clients. They want to know why you think this is a good idea or why you don't, and they want to know in detail."

Rep. Christine Palm, a Democrat from Cheshire and vice chair of the Environment Committee, said that the numbers matter when it comes to public hearings, where lobbyists often outnumber private residents.

"We have got to get young people to show up at the Capitol because we really need to hear from you," Palm said. "Otherwise, you get a bunch of 65-year-olds making decisions that affect your future."



Photo: Kristina Vakhman

Palm speaks at high schools and colleges around the state to teach young people how to get involved in local government. She said most people speaking at public hearings are lobbyists, people who are well-educated and paid to be there by groups with a vested interest in the outcome of the hearing.

Through the Connecticut General Assembly website, CGA.CT.gov, anyone can see what bills are being proposed in Connecticut at any given time. A person can search keywords to find bills on their topic of interest and track their progress by creating a free CGA account. Updates include public hearing dates, plain language reports and any amendments made to the bill.

"Daily tracking is important so you know

about upcoming public hearings and potential opportunities to speak on bills you're following," Waszkiewicz said.

CGA has an interactive calendar on its website showing when and where public hearings for each committee will be and includes links to the YouTube live feed for those meetings. They also post a daily bulletin that shows what committee will be hearing each bill.

In the post-COVID era, all public hearings are held in person and on Zoom, making it easier for anyone to testify. The CGA website has concise directions on how to submit and participate in public hearings in person, on Zoom, or in writing.

"That's where the public has a chance to make their voice heard. And not nearly enough

people do that," Palm said. "They don't realize how accessible state government is."

On average, approximately 19% of people contact their local representatives each year, while 25% attend public meetings, according to the National Research Center.

Ben Elliot, a CCSU student and intern in the office of the secretary of the state, said calling your representatives is one of the easiest ways to let the legislature know what matters to you.

"You can call them. They have constituent caseworkers, and they can actually help you with issues," Elliot said. "And on top of that, you can also express your opinion, which is really important. A lot of people think that if they're on the other side of the aisle

they won't listen, but at the end of the day, that opinion gets considered by other people."

Each call is logged and categorized for later review. Legislators will look at the logs and consider them when writing new policies, Elliot said. Political activist groups give their members a script to use when calling their representatives to ensure a cohesive message is being conveyed, which Elliot said can be an effective way to push for local changes.

Voting in local elections is also a simple but effective way to get involved. Municipal elections draw approximately 30%-33% of eligible voters in a given election year, while presidential elections bring 75%-80% of voters to the polls, according to the Connecticut Secretary of the State website.

Elliot said that while there is more homework involved in deciding on who to vote for locally, there is a lot of potential to make a difference in municipal elections. Even local candidates often have their own websites and social media pages where they share their platform.

"I think that's the hardest part; people don't know enough before they go," Elliot said. "And sometimes that might deter them from actually going to vote."

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Diversity Scholarship Awards 4 Education Majors

BY SAVANNA YELLING
Managing & News Editor

Four Central Connecticut State University education majors were awarded \$5,000 each through the Aspiring Educators Diversity Scholarship program.

The scholarship program designed by the Connecticut Legislature to reward diverse education majors who graduated from a Connecticut priority high school honored Samantha Escobales, Sherrod Cuttino, Anasofia Rodriguez Vazquez and Nylamar Samuels.

"Receiving this scholarship shows that I am capable of being a great educator," Samantha Escobales, a class of 2027 education major, said. "I can go very far in this field if I put in the work and show that I am deserving of the opportunities that can come my way."

All four students are alumni of New



Photo: Keysa Mateo

Britain High School, one of 16 schools on the Connecticut Priority School Districts list. They enrolled at CCSU through Educators Rising, a program that feeds higher education teacher preparation programs to increase teacher diversity and quality, according to ct.gov.

Escobales said she chose to pursue a career in education because of her passion for working with children.

"I always loved working with kids and

always enjoyed interacting with them," she said. "Having the experiences of being an intern in a classroom and seeing the potential of the children has inspired me to be the type of teacher that reaches all students. I also had great elementary school teachers who helped me become the person I am today."

Escobales aspires to be an elementary school teacher, preferably for grades two through four, she said.

"(My) goals as an

educator are to make my classroom a safe learning environment for the children," Escobales said. "I also want to make an impact on them that they can carry for the rest of their lives. Long term, I want to be the best educator that I can be."

In her time at Central, Escobales said she plans to get involved in programs on campus and in the community.

"I hopefully plan to be part of the educators rising program when my schedule is not as hectic," she said. "I am planning to be part of the NextGen (Educators) internship program and get back into working in the classroom at some point when my schedule allows it."

The NextGen Educators program is a partnership between CCSU and the CSDE to give students paid hands-on classroom experience, according to the NextGen Educators section of the CCSU website.

SGA Brief

The Student Government Association meets every Wednesday at 3:05 p.m. in Bellin A and B of the Student Center. The meetings are open to the entire Central Connecticut State University community. These briefs are from the SGA's Social Affairs Committee meeting on Feb. 13.

Chair Report

- Chair shared ways to collect senate requirements and suggested the Notes app.
Chair proposed SGA team building and further discussion will be had with more senate members present.

New Business

- Flyer for movie night.
Chair Dorsey will work on the movie night flyer and post it.

SGA General Election Dates

- Declaration: Mar. 25th- Mar. 31st
Campaign: Apr. 2nd- Apr. 15th
Election: Apr. 16th - Apr. 18th
Results: Apr 19th

Upcomin Events

- Elect HER panel on Feb. 23, 11 a.m.
NSLDC Conference April 19- April 21.
Black History Month movie event with Maria's Place on Feb. 26.

FEBRUARY 22, 2024

OPINION

THE RECORDER

Taylor's Jets and Legal Threats: Boundaries of Freedom of Information

BY SAVANNA YELLING
Managing & News Editor

To say Taylor Swift has been in the spotlight this year would be an understatement. From Grammy winnings to being an NFL girlfriend, we've seen a lot from Swift in the media. Recently, she has sparked a debate on where the line should be drawn between public information and privacy.

Swift is currently in a legal battle with a University of Central Florida student, Jack Sweeney. The 21-year-old has amassed 22.1k followers on X for tracking celebrities' private jet flights. Sweeney received a cease and desist letter from Swift's lawyers that said the posts were an "imminent threat to the safety and wellbeing" of the pop star.

The scrutiny that Sweeney is under for tracking Swift's jet travels has prompted questions about the freedom of public information and when the line is crossed in terms of privacy. Swift's jet log is public information anyone can access, but has Sweeney's live updates to social media placed a magnifying glass on Swift's travel patterns and locations?



Photo: YouTube

The Freedom of Information Act is a powerful tool that gives journalists and all citizens the right to access federal records, which keeps people informed and prevents agencies from hiding critical information. Ideally not at the expense of a celebrity's well-being, Sweeney's

flight tracking has amplified the discussion around the excessive use of celebrity private jets for travels that could be completed by car.

"AP's use of the Freedom of Information Act has led to the release of critical information that the government would

have preferred to keep secret," the Associated Press stated on its website.

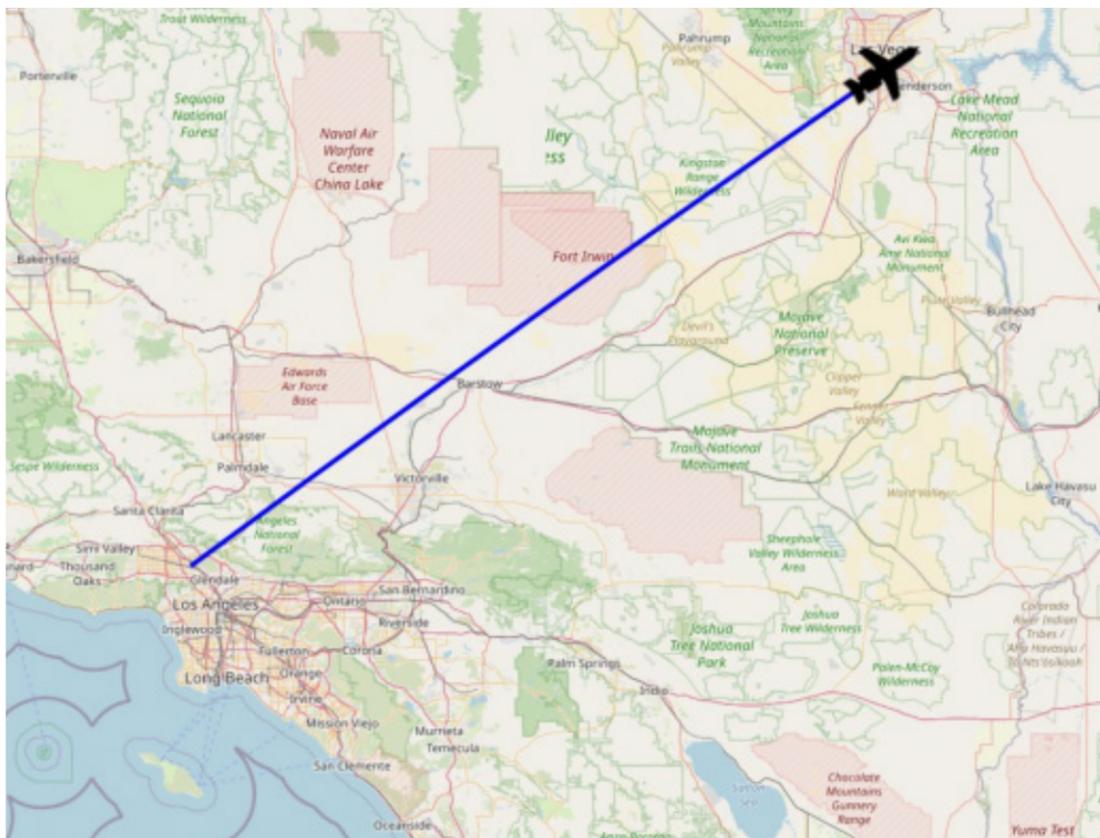
Newsweek reported that Swift produced 138 tons of CO2 emissions in just three months commuting to visit Travis Kelce, Kansas City Chiefs tight end. For context, the average person in

the United States produces around 16 tons of carbon dioxide per year.

Swift's short and frequent jet travels produced 8.6 times more carbon emissions in just a few months than the average person does in an entire year. She is undoubtedly tainting the environment with greenhouse gases.

While it is no secret that celebrities travel by jet, Sweeney's social media posts have made the public more aware of the drastic impact of these travels on the environment. He is not a journalist, but he is proving the importance of the FOIA by sharing information that would have otherwise remained hidden from the public eye, despite being under fire by the most popular celebrity of our generation.

Journalists are responsible for keeping the public informed, which Sweeney has exemplified. Privacy and well-being should not be disregarded. Nor should they be used as a shield to hide information that could benefit the public. This case has underscored the need for transparency in celebrity travel and its impact on the environment.



Sweeney uploaded proof of Swift's 39 minute flight from Burbank, California, US to Las Vegas, Nevada. @SwiftJetNextDay/X

“Bob Marley: One Love” Celebrates the Reggae Icon

BY JAYDEN KLAUS
Lifestyle Editor

Bob Marley is easily one of the most well-known and beloved figures in the history of reggae music and Jamaican history.

“Bob Marley: One Love” aims to explore the life of Marley through his rise to stardom and all that occurred in his life at the same time. As someone of Jamaican heritage, I was curious about this film and decided to watch it to learn more about Marley and his journey.

The movie opens in medias res, in 1976, with Marley at a press conference about a peace conference he is holding in a couple of days. Not long after, Marley, his wife Rita, and some members of their band, The Wailers, are shot by assassins, but all survive and go on to still hold the concert. In the face of the ongoing political strife in Jamaica, Marley has Rita take their kids to America to live with his mother while he and The Wailers go to London to work on their next album.

While in London, Marley records the album “Exodus,” which becomes a smash hit and begins a tour across Europe. While on tour, Marley gets into a fight with Rita over his responsibilities and priorities and is later diagnosed with melanoma skin cancer. With his health on the line, Marley returns to Jamaica and holds the One



Photo: YouTube

Love Concert, performing the titular “One Love.”

The music is easily one of the best parts of the film. Marley’s music is so pleasant and relaxing to listen to. The film makes good use of it to convey emotions experienced by the characters throughout the story and celebrates how good of an artist Marley was. Reggae is a genre I do not listen to often, but will always enjoy.

The cast did well in every scene they were in. Kingsley Ben-Adir’s portrayal of Marley is charming and engaging. It was interesting to see him play a different part from the last movie I saw

him in, where he played Basketball Ken in “Barbie.” Lashana Lynch plays Marley’s wife, Rita, and gives a powerful performance in every scene she is in. The actors play off of each other and the rest of the cast in such an authentic way.

The film could have done better at communicating details in the movie. Some events are breezed through in order to get to the next scene. In addition, several characters are not given as much explanation or exploration as I would have wanted, like the other members of Marley’s band, his producer or his manager. With these people being

so crucial to Marley’s career, it is odd that they do not garner as much attention.

The film had a repeated scene of a young Marley being chased by a man on horseback through a burning cornfield. While this was an interesting visual, I was confused about what it was supposed to represent. It is never explained in the movie at any time as to what it could symbolize. It possibly could be in reference to Marley’s father, as there is a brief flashback where we see him on horseback. Toward the end of the movie, young Marley gets on the horse with the man chasing him, who

calls him his son, but it is unclear, and I am unsure what they were trying to communicate with this metaphor.

The film repeatedly uses flashbacks across its runtime. Some of them are meant to give more context on Marley’s relationship with Rita, Rastafarianism and music as a whole. While they are interesting to see, it makes the film jumbled by almost constantly going back and forth between past and present. The film would have been better off by having the events proceed chronologically instead of cutting back and forth.

There was also a weird use of credits at the movie’s beginning, explaining a bit of Marley’s early life. It felt awkward and more aligned with what you would expect from a documentary, not a biopic movie. There were credits at the end, explaining Marley’s eventual death and other details, but the credits at the beginning threw me off from what I had expected.

While “Bob Marley: One Love” has some unusual choices made in it, it provides a touching tribute to the man whose story it wants to tell. Love was put into the film, not just by the actors and crew, but also by Marley’s children, who worked on the film in crucial ways to ensure that their father was portrayed as the man they knew and loved.



: @centralrecorder

Ariana Grande Makes Her Comeback with “Eternal Sunshine”

BY DEANNA PRESCOTT
Staff Writer

Ariana Grande returns from a three-year hiatus with her upcoming album, “Eternal Sunshine,” set to be released on March 8.

Grande announced the body of work on Jan. 17, soon after releasing the high-energy lead single titled “yes, and?” which is heavily inspired by Madonna’s “Vogue.” The track accentuates a pop-house sound accompanied by layered harmonies and piano synths. The single serves as a carefree response to critics and negative media.

According to Grande’s website, the upcoming album will have thirteen tracks, with titles one and five being “intro (end of the



Photo: YouTube

world)” and “eternal sunshine,” respectively.

“It’s kind of a concept album because it’s just all different, like heightened pieces of the same story,” Grande said in an Instagram reel.

The “Positions” singer collaborated with producers and hitmakers Ilya Salmazadeh and

Max Martin in the making of “yes, and?” which quickly charted to No. 1 on Billboard. Martin is known for working with Britney Spears, Backstreet Boys, and more.

Grande does not shy away from her 80s and 90s pop influences in her new work. The “yes, and?” music video pays homage to Paula Abdul’s

“Cold Hearted,” with a similar setting and the theme of winning over their critics.

The pop star begins her second verse of the lead single with, “Now I’m so done with caring what you think, no, I won’t hide,” which stomps on the recent hate she’s been receiving over

her new relationship with “Wicked” costar, Ethan Slater.

There are seven album covers, six of which have been revealed on Grande’s Instagram. Each picture holds a consistent color scheme of red, black, and off-white, along with her staple blond ponytail that is representative of the AG7 era.

“We wanted to give you a few different options that capture the emotional ups and downs of this album,” Grande said in the caption.

She has been adamant about not releasing any music teasers this time around. However, she routinely unveils album information on dates ending in the number seven. As Grande once said in her own words, the light is coming.

The Grammys Get it Wrong, Again

BY MADISON MUSCO
Staff Writer

As someone who loves music, the Grammys is a fascinating event. The illusive formula that the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences uses to determine the winners, musicians taking the stage to push their personal or political agendas, and the unfiltered reactions of the crowd make it feel like a social experiment set up for the world to study.

While I put little weight on who is nominated, wins, or loses, the academy got it wrong more than once this year, starting with the Best New Artist. When I saw the nominees on the screen, I thought the winner had to be Noah Kahan, Olivia Rodrigo, or Ice Spice. All three artists skyrocketed toward the top of Spotify’s charts and had at least 17 million more monthly listeners than winner Victoria Monét.

All but two nominees had more monthly

listeners, making me question exactly how the academy decided the winner. Rodrigo trumped everyone at 59.3 million monthly listeners. While I cannot say she is my pick for Best New Artist, everyone knows who she is. Everyone has heard at least one of her songs, from my teenage niece, a strict country fan, to my mother, an Elton John die-hard.

Kahan and Rodrigo have both toured across the United States and Europe, selling out legendary venues like Madison Square Garden and Red Rocks Amphitheater. Tickets to see either artist were nearly impossible to get, and if you were lucky enough to secure them, you were paying \$300 plus for mediocre seats. During Kahan’s presale, I spent 20 minutes adding tickets to my cart, only for them to be bought out from under me until none were left. Now, they are reselling for hundreds on StubHub. When are buying bots and scalping going to be illegal?

I also took issue with the Song of the Year winner, Billie Eilish. I have loved her music since her career was in its infancy, and the evolution of her style and sound has been a pleasure to listen to, but when has anyone gone out of their way to listen to “What Was I Made For?” more than once? We all heard the song in the “Barbie movie,” and it fits perfectly there, but unless I am trying to have a good cry, nothing about the song makes me want to listen, and even then, it does not make the top 10. SZA’s “Kill Bill” was the obvious pick for Song of the Year, with “Vampire” by Rodrigo as a close second. Both songs had big, bad female energy that made you want to sing. “Kill Bill” has over 1.6 billion listens on Spotify, which is over a billion more than “What Was I Made For?”

I know the academy has its reasons for how and why they vote the way they do, but public opinion should hold

more weight. Then again, the billions of Swifties out there could take over the world and turn the Grammys into the Taylor Awards if given the right opportunity.

So, let us get into Swift. Her album announcement in the middle of the award show received mixed reviews from the crowd. The camera panned to Miley Cyrus and Rodrigo, who uncomfortably forced smiles. To be fair, Rodrigo had the same face every time the camera was on her, but Miley Cyrus looked like she was doing everything she could not to roll her eyes.

The internet has compared Swift’s album reveal to the selfish act of getting engaged at someone else’s wedding, and I cannot agree more. Millions of people watching the Grammys, myself included, turned away from the screen to find more information on the new record. The Instagram post that went out as she spoke on stage had millions of likes within minutes. If there is one thing Swift is good at, it is shameless self-promotion and

her unmatched ability to steal the spotlight.

The only celebrity that may have one-upped Swift in the controversial category on Grammys night was Jay-Z with his scolding admonishment of the academy. The producer and rapper ranted about the lack of attention artists of color receive during award shows, only to be proven right later on when Best Rap Album, Song, and Performance all went untelevised. The Latin music categories also did not make the cut for the live broadcast, showing how the scales are tipped in favor of the categories that feature more white artists.

While no one can agree on clear-cut winners for any award show, we can agree on who should not have won in certain categories. The Grammys are just another popularity contest used to boost the already inflated egos of artists, whether they are deserving or not. Regardless, I will keep watching the various award shows and cross my fingers in hopes of Will Smith-Chris Rock-level drama.

CCSU Baseball Gears Up to Defend NEC Title

BY BEN DADDIO
Staff Writer

As the preseason Northeast Conference favorites, Central baseball has a lot to look forward to in the 2024 season.

The Blue Devils are coming off their winningest season since 2017, an NEC regular season title and an NEC tournament title. Head coach Charlie Hickey was named the 2023 NEC Coach of the Year.

Senior Hunter Pasqualini, a “utility guy,” said being the preseason favorite is nice, but it doesn’t mean much.

“It is nice to see other people’s opinion on us, but in the end, that does not win you a championship,” Pasqualini said. “To see it is a nice thing to acknowledge, but after that, it is right back into the season and making something of that.”

A leader for the Blue Devils, Pasqualini appeared in 44 games in 2023, hitting over .300 with a team-high 38 runs scored and 19 stolen bases.

The CCSU base-



Photo: Steve McLaughlin

ball team begins their season on Friday, March 1, in the Central Virginia Classic when they face William & Mary College. Brady Short, a junior second baseman, said that getting outside and ramping it up is helpful as the season approaches.

“Being outside, taking everything as seriously as possible, and getting our legs underneath is important,” Short said. “Getting ready for a long season, it is hard to be indoors during the snow, but we are itching to get

out there and get ready to start the season.”

Pasqualini said to repeat this success, it is important to have an unselfish mindset.

“A big thing is to play for the guy next to you,” he said. “We are a very close-knit group of guys, and it is very easy to play well when you trust every single person on the field. We are with each other all day and every day, so it is easy to build relationships and go out there and fight for one another.”

played in Hartford for his first two seasons, appearing in 154 games, scoring 53 goals and recording 71 assists during his first two seasons.

“As much as it was cool having him back here,” Wolf Pack fan Jon Symecko said, “he wasn’t producing.”

Anisimov played in 771 career games in the NHL, scoring 180 goals and recording 196 assists over 13 seasons with the New York Rangers, Columbus Blue Jackets, Chicago Blackhawks and Ottawa Senators.

“The Rangers are too focused on young guys,” Wolf Pack fan Ryan Mikaitis said. “They

and he can take another step toward being a consistent arm for us.”

Short added that Gianni Merlonghi and Gabe Pitts are two hitters to look out for.

“[Merlonghi] has been swinging a hot bat; he is swinging it well, and I would not be surprised to see him out there doing his thing, taking advantage of the opportunities he gets,” Short said. “Gabe Pitts, a freshman outfielder, is progressing well and fun to watch as well.”

Hickey, entering his 26th season as the CCSU baseball coach, is the concrete leader of this squad.

“Having somebody that is a concrete leader for the program is helpful, and you know every year when you come in what you will get and what his expectations are,” Pasqualini said. “He does a great job getting us not only physically but mentally ready for a long season because we go from the end of February through June, so it will be a roller coaster of ups and downs.”

Anisimov Released From Wolf Pack

BY ZACH PULVERMACHER
Staff Writer

HARTFORD — Hartford Wolf Pack forward Artem Anisimov was released from his professional tryout with the team on Tuesday.

Anisimov played in 18 games with the Wolf Pack during the 2023-24 season, recording a goal and three assists during that time.

The transaction comes days after forward

Matt Rempe was called up to the Wolf Pack’s parent club, the New York Rangers. Rempe played his first game with the Rangers in the Stadium Series game at MetLife Stadium against the New York Islanders, recording a fight on his first shift.

Anisimov started his NHL career with the New York Rangers after being drafted 54th overall by the club in 2006. He

don’t realize that age comes with experience. We need older players teaching the younger guys, but the Rangers always seem to miss this.”

The Rangers currently sit atop the Metropolitan Division with 75 points. However, injuries have been a problem for the Rangers all season. They lost Blake Wheeler and Filip Chytil to season-ending injuries and former 2nd overall pick in 2019, Kaapo Kakko, for a number of months. To make up for the injuries, the Rangers have called up several Wolf Pack players, including captain Jonny Brodzinski, Alex Belzile, Matt Rempe and

Brennan Othmann.

The oldest player on the Rangers, other than the injured Wheeler, is 32-year-old Chris Kreider. The oldest player on the Wolf Pack with Anisimov’s departure is Riley Nash, who is 34 years old.

“Even on their main roster they always have a young team,” Mikaitis said. “They never think in the present, always the future.”

The Wolf Pack have lost three of their past four games and will play Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday against Bridgeport, Cleveland, and Springfield, respectively.

Transfer Portal Offers New Opportunities for Student Athletes



Photo: Ian Yale

BY IAN YALE
Sports Editor

The National Collegiate Athletic Association transfer portal has been a major topic of conversation across the nation, with some saying it is highly beneficial to the student-athlete population. In contrast, others contend it could be highly detrimental to students and university athletics programs.

At Central Connecticut State University, the transfer portal is a highly impactful tool used to build teams up year after year.

CCSU football head coach Adam Lechtenberg said he primarily utilizes the transfer portal to supplement his teams and add depth to position groups that need it.

"We're trying to build a good foundation here with high school and prep school kids," Lechtenberg said. "But the portal has been good to us."

The transfer portal offers many student-athletes a change of scenery,

whether they are looking to transfer up in hopes of one day going pro, transferring down in hopes of finding more playing time or simply transferring to further their studies.

CCSU women's basketball player Samora Watson began her collegiate athletic career at East Carolina University. After appearing in just four games her freshman year at ECU, Watson transferred to CCSU looking to break out in a slightly smaller conference.

"Before the transfer, I felt I wasn't being the player I knew I could be," Watson said. "My role changing has helped me regain confidence, and I'm starting to grow as a player to my full potential."

For CCSU men's basketball player Jordan Jones, the move to CCSU from Coker University was purely about challenging himself and playing at the highest level possible.

"The school I was at before, it was a good school, but I just knew I could do more," Jones

said.

Jones said the decision to transfer was not made lightly but with much deliberation.

"I talked to God a lot, talked to my family, and it was a move I wanted to make," Jones said.

Fellow CCSU basketball player Allan Jeanne-Rose transferred from nearby Fairfield University. A graduate student during the 2023-24 season, Jeanne-Rose's use of the portal was also strictly about basketball.

"For me, it wasn't about the school, the infrastructure, the fancy stuff," Jeanne-Rose said. "It was strictly ball and nothing else."

For many student-athletes in the transfer portal, especially those looking to compete at the Division I level, there are financial motivations tied to the Name, Image and Likeness deals that many universities offer.

However, Watson, Jones and Jeanne-Rose all said that there were no financial motivations within their transfers.

This lack of finan-

cial motivation, while a point of pride for many players, is potentially holding Central back in the portal, as many highly sought-after student-athletes in the portal do take NIL deals into mind when making their decisions.

However, CCSU does offer a very tight-knit athletic department, and many athletes that transfer in do so because of previous relationships with coaches.

Coming out of high school, Watson was recruited by Temple University's program, featuring now-CCSU women's basketball head coach Way Veney.

In a similar vein, Jeanne-Rose had a prior relationship with men's basketball head coach Patrick Sellers from their time at Fairfield.

While the transfer portal may not be the answer for every student-athlete, coaches and student-athletes at CCSU have found it to be a useful tool as college sports adapt to a new era of athletics.



CCSU ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

MEN'S B-BALL

Feb. 22 @ Wagner
Feb. 24 @ Sacred Heart
Feb. 29 vs. LIU
March 2 vs. Stonehill

WOMEN'S B-BALL

Feb. 22 vs. Wagner
Feb. 24 vs. Sacred Heart
Feb. 29 @ LIU
March 2 @ Stonehill

TRACK & FIELD

March 2 @ IC4A/ECAC
March 3 @ IC4A/ECAC
March 8 @ NCAA
March 9 @ NCAA

WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Feb. 24 @ Rider
Feb. 28 @ Lafayette
March 3 @ Delaware State
March 6 vs. Howard

SWIM & DIVE

Feb. 22 @ NEC
Feb. 23 @ NEC
Feb. 24 @ NEC
Feb. 25 @ NEC

SOFTBALL

Feb. 25 vs. Saint Peter's
Feb. 25 vs. Saint Peter's
March 1 @ Norfolk State
March 2 @ Hampton

Athlete of the Week: Jordan Jones, Men's Basketball

BY DYLAN BRACCIA
Staff Writer

In a crucial game against in-state and conference foe Sacred Heart University on Feb. 8, Jordan Jones stepped up to deliver an ever-so-important Blue Devil win.

Jones shot 11-for-16 from the field to put in a team-high and career-high 33 points. He also made 6 of 7 free throws, with one assist and pulled down two rebounds.

He earned the Northeast Conference Player of the Week and Northeast Conference Prime Performer on Feb. 12. This was Jones' second time being named NEC Player of the Week and his seventh time being named NEC Prime Performer.

"When I'm playing, I'm not out there saying I want to play this way to receive this award," Jones said. "The



Photo: Ian Yale

way that we play, Coach lets us play free, and whatever I can do to help the team win, I'm going to do."

Jones started playing basketball at 6 years old and said that he was named after NBA great Michael Jordan. Originally from Florence, South Carolina, he started his

college basketball career at Coker University in Hartsville, South Carolina. After three seasons there, he entered the transfer portal.

"It felt like Central genuinely wanted me," Jones said. "I wanted to be somewhere for my last two years where I can rock out, where I can

make a difference."

His parents played a significant role in the decision. They also came for a visit and helped solidify that this was the school for Jones.

"When my parents came down for the visit, it just felt like home. It just clicked with them," Jones said.

Upon meeting head coach Patrick Sellers, they learned that they are both from the same hometown. Their connection grew from there and helped him feel even more comfortable.

"We didn't even have to come from the same city. He's just a genuine dude," Jones said. "When we watched film, he just reassured me that everybody in the city is excited about what I'm trying to do for the team, and the way that I'm playing, I just don't need to stop playing that way, just keep being confident in myself."

Jones' focus has been on the team's battle for first place in the NEC standings. He also is looking to be the best player he can be.

"I just want to keep getting better," Jones said. "My aspiration is to play after college. Whatever scouts need to see, I want to continue to just get better in that aspect."

Lanpher Reaches Career Milestone



Photo: Ian Yale

BY IAN YALE
Sports Editor

Central women's basketball senior Belle Lanpher scored her 1000th career point in a loss to Le Moyne College 69-54 on Thursday in Detrick Gymnasium.

Lanpher's historic basket came late in

the fourth quarter, her team-leading 15th and 16th points of the game.

Head coach Way Veney had high praise for her leader on the court.

"Belle has had a fantastic career here," Veney said. "She's not only a great basketball player, but she represents the university extremely well."

The loss drops Central's record to 4-7 as they continue to battle through Northeast Conference play.

Alongside Lanpher, senior Meghan Kenefick and junior Amaya Williams also scored double figures with 14 and 12 points, respectively.

Kenefick got

going early, shooting a scorching 4-for-5 in the first half. She has been vital on both ends of the court for the Blue Devils this season.

"Coach always talks about how, if we want to be a good team, I have to show up on offense and defense," Kenefick said.

Sophomore Samora Watson, the NEC's second leading scorer, had an uncharacteristic shooting night but contributed tight defense both on the perimeter and in the paint.

Shooting and rebounding have been a struggle for the Blue Devils, and Veney continued to emphasize that.

"We didn't execute," Veney said. "[Shooting] was the big difference in the game."

Central shot just 8-for-25 from three-point range, while Le Moyne made 6 of 13.

Overall, CCSU's 31% shooting from the floor simply could not keep pace with Le Moyne's 46%, and despite

taking 11 more shots, Central made 18 baskets to Le Moyne's 22.

The Blue Devils were outrebounded 37-30, although they did pull down 14 offensive rebounds to Le Moyne's nine. The difference came on the defensive glass, where Le Moyne's 28 defensive rebounds were too much for Central to overcome.

Usually adept at drawing steals, CCSU came up with just one on the night from sophomore Cierra Pearson.

The Blue Devils have an opportunity to bounce back on Thursday, Feb. 22, as they welcome the 3-7 Wagner College Seahawks to Detrick before taking on the NEC-leading, 9-1, Sacred Heart Pioneers on Saturday, Feb. 24, for Senior Day.

Sitting in fifth place, Central is still in position for an NEC Tournament berth, provided they win at least two of their final five games.