

# The Recorder

OCTOBER 12, 2023

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## Safety Protocols Lifted After Norovirus Outbreak



Photo: Savanna Yelling

**BY SAVANNA YELLING**  
Editor-in-Chief

On Sept. 27, Hilltop Cafe, was closed under investigation for potential food poisoning. Health officials confirmed that norovirus was the cause of symptoms that affected Central Connecticut State University students, safety protocols have been lifted.

"I've been sick for like a week now but it's really not that bad," Colin Kelly, one of less than 10 students who reported symptoms, said.

Kelly had symptoms for a week leading up to the closure of Hilltop Cafe.

"I threw up once but other than that it's just been nausea and I could put up with it," Kelly said.

Noah Derby another affected student, also ate at Hilltop Cafe the night he became sick.

"Last night I went to Hilltop, as usual, and got the mac and cheese," he said. "Then last night at around two in the morning I felt really sick and I got sick basically every hour until the morning."

Hilltop Cafe was cleared to reopen and resume normal hours by the City of New Britain Health Department on Sept. 29 and there have not been any cases reported since, Jodi Latina, Associate Vice President of Communications and Media, wrote in an email to all students, staff and faculty.

The City Health Department, the Con-

necticut Department of Public Health and the State Laboratory confirmed through tests that norovirus caused the illness, not a food source, Latina wrote in the email.

Amid the norovirus outbreak, several safety measures were implemented on campus to decrease the spread of germs.

High-touch points such as vending machines, touchscreen order kiosks and self-serve stations in the dining halls were limited. These restrictions have since been lifted. Silverware in the dining halls were replaced with plasticware as well.

"The change was temporary. We are back to using silverware," Jeffrey Dressler, General Manager of CCSU Dining said.

## Connecticut Residents React to Over-the-Counter Narcan Becoming Available State Wide

**BY YVONNA RODRIGUEZ**  
Contributor

Some Connecticut residents said that making Narcan available over the counter is a good thing, but some question if it will help slow the drug addiction problem that Connecticut faces.

Thomas Messier of Norwalk, an EMT in the emergency room at Norwalk Hospital, said Narcan, which can reverse a drug overdose, becoming available over the counter is a great idea.

"It saves lives," Messier said.

Messier said that Narcan presents an opportunity for families of drug addicts to help them

if their addiction reaches the point of an overdose. One story of how a father saved his son using Narcan came to Messier's mind.

"The son, he must have done some heroin up in his room," Messier said. "The parents had him come down to the kitchen to eat dinner and he just went out right at the dinner table, face into the spaghetti."

Messier said the son had a known history of drug abuse and because of that, the family had Narcan available. The father administered Narcan to his son saving his life.

Continued on page 2

## CCSU Hosts a Successful Homecoming



Photo: Stan Godlewski

**BY IAN YALE**  
Staff Writer

Blue Devil pride was evident all over the campus this past weekend as Central Connecticut State University celebrated its Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 5-7.

The festivities

began with the CCSU Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on Thursday, followed by a trio of events on Friday. The "2023 Football & Friends "Nine & Dine" 9-Hole Golf Tournament", "Alumni Pep Rally," and "Alumni Reunions."

Continued on page 2

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## CCSU Hosts a Successful Homecoming

BY IAN YALE  
Staff Writer

Continued from front page

It all culminated on Saturday with various events, including a brunch, family day, and a faculty artwork display.

On Saturday night, the football team capped it all off with a Blue Devils victory in its Homecoming game against Delaware State University.

The hall of fame inductees on Thursday included tennis player Paul Arciero, '86, cross country and track and field coach George Kawecki, basketball player Paige (Martin) Krabill,



Photos: Stan Godlewski

'95, football player James Mallory, soccer player Jessica McCavanaugh, '07, and soccer player Steve Stokoe, '90.

The athletic department also gave out the Harrison J. Kaiser Alumni Service Award at the Hall of Fame ceremony. CCSU Athletics gives the

award to an alum who has distinguished themselves and the university by their accomplishments and service since graduation. The 2023 Kaiser Award recipient was Harold Crocker, '74.

Crocker, a CCSU football alumnus, was part of the 1973 team that

went 9-1 on the season and won the Eastern Football Conference Championship. Crocker was also on the All-Conference team that season.

Saturday was game day, and it was evident that the buzz around campus, as the stands filled up, was palpable.

The marching band returned for their first homecoming performance since 2019.

The football team came to play as the Blue Devils had homecoming circled on the calendar.

"We made a list of goals, and the number one goal was 'win homecoming,'" team captain Shayne Manson said.

## Connecticut Residents React to Over-the-Counter Narcan Becoming Available State Wide

BY YVONNA RODRIGUEZ

Contributor

Continued from front page

Messier said that this heightened accessibility of Narcan will help lower the number of fatal overdoses in Connecticut.

Richard Westman of East Hartford, a retired deputy fire chief, said Connecticut could see a spike in people doing drugs due to Narcan being available over the counter.

"I think it's a good thing because it's [drug abuse] such a common problem that the more access to it [Narcan] the more lives can be saved," Westman said. "However, the other side of that sword is that if it's so accessible, then the people who do drugs may do more drugs because they feel like since Narcan is out there someone will give it to them."

Westman said he is no stranger to the effects of drugs. Over his 33-year career, Westman said he dealt with a lot of overdoses and had to

administer Narcan weekly. Westman said he has seen enough throughout his career to worry that people will abuse the accessibility of Narcan.

"If you're considering trying drugs for the first time and you're nervous or scared but your friends have Narcan, you might be more apt to try it," Westman said. "It might encourage people to abuse drugs more."

Joanne Spencer of Meriden doesn't think this is the case.

"It's not like somebody is going to say 'Oh now I have Narcan. I'm gonna go try drugs,'" Spencer said. "If they're gonna do it, they're gonna do it for their own reason and it's not because there's Narcan on the shelf."

Spencer lost her eldest son to an overdose in 2016. She said that no amount of mental preparation could have prepared her for the things that came as a result of her son's drug addiction.

Spencer said drugs tore her life apart and turned her son into someone she couldn't recognize.

"I lived with his addiction for five years," Spencer said. "My kid died five years before he actually died."

Spencer said that over-the-counter Narcan is a great idea and will not only help people struggling with addiction but their families as well. While Spencer said over-the-counter Narcan is a good idea, but she is unsure how it will slow overdose-related deaths.

"I think it would bring it down some but I don't think it's gonna bring it down a lot," Spencer said. "It gives people the opportunity but will they take it that's up to them."

Marco Laurenno of Windsor, a nurse at Hartford Hospital, said he is hopeful that Connecticut residents will take advantage of the opportunity

presented by over-the-counter Narcan.

"While I do believe that over-the-counter Narcan will be useful and helpful in this crisis of drug overdosing, I personally am not sure about the true effects of how well Connecticut residents will have with over-the-counter Narcan," Laurenno said. "I am hopeful that it will help increase the chance to save more lives."

Laurenno has been a nurse for three years and has administered his fair share of Narcan. He said that making Narcan available for over-the-counter purchase is a step in the right direction in tackling Connecticut's drug problem.

"Connecticut making Narcan available over the counter gives people the ability to widespread aid people with overdoses and allows for the state to be more aware of the crisis that drugs can be in people's lives," Laurenno said.

## CT Residents on Decline in Pursuit of Higher Education



Photo: Stan Godlewski

**BY MADISON MUSCO**  
Contributor

Some Connecticut residents are torn on whether higher education is truly necessary in today's evolving economy and what that means for the future of young people in the United States.

Bruce Valicenti, the owner and lead designer of BFV Designs, a design company in Suffield, has experienced various forms of higher education throughout his life. Valicenti attended Bridgewater State University in Massachusetts and graduated with a degree in business administration, is a certified diamondologist and an accredited interior designer.

"Look at how many careers I've had, and I'm well into life, so it's like, they pick something and whatever you go to school for perhaps isn't going to be where you finally end up," Valicenti said. "So, I think that moving along, you learn what you need to learn through, I almost want to say discovery, but through real life."

Peter Filanda, the owner of Filanda Construction, LLC, in Portland, received his construction management degree from Central Connecticut State University and disagrees with Valicenti's ideas about the value of higher education.

"I don't think

kids should pigeonhole themselves and one day, I'll encourage my own to think beyond the present," Filanda said. "College helps you to see other perspectives and exposes you to different ways of thinking."

Filanda found that going to college provided him with resources other than a formal education.

"The networking part was the most beneficial and the connections I made in college are still serving my business today," he said.

Like Filanda, Valicenti works with independent contractors through his business and added that he would encourage his own children to enter the trades as opposed to college. Valicenti sees a great need for skilled tradespeople in recent years. "I would push them into some field I think, into either plumbing, electrical, or another technology," Valicenti said.

Since 2009, the U.S. has seen an 8% decline in the number of high school students entering college campuses, according to The New York Times. Economists argue that this could be due to increases in tuition and decreases in the average salary of a college graduate.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, tuition at CCSU was \$8,706 per year for an undergraduate student living off-campus according to the Con-

necticut State Colleges and Universities website. In 2023-2024, that figure has more than doubled to \$26,186.

Tim Therian, the owner of J&N Builders in Suffield, has created a successful career despite never attending college. Therian graduated from A.I. Prince Technical High School in Hartford through the carpentry program.

"As far as the business aspect goes of it, you know, that's where I have help," Therian said. "That's why I have my daughter to help out with all the logistics, an accountant, and all those kinds of people. I don't know that college would have helped me."

Alex Carr, a sales representative for Sherwin Williams Company in Cromwell, is a CCSU alum with a degree in journalism. Shortly after graduating from college, he decided the profession wasn't for him and began working his way up the corporate ladder with Sherwin Williams.

"Could I have done this job without this degree? Yeah, but I'm more well-rounded with better communication skills because of it," Carr said. "If I were making the decision now, I might not go to college because the world is much more open than it was back then."

## SGA Briefs

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 all of the Central Connecticut State University community. These briefs are from the SGA's Executive Board meeting on Oct. 4.

### SGA Talent Show

Performer Damon Sumter will have his flight covered and receive \$250 for the event in Devil's Den next semester.

### Club Central Website

Unanimous vote to allocate \$8,750 for website creation.

### BSU Collaboration

Pending as ideas are generated.

### Leadership Conference

12 people in total including students outside of SGA.

### Improve It Scholarship

Groups compete by submitting project proposals to improve CCSU campus.

## Writers Wanted!

**Do you enjoy writing? Do you want to make change on campus? Are you passionate about the issues in your community? Do you like taking pictures?**

**If you answered yes to any of these questions, join us at The Recorder! We are always looking for new contributors, staff writers, photographers and social media content creators.**

**It may seem daunting, writing articles for the whole school to see, but it's not as difficult as you may think.**

**As a student newspaper, we focus on covering events on and around campus, but as you can see, students have creative freedom to write arts and entertainment reviews and even opinion pieces. Also, We have a team of editors that work to make sure your pieces will be published error free.**

**If writing is not your thing, we are also looking for photographers, of any experience level to help us add visual-aid to our stories.**

**Plus, if you join this semester and write five or more articles, you will be eligible to run for a PAID editor position in our next election! We are looking to fill many new roles in upcoming semesters, so now is the perfect time to join us.**

**This is a learning experience open to all students, no experience is required and all majors are welcomed!**

**The Recorder meetings are held every Thursday at 5 p.m. in the 1849 room on the second floor of the Student Center.**

**Contact editor-in-chief, Savanna Yelling, via email at [skyelling@my.ccsu.edu](mailto:skyelling@my.ccsu.edu) if interested.**

## Rising Health Insurance May Hurt CT Residents, Officials Say

BY MARIA CACARES  
Staff Writer

Some Connecticut residents said they were infuriated by the projected rise in prices for health insurance in the state for the year 2024.

Sean King, the state's acting healthcare advocate, helps residents who might have financial questions or about their care. He said the increases will hurt some Connecticut residents.

"I do not think it is accessible to the people who have to pay the full burden of them," King said. "Those costs are just so high relative to their family expenses."

King said that although the affected number of residents isn't many, these people might have outside economic factors that make paying the premiums harder for them such as the cost of housing, cost of fuel and transportation.

He said Aetna, Cigna and Connecticut are some of the health insurance plans that are raising their premiums an average of 12.4%, which may be more or less depending on an individual basis.

"These rate increases don't tell the whole story of how



Photo: Walter Williams

individuals are being impacted by the growing cost of healthcare," King said. "Even if somebody thinks that 7% is not so bad considering what they originally asked for, you still need to take a look at what your potential out-of-pocket expenses might be."

Milford resident Nicole Benedetti, 21, said she switched from Aetna to Husky, which is not a premium-based health insurance.

"I did not like it," Benedetti said. "I felt like the co-pays didn't match the care I was given."

People under this plan pay premiums an average of \$465.86 per month, but this does not

include the co-pays per every visit, according to healthinsurance.com

Benedetti said that Aetna was not a sustainable plan considering she was going to a specialist monthly, which would have become more expensive under the proposed increase.

"I would not go to the dermatologist anymore," Benedetti said. "If it's increasing 12%, that's not sustainable for me."

Terryville resident Olivia Tuohy, 21, said she has Aetna insurance and was surprised to hear about the proposed increase in premiums.

"That's gonna cost a lot of money if I just get sick," Tuohy said. "I

know I had poison ivy and I had to go to the walk-in and it cost me \$75 to just go."

Tuohy said that the increase might cause others and herself to start avoiding the doctor as it might become too expensive.

"It's definitely gonna cost me more money and I'm going to have to plan better especially for my dermatologist since I go every three months," Tuohy said.

Brian Osoba, an associate professor of economics at Central Connecticut State University, said he can see both sides but he added that the system is too expensive.

"On the one hand,

it seems reasonable from past trends. Healthcare does tend to rise more quickly than inflation," Osoba said. "From an opinion, is that too much? It probably is."

Osoba said that the United States always had a more expensive healthcare system as the structure is very different from other developed countries such as The Netherlands or Canada which provide government-funded free healthcare while also providing care that isn't necessarily better.

"If you're buying a pencil and in Connecticut, it costs \$10 but you can get one in New York State for \$2, the same exact pencil," Osoba said. "You think 'gosh something is wrong there' right?"

Osoba said many people are avoiding paying higher co-pays by no longer going to the doctor to the point where they are only going when they need intensive care, which ends up more expensive.

Osoba said that once the year is over, the percentage may change to something more manageable although he said that many are still going to struggle.

## Upcoming Campus Events

### Friday, Oct. 13

- Rainbow Breakfast at 10 a.m. in Alumni Hall. (LGBTQ Center)
- LALCC Open House and mariachi performance at 6:30 p.m. in Burritt Library

### Tuesday, Oct. 17

- Board Game Showcse at 3:30 p.m. in Breakers Game Room
- Silent Sky at 7 p.m. in Maloney Hall- Black Box Theater

### Wednesday, Oct. 18

- Job Fair & Employer Expo in Willard-DeLoreto Hall
- Free planetarium show: The Moon at 1 p.m. in Copernican Planetarium

### Thursday, Oct. 19

- Roots and Vessels: An Exploration of Ancestry, Lineage and the Embodied Family Portrait at the CCSU Art Gallery

### Friday, Oct. 20

- Free planetarium show: The Moon at 7 p.m. in Copernican Planetarium

## Philanthropy Will Not Save Us

BY HOLLIE DAVID  
Contributor

Philanthropy is regarded as a moral good. Where people give back to the community and give opportunities that may never have been given without these donations. But should millionaires be praised for their generosity when what they are giving is a drop in the bucket when compared to all the money they have?

Last week I attended a leadership talk where a Central Connecticut State University alum discussed their life. I am a nursing major and my class went in place of our leadership class. So we could all be inspired and motivated to be better leaders by hearing from a success story.

The talk started as the alum discussed their career that started in pharmaceuticals. Where they acquired millions of dollars by working up the corporate ladder. Later in life, they gave back serving on boards and donating money for scholarships and new buildings.

We all clapped as they explained the good they were able to do with the money they had. Money that was made through exploiting people's need for life-saving medication.

A CCSU official came up and closed the speech discussing how amazing this alum's work had been, that them becoming a millionaire had helped us all. Highlighting we should be inspired to make more money than we know what to do with, in order to be able to give a small percentage to causes that we care about.

Even though most of us will never make

even close to the amount of money this former CEO made, especially when most of the students in the room were nursing majors.

After I left the talk, something did not sit right with me. I felt cynical. I should be grateful that a millionaire would want to help the common good. I'm a nursing major helping the common good is one of my favorite things but I couldn't shake this feeling that something is not right here.

The speaker seemed like a nice person who wanted to help others. But even though they seemed nice it's important to examine if the work they are doing is doing as much good as it may seem at first glance.

Should millionaires be praised for giving their money especially when they have so much of it?

It seems easy to give money to this or that cause when you have so much money that you possibly could not spend it in your lifetime.

Especially when you donate money it can benefit you such as giving you a tax break.

Should we praise these people for giving money only to what they find important?

Is this money doing anything except helping millionaires feel like they are doing something good without having huge impact on the money they have?

Philanthropy can be used as a way to wield power. Money talks, when you give money, you're saying something. In order for our needs to be met we have to appeal to the person with money.

Which creates an unequal power dynamic. Where the rich have power over the poor since they control access to their necessities.

For example, if you can't afford school you have to pray for the kindness of a millionaire to help give you a scholarship so you are not in debt for the rest of your life. We shouldn't have to beg to afford an education. The larger issue of college being unaffordable is still a problem that is not being addressed.

Philanthropists are not going to save us. We need to have better government programs that provide help for people in need so we don't have to hope for the kindness of a millionaire or billionaire.

It's like putting a badge on a bullet hole. Even if the work that they do is going good in the world there are still larger systemic issues that are not being addressed. Philanthropy is a sign of an ineffective government where people are focused on depending on the kindness of the ultra-rich.

If millionaires really want to give back they should advocate for raising taxes on the ultra-rich so we can have more programs that address the systemic issues that cause the need for philanthropy in the first place.

Millionaires and billionaires donating money may help people in need but at the same time, it will not help change the larger societal issue that causes these people to be in need. Experts should be in charge of helping lead change instead of random rich people who have no idea what the people need.

## Editor's Column: We're Back! For Real this Time



BY SAVANNA YELLING  
Editor-in-Chief

Before two Thursdays ago, if you picked up a copy of the Recorder, there was a good chance that the paper you were holding was from over a year ago.

In fact, the vast majority of us who are currently enrolled at Central Connecticut State University have not experienced a consistent, semester-round school newspaper. This year, hopefully, will be the year that this changes.

Based on our E-newsletter archive, The Recorder has not been on a consistent print schedule since November 2021. With almost two years without consistent news coverage think of how much news students may have missed.

For two years CCSU news did not hit the stands. While we did our best to publish articles to our website, students should be able to catch up on news without having to go out of their way to look for it online.

A visit from Vice-President Kamala Harris, a student arrested for voyeurism on campus, students rallying against sexual assault, two years of sports and countless other newsworthy events went without student coverage.

These events were covered by other news outlets, the student news perspective cannot be replaced by outside reporters. When we're on campus it's like we're in our own little city and wherever there are jobs, elections, laws, and governance, there must be reporting. Whether it's to hold people accountable, to make students aware of their community, or if it is to uplift the unheard voices around campus, student news is vital to the community.

I have been writing for The Recorder since my freshman year in 2021 when all our meetings were on Zoom with everyone's camera off and stories only were published online. Even last semester, when we never had more than

10 people attend a meeting and our only on-print issue was a semester recap. To us now, filling up a meeting room and having a paper printed within the first month of school. I can confidently say we are headed in the right direction.

As editor-in-chief, I've made it clear that my goal is to set us on a consistent print schedule. While I would love for us to be printing papers every week, it's not realistic given the "rebuilding" stage that we're in with only four of us being returning writers. But, at the very least we have participation, which the paper lacked the first two years I was writing for it.

Our enthusiastic writers and hard-working editors have taken on the challenge of printing a paper every other week. When I refer to this as a challenge, it's no understatement. Trying to find a meeting time around 20 people's 15-credit schedules, on top of our individual work schedules and family responsibilities was an impossible task, and that's just scheduling the meeting, now try producing 20 stories every two weeks on top of those busy schedules.

As someone who is a full-time student, the editor-in-chief of the paper and secretary of CCSU's chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists while having an on-campus job, I know just how busy all of our schedules can be and I have to thank every writer and editor involved for taking the time to contribute to The Recorder during its renovation.

After just one issue printed it's so rewarding to see people picking up a copy, or faculty members, even outside of the journalism department, expressing their excitement to see that the paper is back on stands. I'm honored to not only be in this position but to have so many of my professors and peers in the journalism department believe that I deserve to be here. Any one of our E-board members would be deserving of this position, I was just the only one crazy enough to run for it. I hope to use this opportunity to aid every student on campus with the two things they've been missing, a voice, and a newspaper to read.

## CCSU Arts and Crafts Club is a Great Place to Make Art



Photo: Jayden Klaus

**BY JAYDEN KLAUS**  
Lifestyle Editor

The Arts and Crafts Club at Central Connecticut State University is a great way to unwind and get in touch with your creative side while on campus.

The club offers the opportunity to make art in an open and inviting environment. Students are free to spend the meeting time however they want, making whatever they want. It's a great way to spend time with friends and be creative in ways you may not usually be able to.

Various art supplies are available for use ranging from string, colored paper, yarn, paint, markers, crayons, colored tape, air dry clay, and more. At meetings, students can make collages, craft knitwear, or just do general drawing. Students can also learn how to make certain types of art from members' teaching skills like crocheting.

The club meeting was held at Semesters Café and I found going

to the meeting to be a very peaceful experience. As you are free to do as you please, it creates an atmosphere where you can just relax and do something crafty without someone overseeing everything you do. Being at the club meeting and doing some knitting with the yarn provided was one of the most stress-free evenings that I've had in a long time. Doing arts and crafts provides an opportunity for students to not worry about classes and just have fun.

Club President Elnora Amenta said that she enjoys how this club can bring art to people on campus in an easy-to-access way.

"I like that I can share all kinds of art with people," Amenta said. "I like that we can share art without judgment. That's one of our main policies, no judgment against others' artwork or your own artwork."

Amenta said that the club is a great way for people to get involved in

making art while on campus, even if they aren't art majors.

"People that come can get new art skills, share art, and make art, provided we have the supplies, and they can gain a community," said Amenta.

Vice President Tina Chen said that the club's main draw for her is the community that comes with it. "I like the community that comes with it. Art comes in different forms and brings people together," Chen said. "It's a sense of space where you're not forced to do classroom artwork."

Amenta said that the club does not currently have any future events occurring but they are planning to do so.

"Once we get a budget, the events will start rolling in," said Amenta.

So if you're looking to flex your creative muscles in a low-key way, check out the Arts and Crafts Club!

## CCSU Pep Rally Kicks-off Homecoming Weekend

**BY GLAIZA FUENTES**  
Staff Writer

Central Connecticut State University's homecoming weekend was kicked off with this year's pep rally on Oct. 5.

The pep rally was hosted by CCSU's Student Government Association, the Central Activities Network, RECentral, the Inter-Residence Council, and The Brazen Blue Devils, the pep rally held a sense of disappointment amongst the student body.

The pep rally, held at Arute Field featured performances from the dance team, the pep squad, the cheer team, and CCSU's new majorette dance team. Despite the time and preparation these teams took for this event, the energy reciprocation was not received from the section of students.

Christine Dai, a freshman at CCSU, attended the performances and felt showed spirit for the Blue Devils, she said. But, the pep rally held a sense of disappointment amongst other students, Dai said.

"I enjoyed each performance, but every-

one else around me made comments on how it went on for too long," she said. "I thought they were cute and they represented the school very well. I just wish everyone else around me felt the same."

After The Great Dubois performed and the raffle winner was announced, students migrated to Kaiser Lot where the rest of the activities were held.

Kaiser Lot was lined with food trucks including the Teriyaki Mania truck, which served chicken teriyaki and white rice, and the Kona Shaved Ice truck, which served a 'mix your own flavor' shaved ice.

Tymaine Smith, a sophomore at CCSU, said waiting in the food truck lines took away from the event.

"The lines were extremely long," Smith said. "I was in line for the majority of the pep rally."

The food from the food trucks was good, but not worth the amount of time spent in the line, Smith said.



Photo: Stan Godlewski

OCTOBER 12, 2023

## LIFESTYLE

THE RECORDER

## From Frustration to Finesse- A Review of Scarlet by Doja Cat

BY DASCHALL HAYES  
Staff Writer

Los Angeles-born rapper and singer Doja Cat is back for blood and filling everyone in on the facts about her with a unique sound on her latest album "Scarlet."

Doja Cat came-up in the media with high acclaim and worldwide affection. But recently, people are switching up on her after she buzzed her hair and publicly disgraced her fans for being "creepy."

It infuriated Doja that critics are questioning if she is a good rapper. She is stepping back from pop songs and is providing the world with masculine-presenting rap songs with hints of slower R&B cuts in this album.

The lead singles, "Paint the Town Red" and "Agora Hills," are significant songs, as they provide two contrasting angles of the album. "Paint the Town Red," the number one hit, has a contagious Dionne Warwick sample, and the usage of horns adds so much to the song. The confidence that Doja shows off, even if she is hated online, is inspirational.

"Agora Hills" also has a sample of Troop's



Photo: Youtube

"All I Do Is Think of You," which is a disappointing use. The song contains some of the hokiest lines I have ever listened to, combined with her sluggish, annoyingly off-beat flow and singing is probably something I would not go back to. My life would have been just fine if I had not heard her reference to being in someone's skin like Fortnite.

To say that this album goes hard is an understatement, you can just tell that Doja is heated

over everything that happened to her within the past year. With tracks like "Demons" and "WYM Freestyle," Doja does not stop flexing on all of her haters. These songs have insane percussion 808s and hi-hats that can destroy your eardrums on the aux cord.

As stated in "F\*\*k The Girls (FTG)," when people online and within the industry, especially the women, are telling you online that you have sold your soul for clout, I think it is justified to

clap back with the same amount of bitterness they give you.

The R&B cuts on this project, are infatuating. Doja Cat has mastered the ability to make romantic and sexual songs with beats that she can also rap on if she wants to. "Can't Wait" and "Often," being sensual songs, shift away from the main point of the album, but they are satisfying enough for the subject matter to be unnoticeable to the average listener.

"Skull and Bones"

has the same vibe but is back with mentioning how the rumors are affecting her. At this point, she is so done and telling everyone to bug off, which I cannot be mad at.

It is hard to discuss this album without going into more detail on why Doja spent more than half of the album angered at those not fond of her life choices. I understand that sentiment and can defend her to an extent, as the way she wants to appear physically is no one's business. But, you have to dig a bit deeper to see that the person she is dating, J Cyrus, has allegedly emotionally abused and groomed female moderators and fans of his Twitch stream. I find it necessary to mention this because while separating art from the artist can be easy for some music fans, boundaries have been crossed and cannot be ignored.

Doja Cat's new release is a testament to her artistic evolution and resilience, even though it may not be without its imperfections. It's a snapshot of an artist grappling with fame, criticism, and personal challenges, inviting listeners to engage with her music on multiple levels, both musically and socially.



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## Marvel's God of Mischief is Back for a Wild New Season

BY JAYDEN KLAUS  
Lifestyle Editor

Marvel Studios' television show "Loki" has returned with a second season ripe for twists and turns and implications aplenty for the rest of the Marvel Connected Universe moving forward. The Disney+ original first aired back in June 2021 and followed the alternate version of Loki seen in "Avengers: Endgame" as he gets detained by the Time Variance Authority for breaking from his timeline.

In this new season, after Loki's actions caused the timeline to be shattered and start to form a multiverse, Loki and TVA employee Mobius M. Mobius are attempting to find Sylvie, another variant of Loki, and figure out what is going to be happening now that the timeline has become a multiverse.

While I have somewhat fallen off of the MCU train recently, I still rather like it and am very interested to see where



Photo: Youtube

this new season would go. Loki is one of my favorite characters in MCU and this season has potential to cause some big changes to the MCU's overarching story in a similar way that the previous season did.

The episode opens with a helpful recap of the first season to remind old viewers and bring new viewers up to speed on what has happened. After that, the episode begins with Loki, played by Tom Hiddleston, being chased through the TVA by Mobius and TVA Minutemen who don't recognize him, much to his dismay and confusion. He briefly escapes but then finds him-

self warped forwards into the future to the present he was just in. He continues to glitch through time as he tries to find Mobius.

Mobius and Hunter B-15 are summoned to meet with a council of TVA judges to explain what is happening with the timeline. They insist that the TVA's actions have been wrong from the very beginning and they now need to pivot. Loki finally meets up with Mobius and explains to him what he's seen and the dangers that are coming

Mobius sees Loki glitching through time and takes him to the TVA's Repairs &

Advancement technician Ouroboros, or O.B. Loki's condition gets diagnosed by O.B. as time-slipping and says that it may be a result of the branching timelines. They set out to fix Loki's time-slipping at the Temporal Loom.

As Mobius attempts this, Loki encounters Sylvie very briefly in the future he time-slipped into, before he gets pruned by an unseen person. This allows for him to be pulled from the time stream. He and Mobius decide that they need to find Sylvie as councilwoman General Dox sends out many troops to find and capture Sylvie

In the post credits scene, Sylvie is seen entering a branched timeline and ending up in Broxton, Oklahoma in 1982. She visits a McDonald's and appears to be delighted with her new circumstances.

The premiere was very promising for the rest of the show. This new season of Loki is very intriguing and has me wondering what is going to be happening next. Even though Mobius has seemingly fixed Loki's time-slipping, the trailers that came out in the days before the premiere seemed to show that Loki is going to be time-slipping regularly throughout the course of the show and that it sure to cause problems for him. Hiddleston is still giving his all to the character and I can't wait to see what he will do next. I will be sure to check in every week to see what will happen with Loki in the future.

Loki is currently streaming on Disney+ with new episodes airing every Thursday.

## Drake Should Have Kept the Dogs in the Kennel

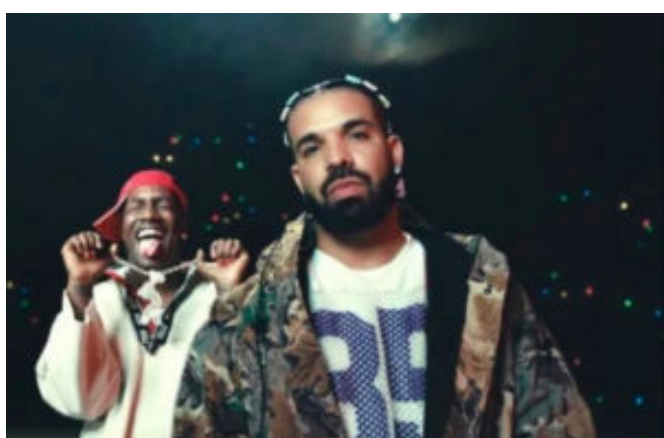


Photo: Youtube

BY JACK PIXTON  
Staff Writer

Canadian rapper and culture icon Drake released his 13th studio album "For All the Dogs" on Friday, Oct. 6th.

The album was

teased in a book the rapper released back in June of this year."For All the Dogs" shows off Drake's versatility in a mix of both rapping and melodic and singing cuts.

The record plays more like a playlist of

Drake's mindset rather than a full-fledged album with a concept and message. There are a total of 11 features from artists such as 21 Savage, J Cole, and Bad Bunny just to name a few.

Many of these features seem forced. On the tracks with 21 Savage and Bad Bunny, they sound as if Drake put these together just to have them on the album. A standout however is J Cole on the track, "First Person Shooter." Cole brings flare and passion into the track and has one of the best verses on the whole album.

By far the best song on the record is track 17, "8am in Charlotte." A song with a classic vocal sample and groovy production, accompanied by streams of consciousness from Drake.

This is one of the weaker albums from the rapper in recent years. People always say that they want the old Drake, but I believe that the old Drake will never return.

Drake does not rap with that same hunger and swagger that he once did. Sure, there are songs here and there that show glimpses of that guy we all fell in love with, but throughout a full-length studio album, I do not believe that can ever be achievable.

We are now seeing rappers and other artists release these 20-plus track records. I am not the biggest fan. To me, it is hard to construct a solid album without having album fillers. The 23-song album could have been shrunk to 10 to 12 songs and it would have been a much

better and concise record. The album is full of fillers and tracks that are simply useless and a waste of a track.

There is little that I take out of this album. Most of the tracks are not memorable. The rollout for this album got me excited because there was hope for a short and rap-focused album. This hope was lost without even listening to the album. As soon as I opened it, I knew that there was no way that every song was going to be a hit.

"For All the Dogs," after a couple of listens, has left me questioning if Drake has hit a downward slope in his career. I come away from the record with little remembrance or desire to listen again.



## Netflix It: The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar Is Sweet and Enjoyable

BY JAYDEN KLAUS  
Lifestyle Editor

Of the many Roald Dahl books I have read and collected, 1977's "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar and Six More" is a lesser-known standout.

It's a collection of short stories telling a variety of tales written in that captivating style that Dahl is known for. When I was a kid, I loved to read Dahl's books. They were among some of my top picks for favorite children's books and Dahl was one of my favorite authors. I even prided myself on how many of his works I had read. It's a collection of short stories telling a variety of tales written in that captivating style that Dahl is known for.

The titular story is among one of the most interesting. It's quite a bit longer than the other stories, in no small part that it contains a story within a story to set up the plot of the main story, which follows the exploits of Henry Sugar. It may be short, but it is rather sweet and uplifting. It is the story of a man who gains impressive powers and decides to use them for good to help others in need.

When I heard about the Netflix short film adaptation of "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar" by Wes Anderson, I was very curious. Adaptations of Dahl's stories vary widely in quality from great, like the musical adaptation of "Matilda," to disappointing, like Disney's adaptation of "The BFG." But I was willing to give it a go and see what Anderson had come up with.



Photo: Youtube

The film is rather short, just under forty minutes long. It also has a rather small cast with the actors playing secondary characters as well as the main ones. I found this to be a rather refreshing way to adapt a short story. Many short stories that get a movie adaptation get their plots stretched to become a feature-length film and they add in elements to pad out the run time. While that can work for some stories, not all of them need it, especially with how simple and to the point "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar" is with its plot.

The film also had some very interesting qualities to it. The image quality was something that you would see out of the '70s or '80s like it was shot on an old film reel rather than a digital camera. It gave it the sense of an indie film and not something from a big-budget studio. It also had a 4-3 aspect ratio, which is an older aspect ratio not commonly used today, instead of the typical 1.85-1 ratio for most movies or even 16-9 for television. This added to

the older feel of the movie and was rather pleasant to watch.

The performances in the movie were intriguing to watch. The entire movie had a feeling more akin to a stage performance than a typical movie. The movie sets felt like they were simple sets you would see in a play and there were stagehands visible on screen moving different parts of the set around to change the scene. It was fascinating to watch these two forms of performing combine in a way that isn't typically done.

The actors all narrated the movie with lines straight from the book as the plot progressed and the actions and dialogue of the characters in the story. As the story changes the point of view, the character narrating would change in turn. This was a bit jarring in the beginning, as I did not anticipate it, but it emphasized the play's aesthetic. It also helped the film to go at a brisker pace than it otherwise would have if there was no narration and the actors had to act things

out in a standard movie way.

The film opens with Roald Dahl, played by Ralph Fiennes, explaining that Henry Sugar was a wealthy man who didn't do much with his life other than typical rich people's things and gambling. One day, while at a friend's house, Henry finds a small blue book containing an account by Dr. Chatterjee. The movie switches to Dr. Chatterjee's perspective where he describes meeting a man named Imdad Khan who claims to and does demonstrate the ability to see without his eyes.

Imdad narrates that he gained this ability by meeting a yogi who instructed him on how to achieve impossible abilities through meditation practices. Imdad explains everything he learned to Dr. Chatterjee, who transcribes it for him. But the day after speaking with Imdad, Dr. Chatterjee learns that Imdad has died in the night, much to his disappointment.

Henry is intrigued by the book, particularly what Imdad said about being able to see through

a playing card with his powers, and decides to replicate it for himself. He spends over three years training with Imdad's technique before he is indeed able to read a card from the back.

Henry decides to go to a casino to fully test his new abilities and ends up winning £30,000, which he takes home in a disappointed mood. After he causes a mob the next morning by throwing the money out his window and into the street, Henry is inspired by a policeman who scolds him for his actions to use his abilities to gain a massive amount of wealth that he will use to fund hospitals and orphanages. He works with his accountant to funnel all the money he makes from casinos across the world to accomplish his goals.

After twenty years of work and successfully creating twenty-one hospitals and orphanages, Henry dies from a pulmonary embolism that he had anticipated and was teased about earlier in the movie. His accountant contacts Roald Dahl and commissions him to write the story of Henry Sugar, despite that not being his real name.

This film, and the short story it's based on, are very sweet, befittingly so for a character with the last name of Sugar. It was very enjoyable to watch and a delight to see one of Dahl's lesser-known works get an adaptation. Anderson has said that he will be adapting a few more of Dahl's short stories and I'm excited to see what he will come up with for them.



: @centralrecorder

# Opinion: Will the Pitch Clock Ruin Playoff Baseball?

BY JASON HARTMAN  
Staff Writer

The 2023 Major League Baseball season has brought some significant changes to 'America's Pastime.'

Pitchers are now only allowed two pickoff moves per plate appearance. They banned the shift, which now requires all four infielders to be on the dirt, with two each on either side of second base. The bases were increased in size to limit injuries and increase stolen bases.

The changes intended to increase offense and, subsequently, viewership in baseball. But one significant change has been at the center of controversy throughout the season: the pitch clock. Pitchers now have just 15 seconds to throw a pitch with empty bases and 20 seconds with runners on. Hitters must be in the box with eight seconds left on the clock.

In theory, introducing the pitch clock was meant to shorten the length of games. And it has worked out so far to MLB's credit.

The average length of a nine-inning major league game in 2022 was 3 hours and 4 minutes. As of now, the average in 2023 is 2 hours and 42 minutes. In fact, only nine games during the 2023 season have eclipsed 3 hours and 30 minutes. There were 231 games of that length in 2022 and 390 in 2021.

Going into the season, I was hesitant about the idea of a pitch clock. I like to consider myself a baseball "purist," and I had no inclination to shorten the games. I didn't think anything was wrong with the game I love and saw no reason to change it. I was not too fond of the pitch clock idea because I thought it would compromise the integrity of the game.

However, I gave the pitch clock and all the



Photo: Andrew DeCapua

new rules a chance, and I must say it has certainly impacted how I consume baseball games in a positive way.

Earlier this year, I sat in center field for Red Sox Opening Day at Fenway Park against the Baltimore Orioles. Despite the cold weather and the Sox losing, I enjoyed the game as if nothing had changed. The game still had a picnic feel to it, which is common at all major-league games throughout the regular season, especially if the home team isn't doing too well.

However, my experience got me thinking. What will the postseason be like with all these new rules, especially the pitch clock?

After much deliberation and research on both angles, I have come to a simple catharsis.

A pitch clock would undermine everything that postseason baseball is about.

Postseason baseball games aren't picnics by any means. They aren't the games you would take the whole family out for a lovely afternoon at the ballpark. They are intense, strategic, and unforgiving games where one error could cost a team its season. Tickets are expensive, and crowds

are typically rowdy in anticipation of a big play in their team's favor. It's where the games matter the most.

Baseball is a sport filled with intense pressure due to its pitch-by-pitch nature. Every at-bat is meaningful in the playoffs, just like every play matters in a playoff football game. Every pitch matters in a tight moment in a crucial playoff game, with tension and pressure building after every pitch. A pitch clock would ruin the anticipation and excitement postseason baseball provides millions of people.

MLB is no stranger to changing up the rules for the postseason. The designated runner rule has been used since 2020 to prevent long extra-inning games by ensuring each team has a runner on second to begin every inning beginning in the tenth. The postseason will not feature the designated runner rule.

Take the 2023 World Baseball Classic final as an example. Although not technically a "playoff game," the World Baseball Classic is baseball's version of soccer's World Cup. The tension and excitement in the air is comparable to baseball's postseason. Many players and coaches have

gone on to say the atmosphere was better than a playoff game.

The tournament came down to Los Angeles Angels teammates Shohei Ohtani, representing Team Japan, and Mike Trout, representing Team USA, facing off, with the Japanese side clinging to a one-run advantage. It's important to note the tournament did not feature a pitch clock.

In an at-bat that lasted nearly three minutes, Ohtani got Trout to chase on an outside slider to win the championship for Japan. But the build-up of the moment and the anticipation of the result made this moment so special for baseball fans. The crowd on the edge of their seats reacting to every pitch makes baseball like no other sport.

Use the 2004 American League Championship Series between heated rivals Boston Red Sox and New York Yankees as another example. In game 4, with the Yankees up three games to none in the series and three outs away from heading to their seventh World Series in 10 years, legendary Yankee closer Mariano Rivera walked the leadoff batter, Kevin Millar, in the bottom of the ninth with the Yankees leading 4-3.

Pinch-runner Dave Roberts would replace Millar in an attempt to get the tying run home. Rivera would check Roberts three times at first base, trying to prevent a steal attempt before even delivering a pitch to his next batter, Red Sox third baseman Bill Mueller.

In one of the most iconic stolen bases in baseball history, Roberts finally stole second base and put himself in scoring position. On Rivera's first pitch to Mueller, he would eventually score on a Mueller RBI single, handing Rivera a rare blown save in the postseason.

The beauty and significance of this moment lie in the little, often overlooked details. It won't show up in any official record of the game, but the weight of the moment was on full display throughout that inning.

A four-pitch walk and an RBI single that ultimately turned the tide in Boston's favor suddenly brought a nervous, almost depressed crowd to life as they would become the first team to come back from down three games to none to win the series in seven.

The beauty of this moment lies in its anticipation. The insurmountable odds the Red Sox faced in this game and series all narrowed and conquered by a pitch-by-pitch approach. Every pitch felt important because every pitch was important. It played out naturally and didn't feel rushed. That will be missing from this year's playoffs with the implementation of the pitch clock.

Unfortunately, the MLB has already decided they would keep the pitch clock for the postseason, so we will have no choice but to wait and see how well it works this year before determining whether or not the league needs to make changes.

## Hartford's Nick Bonino Brings New Wave of Talent to Rangers

BY JASPER KULINSKI  
Staff Writer

In an exciting development for the New York Rangers and their dedicated fanbase, veteran ice hockey player Nicholas 'Nick' Bonino, a Hartford native, has officially accepted the offer to join the team.

The Rangers, who have been actively pursuing talent in the offseason, have secured Bonino's services, bolstered their lineup, and raised expectations for their upcoming season.

Nick Bonino, a 34-year-old center with a wealth of NHL experience, brings a unique set of skills and leadership to the Rangers.

The announcement of Bonino's acceptance to play with the Rangers was made in a press conference held at Madison Square Garden, where General Manager Chris Drury and Head Coach Peter Laviolette expressed their enthusiasm for this significant acquisition.

"Nick Bonino is a proven veteran in the NHL, and we are thrilled to welcome him to the New York Rangers family," Drury said. "His experience, leadership, and versatility will undoubtedly strengthen our team's

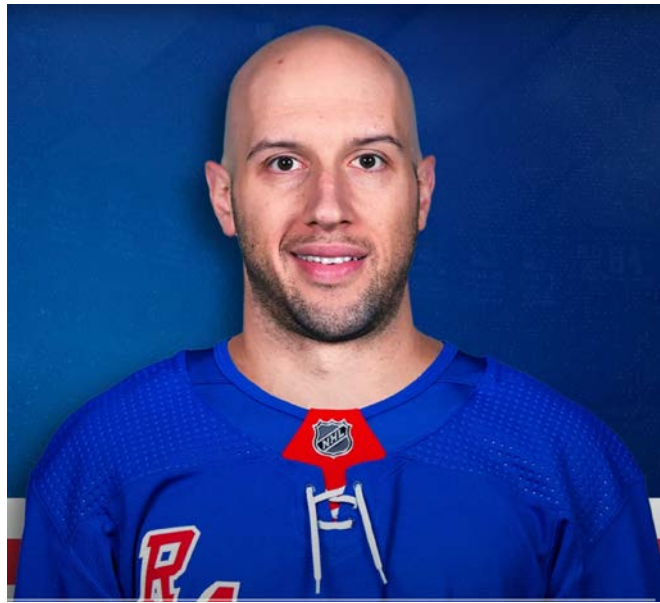


Photo: Youtube

capabilities and contribute to our pursuit of excellence."

Bonino, who spent the previous season with the Minnesota Wild, also expressed his excitement about the move to the Big Apple.

"Nick Bonino is my favorite player in the NHL, and I have been watching him since I was a little girl," Savannah Paolitto, a junior at Central Connecticut State University, said. "He is from Connecticut, so when I was younger, he would go play in charity games at Newington Rink, and I would go and watch and even [have] a few pucks signed by him."

Throughout his NHL career, Bonino has

earned a reputation as a reliable two-way player known for his faceoff prowess, defensive acumen, and ability to make critical plays in high-pressure situations.

His experience includes stints with the Anaheim Ducks, Vancouver Canucks, Pittsburgh Penguins, Nashville Predators, and the Minnesota Wilds.

Bonino's arrival in New York adds depth to the Rangers' center position and provides valuable leadership to a team that has been on the rise in recent years. His contributions are expected to complement the young talent on the roster, including promising forwards like

Alexis Lafrenière and Kaapo Kakko.

"I was honestly ecstatic for Bonino joining the Rangers because they've been my favorite team for a couple years now," Paolitto said. "I feel like he will be a great impact on the team because he is very talented, and him working with Panarin, Zibanejad, Chytil, and others could lead to a good season for the Rangers."

As fans eagerly anticipate the start of the season, the signing of Nick Bonino has created a palpable sense of excitement and anticipation throughout the Rangers' faithful fanbase.

With the combination of his experience, skill, and dedication to the game, Bonino's acceptance to play with the Rangers marks a significant step in the team's pursuit of success.

"I do have high hopes for him this season even though he was signed for one year," Paolitto said. "I feel as though this might be his last season before retiring officially."

The Rangers' journey in the upcoming season is sure to be exciting as they aim to make a lasting impact with Nick Bonino as a vital part of their squad.



### CCSU ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

#### FOOTBALL

Oct. 14 @ Duquesne  
Oct. 21 @ Wagner  
Oct. 26 vs. LIU  
Nov. 4 @ Sacred Heart

#### MEN'S SOCCER

Oct 15 @ Sacred Heart  
Oct. 22 vs. FDU  
Oct. 26 @ Stonehill  
Oct. 29 vs. Howard

#### WOMEN'S SOCCER

Oct. 12 @ Merrimack  
Oct. 15 vs. Le Moyne  
Oct. 22 @ Stonehill  
Oct. 26 vs. Wagner

#### CROSS COUNTRY

Oct. 13 @ IC4A/ECAC  
Oct. 20 CCSU Mini Meet  
Oct. 28 @ NEC Finals  
Nov. 10 @ NCAA Regionals

#### VOLLEYBALL

Oct. 13 vs. Le Moyne  
Oct. 14 vs. Saint Francis U  
Oct. 20 vs. LIU  
Oct. 21 vs. FDU

#### SWIM & DIVE

Oct. 21 @ Stony Brook  
Oct. 27 @ New Hampshire  
Oct. 28 @ New Hampshire  
Nov. 4 vs. SCSU

## Women's Soccer Extends Unbeaten Streak to Six Games

BY JACK PIXTON  
Staff Writer

The Central Connecticut State University women's soccer team extended their unbeaten streak to six games in a 1-1 draw against Northeast Conference foe Sacred Heart University on Thursday, Oct. 5 at CCSU Soccer Field.

It was a tale of two halves. The Blue Devils played at their own pace early on and controlled the game. The press of Sacred Heart could not contain the CCSU attack. Putting chance after chance into the box, the Blue Devils were bound to score one.

But, in the 15th minute, CCSU's goal-

keeper Melina Ford rolled the ball to teammate Victoria Violette, who failed to gain control and turned it over. Sacred Heart's Morgan Bovardi capitalized on the mistake and scored, putting the Pioneers up 1-0.

The Blue Devils head coach, Mick D'Arcy, commented on the goal after the game.

"You have to have faith in how you play; that's what it boils down to. It was a mistake, we know it was a mistake, it's a preventable mistake," D'Arcy said. "Going forward with the rest of the game, we were confident that wasn't going to happen again. But these things happen in games, and I thought we respond-

ed to it well, grew stronger as the game went on."

After giving up the goal, CCSU struggled for the remainder of the first half. They turned the ball over in curtailed areas and created few scoring opportunities.

In the second half, the Blue Devils looked like a different team. They attacked the ball aggressively and were sharp and decisive in the final third.

That aggression and poise paid off in the 53rd minute when senior Giavanna Inzerillo scored on a corner kick, tying the game at one apiece.

Sacred Heart pressed the whole game and played a gritty, hard-nosed style of soccer.

Coach D'Arcy credited the Pioneers for their speed after the game.

"Defensively, they are a handful up top," D'Arcy said. "They've got some great speed, but

I thought we handled it pretty well today, and we created chances. That is a team that will probably be there in the postseason."

Coach D'Arcy credited a difficult out of conference schedule as one of the keys to the team's recent success.

"It's a variety of things. We've been able to score some goals, which helps, but overall, I just think we've improved as the season has gone on," D'Arcy said. "A couple of early tests in our non-conference games that provided some good lessons for us and gave us a good platform to start NEC play."

The Blue Devils will look to extend their undefeated streak to seven games when they hit the road to face off against the Merrimack Warriors at 4 p.m. on Thursday, Oct. 12.

# Blue Devils Prevail in Homecoming Game

BY IAN YALE  
Staff Writer

The Central Connecticut State University football team defeated Delaware State University in the Blue Devils' homecoming game on Saturday, Oct. 7, by a score of 51-44.

Central dominated on the ground, rushing for 497 yards as a team. Leading the way was sophomore running back Elijah Howard, who ran for 257 yards on 23 carries, highlighted by an 80-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter.

Howard attributed his big day to his offensive line.

"We knew the guys were going to come out and dominate up front. I just need a second, and they gave it to me the whole game," Howard said. "I'm proud of the [offensive] line; I couldn't do it without them."

Aiding Howard in the run game was junior RB Malik Thomas with 113 yards and a touchdown, as well as sophomore quarterback Ricky Ortega, who added 78 yards and three touchdowns.

With week one starting QB C.J. Duell out



Photo: Ian Yale

for the season, sophomore Matt Jenner and Ortega split the quarterback duties.

Jenner completed six passes on the day for 56 yards and two touchdowns, while Ortega supplemented his performance on the ground with an additional three completions for 30 yards.

Jenner's two touchdowns, both of which came in the first half, were caught by junior wide receivers Isiah Williams and Paul Marsh

Jr. Williams opened up the scoring in the first quarter, while Marsh put the Blue Devils up 21-6 with seven seconds left in the first half.

While it wasn't a banner day for the CCSU defense, the unit was stout in the first half, allowing just six points. They also stepped up in the fourth quarter, making a clutch stop to hold Delaware State to a field goal with 44 seconds left in the game.

The secondary

made their presence known, with junior defensive back Kimal Clark and graduate student DB Tavian Montgomery each coming away with an interception. As a team, the Blue Devils added five pass deflections.

The pass rush was just as potent. They were led by junior defensive tackle Dan Toatley and sophomore linebacker Malachi Wright, with a sack each. Graduate student DT Shayne Manson and junior LB Jayden

Anderson also combined for a sack.

Even with the win, Manson said he was not satisfied with the defensive performance.

"We let up way too many points," Manson said. "Defense is what we pride ourselves on, and I can promise you we're going to be drilling defense, defense, defense throughout this next week."

QB Ricky Ortega was especially proud of the resilience the team showed, he said.

"We had a lot of adversity in the third quarter, but it was great to see our team keep fighting and keep believing in each other," Ortega said.

Head coach Adam Lechtenberg had mixed feelings about his team's day, he said.

"I'm happy we got the win, and I'm happy that we fought when we were facing adversity, but we have a lot of areas to improve if we're going to be very good," Lechtenberg said.

Overall, it was a triumphant homecoming for CCSU, complete with a win.

"No better feeling than winning," Manson said.

## New Blue Devil Jordan Jones Hopes to Make Impact on the Court



Photo: Steve McLaughlin Photography

BY ARI KINDER  
Staff Writer

Height may matter for some people, but it doesn't mean a thing to Jordan Jones. The crafty and explosive 6-foot senior is here to make his final stand.

The South Carolina native stayed home for his first three years in college, playing Division II basketball at Coker University. Transferring from a Division II school to a Division I is not easy at all, but Jordan is ready for the task, he said.

"It's a transition

for sure; division changes and different parts of the game that you just know are different," Jones said. "Division II is not that much of a skill difference, but just different parts of the game like speed and different heights of players."

He made giant leaps towards developing his game during his three years at Coker. He started 28 games, averaging 15 points, four rebounds, and six assists per game.

"Every year was a year of development," Jones said. "My freshman year, I was playing behind a really good guard that was a senior guard at my school, so I just had to learn from him. Then, my sophomore year, when I was actually able to touch the court, it was a process of learning."

Jones is ready for his senior season and is prepared to face every challenge, he said.

"My senior year

coming up, I have been able to know my spots, I know where to find my bigs, I know where to find my shooters, and every year has been a year of development," Jones said. "I've been able to learn from other players and coaches, soak in the wisdom, and just get better at my game."

After meeting with and talking to CCSU's head coach, Patrick Sellers, Jones knew CCSU was the best place for him to finish his collegiate career.

"Coaches will recruit and tell you certain things that won't happen. They'll get you to the school, promise you this, promise you that, but Coach didn't promise me anything," Jones said. "He just said I see potential in your game. You're a really good player, and I know that you can help my team."

Division I basketball is the land of the big men and guards that are

6-foot-5. Jordan said he doesn't care about that and he plays the game the only way he knows.

"Grit, just heart, passion, coming from Division II, I don't take anything for granted," Jones said. "I'm going to play my heart out on defense every possession. My people, my family, they know that I'm here for a purpose, and I'm not going to let any of them down and that this right here is a blessing, and I don't take anything for granted."

Jones said he wants to be an impact player for the Blue Devils in the upcoming season, his team-first mindset fits right in with the rest of the team.

"Win, that's it, win. We are not laying down to anybody; it doesn't matter," Jones said. "We got Rhode Island first, and we're the underdog going in, but we don't think like that. We're coming in to win against everybody."