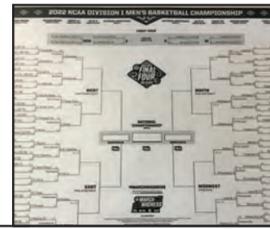




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SOUTHERN NEWS

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University drops mask mandate lift April 4 this is how the students feel

By Sofia Rositani
Editor-In-Chief

As of April 4, the mask mandate will be lifted for the university.

"This afternoon, Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) President Terrence Cheng announced that, as of April 4, all Connecticut community colleges and state universities will no longer require masking on campus. In addition, all weekly testing requirements for employees and students will end at that time," according to an email from Patrick Dilger.

This announcement came on March 10, during Spring Break.

"I don't have a strong opinion about it (the mask mandate), but it's about time they did lift it," environmental studies and sustainability major, Rianna Albert, a junior said.

As of March 7, New Haven has lifted the mask mandate, but stores and restaurants have their own mandates.

"I have mixed feelings



Picture of different types of masks, including disposable and cloth.

PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

about the mask mandate being lifted. While it shows that hopefully the pandemic is nearly over, I just am worried that the cases will skyrocket. Plus, I am immunocompromised, and masks made me feel more comfort-

able attending my classes. I will be continuing to wear my mask until at least the end of the semester," comprehensive special education major, Giana Cardonita, a junior said.

Cardonita said that

she hopes that the cases will stay the same, or decrease, but she noticed that when other states lifted the mandates the cases spiked so she is worried about that.

"that's going to happen in any town or campus

(COVID-19 cases spiking) that does life the mandate however these amount of future cases won't be as significant," Albert said.

Psychology major, Jacob Adorno, a junior said that he is apprehensive with the lift.

"Some commuters may not feel the same weight of having to undergo the safety precautions that residence do because they live at home," Adorno said.

Adorno said that if someone lives out of state and gets exposed, they cannot leave same with those who live on campus or at home who will also have to quarantine.

"As someone who hasn't gotten Covid since the school shut down, I feel like I have done everything I could to be careful and make those around me feel comfortable," Adorno said.

While he thinks this, he said he does not think it is a good idea for the entire campus to be unmasking.

"I think it's too soon," Adorno said.

Cardonita said that as someone who is immunocompromised, she is worried about what will happen.

"I am going to probably have to double mask and there may be times I may not feel comfortable going to class as a result," Cardonita said.

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FOLIO



What were studnets up to during spring break

By Roma Rositani
Photo Editor
Wula Cham
Copy Editor

As fast as students were packing to go away for spring break, they were just as quickly packing up their bags to come back to campus.

"I went to a concert, I worked, and I went to New York City," interdisciplinary studies major Mishel Noboa, a junior, said.

Many students wished the break were longer due to the abundance of work that was thrown towards them this spring semester, and others said it was long enough and they just wanted to start it up so the semester could be over.

As some students stayed in Connecticut a good deal, many went over state lines to celebrate their break. There were students flocking to states with lots and lots of sunshine like Miami and the Baha-

mas to runway from the cold and snow that comes with living in Connecticut to bask in the glorious sun.

"I went to West Virginia to visit my mom's family, I was there actually for the Greta Van Fleet Concert, but unfortunately it got canceled because the members of the band got sick, they were in the hospital with pneumonia, so it was a pretty sad interesting week," marketing major Marissa Russo, a sophomore, said.

Biology major Julia Mansfield, a junior, did not receive a spring break due to being on the Track and field Team. Student-athletes stayed back in order to work on their sport.

Before break began students were engulfed in midterms, many struggled to complete them while some said they were easy but took a lot of time. Because spring break comes after midterm, many stu-

dents were mentally already in spring break during mid-term week. This makes studying even more difficult as students have to build up the motivation and determination to put in the work so they can pass their exams without any regrets.

Unfortunately, many students cannot

control themselves of the excitement of finally going on break and prioritized mid-terms. This in turn leads to bad midterm exam results and demotivational students all over campus. However, there are always a few who exceed expectations and are able to time management themselves very well.

"They weren't hard, but just time consuming," interdisciplinary studies major Mishel Noboa, a junior, said.

Although many students ran away from Connecticut towards the sun, the students who stayed in the state were blessed with beautiful sunny weather luckily. The course

of spring break had a few rainy days, but it is new England. The weather is constantly changing; one day it is snowing, another is rainy and then another is boiling hot. One does not know whether to wear a coat, grab an umbrella or stay in shorts. In cases like this, it is best to always be prepared for all three.



Students in the Adanti Student center back to work after spring break ended.

PHOTO | DAVE LEE

Get to know the Southern News

By Southern News Staff

• My name is Sarah Shelton and I am the Features Editor and Online Assistant of the Southern News and the Managing Editor of Crescent magazine. I am a double major, Journalism and Media Studies, I am currently in my second semester of junior year and I recently have been accepted into Omicron Delta Kappa. As the features editor I write stories throughout the week and come into the office on Mondays to layout the Features and Opinion sections, currently page three. As the Online Assistant I work with our Editor-in-Chief, Sofia, to decide which stories are going onto the website for the week and I schedule them to go up on Wednesdays. I am certified in Premiere Pro CS6, I run a newly started food blog and I have a Havanese dog named Jax.



PHOTO | ROMA ROSITANI

Picture of the Editor-in-Chief, copy editor, photo/layout editor, features editor and online assistant.

- Hi, I am Sofia Rositani, I am the Editor in Chief of the Newspaper. I maintain the Southern News and make sure it runs smoothly and we reach the deadline on time. I am an Italian major. In my free time I like reading and listening to music. I am interested in learning languages, I am currently learning Korean, and I was raised speaking Italian. I am hoping to use my experience in this position for my future job.
- My name is Roma Rositani, I am the photo editor and layout editor of the Southern News. I am a Studio Art major and a business management minor. As the photo editor I layout out an entire photo spread usually posted on page four. Some of my hobbies include thrifting and taking pictures. My coffee order from Dunkin is a mocha iced coffee with sweet cold foam. I have two English bulldogs named Rocky and Luna. Some of my favorite artists are Harry Styles and Nirvana. I enjoy camping and I love the beach.
- My name is Sarah Shelton and I am the Features Editor and Online Assistant of the Southern News and the Managing Editor of Crescent magazine. I am a double major, Journalism and Media Studies, I am currently in my second semester of junior year and I recently have been accepted into Omicron Delta Kappa. As the features editor I write stories throughout the week and come into the office on Mondays to layout the Features and Opinion sections, currently page three. As the Online Assistant I work with our Editor-in-Chief, Sofia, to decide which stories are going onto the website for the week and I schedule them to go up on Wednesdays. I am certified in Premiere Pro CS6, I run a newly started food blog and I have a Havanese dog named Jax.
- My name is Morgan Douglas, I am the sports editor and business manager of the Southern News. My favorite part of being involved with the Southern News as sports editor is being able to witness exciting moments in person and get the genuine reaction from the athletes after their greatest accomplishments. The highlight for me to this point would have to be sitting in the bleachers with the swimming and diving teams as they clinched the conference championship and witnessing their excitement turn into overwhelming joy. I look forward to being just a small part of more great moments this spring. Go Owls!
- My name is Wula Cham, I am a copy editor for the Southern News. I am a healthcare studies major and a business administration minor. My role is based on overseeing the articles for the week and correcting or pointing out any mistakes. I am also in charge of delivering papers around campus. I have a laid-back kind of personality and mostly go with the flow. I do too much for so little time and am always constantly on the grind. Fun fact: I just found out that you can get liquid sugar added to your drink at Dunkin and I have never stopped since.
- My name is Bria Kirklín, I am the photographer for Southern News. I love being able to see how much each person has accomplished within each story written and I love seeing my pictures in the newspaper. Some of my hobbies consist of drawing, graphic design, photography, printmaking, and music such as my main instrument is drums. I have a dog named Bingo who is a pit bull/ridgeback mix and he is 5 years old. I look forward to continuing photography for my last few semesters.
- My name is Mary Kate Belli, I am a copy editor for the Southern News. I am a Psychology major with a Spanish minor. I edit all the stories before they are published in the newspaper for grammatical and style tweaks. Some of my hobbies are indoor gardening, playing video games, and spending time with my Chihuahua mix, Tux. My go to order at Dunkin' is a peach passionfruit refresher.

Eazy music video and Kanye West's backstory

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

The Game and Kanye West recently released a black and white music video featuring disturbing animations for their single "Eazy," and there is a long story behind it.

Kim Kardashian, reality star and West's ex-wife, filed for divorce with West back in January 2021. West was not letting her go which led them to go to court and finally Kardashian was able to finalize the divorce over a year later.

During this time, Kardashian started dating Saturday Night Live host Pete Davidson which led West to start posting many things on Instagram including him and Kardashian's private texts, many religious statements, claiming he is not allowed to see the kids and threatening Davidson, while creating the name "Skete," all while referring to Kardashian as his wife and dating Julia Fox.

When you think about it, it is a little scary that not even a woman who is rich and famous can easily get divorced, even when she is being stalked and harassed by him online. West even bought the house across the street from Kardashian and is now seen with Kim Kardashian lookalikes, including

Chaney Jones.

Kardashian kept most of this private, but actually recently fired back telling him to let go of the narrative that he is not allowed to see the kids.

"Please stop with this narrative, you were just here this morning picking up the kids for school," Kardashian wrote on an Instagram comment.

West also recently posted something naming his kid's school because he did not want them going to "that godless school" anymore.

In this post, he also added how disgusted he was that Kim allows their daughter to sing about being "in love with an emo girl," on the social media app Tik Tok. West posted screenshots of his daughter in the Tik Tok wearing dark makeup for the video.

The song, *Emo Girl*, by Machine Gun Kelly and Willow Smith is a very popular Tik Tok audio at the moment and MGK is even good friends with North's aunt.

Kardashian has since deleted the Tik Tok and they have yet to post on the app since.

In a now-deleted video, West claims he was mainly mad at this because it does not follow his religion. West also claims Tik Tok and Disney are "not allowed to use" his daughter, North.

West even posted a now

deleted screenshot of his texts with someone that showed he would be okay if it was his son Saint using the app, but since it was one of his daughters Kardashian is "using it against" him to "pull on his heart-strings." North is his oldest child.

The Tik Tok account, @kimandnorth, is an account where North West is allowed to make Tik Tok videos, as most girls her age do, while her mom, Kim Kardashian, fully monitors this account, features in almost all of the videos, has turned the comments feature off and does not allow her daughter to go live.

West did not seem to have a problem with this, at least publicly, until Kardashian started dating Davidson.

Many Twitter users point out how Kardashian is doing a good job letting her daughter have that creative freedom, yet restricting it so it is safe for her. Others believe West has a right to not let his daughter on Tik Tok, however, he allows her to be in Instagram posts, "Keeping up With the Kardashians" TV show, on YouTube with Jojo Siwa and he allowed her on stage during his Yeezy show.

@herban_lengend wrote on Twitter, "North was on social media's when him and Kim were still together tho. It's a control tactic. Ye



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Kanye West, Timothy Chalamet, Kid Cudi and Pete Davidson before Eazy video.

is one of my favorite artists of all time but we ain't gotta straight up ignore this...what he's been doing to Kim and Skete is near abusive."

Because of this recent "Eazy" video, West said what he created is art and they cannot restrict his art and creativity, yet he is doing it to his daughter.

I personally believe the music video is tasteless and gross.

I grew up listening to Kanye hits and casually listened to him with my ex because he was a big fan, I even liked his *Jesus is King* album and saw the movie in theaters that came with it, but I am not a fan of this newer video.

In the video West is seen kidnapping Davidson, tying him up, decapitating him and planting roses on his head.

The text at the end of the

video said, "everyone lived happily ever after, except Skete."

I personally believe he took it way too far. It is not art, it is somewhat of a threat and many people would be terrified if he was not famous.

West can go out and date Julia Fox, but why is Kardashian not allowed to move on? West and Fox have recently broken up and many people, including myself, believe it was a publicity stunt, especially because they had an entire magazine interview with couple pictures within a week or two of dating.

Julia Fox responded to TMZ by saying, "no, no, no, Kanye's harmless. I just think that's his artistic creative expression. I know it's aggressive, but I think if it really came down to it, I don't think Kanye would hurt a fly."

After months of posts and this video, Davidson responded.

Comedian Dave Sirus, Davidson's long-time friend, released these alleged texts between West and Davidson after West posted a video about the texts.

Davidson allegedly said Kardashian is "literally the best mother I've ever met. What she does for those kids is amazing"

West asks and mocks Davidson about his medication and rehab in these texts and Davidson offers him help saying there is no shame in it.

"I've decided I'm not gonna let you treat us this way anymore and I'm done being quiet," Davidson added. "But if you continue to press me like you have for the past 6 months I'm gonna stop being nice."

Large deep puddles on campus during storms

By Sarah Shelton
Features Editor

Puddles. Everywhere. When it rains puddles form, obviously, but thank God for my rainboots because the walk back to my dorm during the rain, and many hours after rain, is insane.

When wearing any normal pair of sneakers walking from the academic quad to the ResLife quad when there are puddles, there is no way



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Puddle in front of the back door of West Campus.

to escape it unless you walk directly on the road, which seems to rarely have any puddles.

I do not know if it was how the sidewalks were put down or just the shape of the land, but the water pools up on these sidewalks leaving you to have soaking wet feet while sitting in class and needing to immediately change your socks when back in the dorms.

There is a lack of draining with these puddles. They stay there for days at a time and the worms are basically taking a swim as it may be an ocean for them.

I actually did not own rainboots until my sophomore year of college. I got them due to the puddles here. I got sick of my sneakers being smelly, wet and covered in dirt because of the unavoidable puddles throughout campus.

If students attempt to avoid these puddles, they end up having to walk through mud.

I honestly have never seen anything like it.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Rainboots standing in front of puddle on campus.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Sidewalk in West Quad completely covered in water.

Where I live, puddles form on the sidewalks and roads, but they are never this large or this deep, or even this many.

Puddles somewhat like this used to form on the road I live on, and the town ripped up our curbs to fix it. They were not super successful, as a giant puddle always forms in front of my driveway, but many do not form on the street anymore.

My friend said a year ago, while walking outside the Dunkin' doors of the Adanti Student Center during a storm, she was drenched up to her knees and had to walk back to North Midrise cold and soaked with water.

These puddles seem to mainly form by the residence halls with giant puddles next to Farnham Hall, between the blue tarp walls where students have to walk between the construction and Farnham Hall, on the side of Chase Hall, and in front of the back door of West Campus.

I honestly do not think this problem is easily

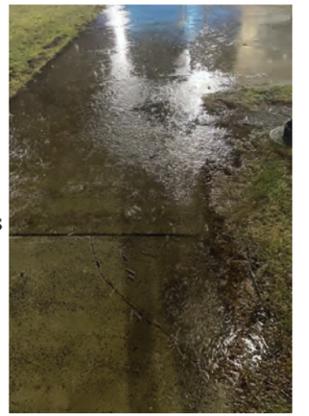


PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Puddle by Chase Hall.

fixable, but my advice to incoming students is to make sure to bring some rain boots on move-in day to be well prepared for the coming years of rainstorms.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

Worm in front of West.

SOUTHERN NEWS

Advisers:
Cindy Simoneau
Frank Harris III

Contact information:
Email: scsu.southernct.news@gmail.com

Southern Connecticut State University
501 Crescent Street Student Center Room 222
New Haven, CT 06515
Issues printed by: Valley Publishing, Derby, CT

Sofia Rositani
Vacancy

Section Editors

Vacancy
Sarah Shelton
Morgan Douglas
Roma Rositani

Staff Reporters

Vacancy
Vacancy
Vacancy

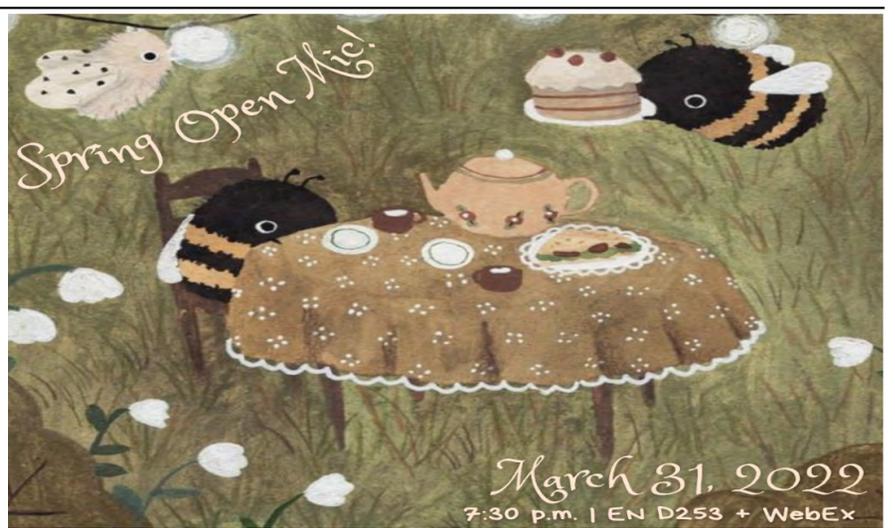
Copy Desk

Wula Cham
Mary Katherine Belli
Photographer
Bria Kirkin

Editor-in-Chief
Managing Editor

News
Features, Opinions & Online Assistant
Sports
Photo and Layout

News Writer
Sports Writer
General Assignment



March Madness observations With 10 first round upsets, make no mistake about it, mayhem is back

Opinion by
Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

The Sweet 16 for both the NCAA men's and women's college basketball tournaments have been set. Texas Christian University forward Eddie Lampkin Jr. did his best to wreck number one seeded Arizona Wildcat's season and with it brackets across the nation, while making a name for himself in the process by setting his new career high in scoring in the biggest game of his life. That is what makes this March tournament so fascinating to me and many others.

It is sports in a nutshell. It is beautiful, dramatic and unpredictable.

The St. Peter's Peacocks, 15-seed are in the Sweet 16 for Pete's sake. Only people who attend the school had that in their bracket, and I bet they half-smickered and half-groaned making the pick, but here they are after knocking off the Kentucky Wildcats in the first round and the Murray State Racers in the second.

Nobody in my bracket pool had the Iowa State Cyclones reaching the Sweet 16. Nobody except for me, that is.

It is not that I know any more about the Cyclones than the next person in the group, but I know how



An updated men's tournament bracket featuring the Sweet 16 set to start Thursday.

March goes, and I know that every year it seems like an 11 seed, like Iowa State, often finds their way into the Sweet 16.

I still can't name a single player on the team, and I probably won't by the time it's all said and done, but I do remember not trusting the Wisconsin Badgers, and that mistrust paid off in the second round when Iowa State beat them.

I love the randomness of

it all. My buddy Jackie was the only one of us to have the Miami Hurricanes in her Sweet 16 and she does not follow college hoops in the slightest.

She is currently first place in our pool, but look out Jackie, because my Gonzaga Bulldogs and I are coming for you and your Arizona Wildcats.

I am curious how many in your bracket pool had

UConn making a run, because I know most people in mine had them making it to the Sweet 16.

Unfortunately, the fifth-seeded Huskies were defeated in the first round by the 12th-seeded New Mexico State Aggies. Only then did I learn the nickname of Aggies has to do with agriculture, still not sure what Hokies are because Virginia Tech lost, but there's always March

of next year.

Death, taxes, and Eric Musselman winning basketball games in March.

Even if UConn had advanced, they would have had to deal with Musselman and the Arkansas Razorbacks, followed by Gonzaga, the number one overall seed in the tournament.

The Huskies are still in it on the women's side as of this writing and will have played against the University of Central Florida on Monday, March 21.

What a story it would be if head coach Mike Krzyzewski and the Duke Blue Devils could win it all in coach K's final season. Given how hated Duke has been across decades, I doubt many people outside of Cameron, NC want to see them cutting down the nets at the end of it all.

Duke will have to survive the Texas Tech Red Raiders this Thursday in order to advance.

Three of the four number one seeds made it through the first weekend unscathed, but the Baylor Bears did succumb to the eighth-seeded University of North Carolina Tar Heels this past Saturday, ending their hopes of repeating as champions from last year.

It is only a matter of time before the next giant falls. Keep watching to find out.

Watson

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor - Opinion



If you have not heard by now, Deshaun Watson is the Cleveland Browns new quarterback.

Cleveland traded three first round picks in order to land the young superstar who currently has 22 different women suing him for sexual misconduct.

The Browns gave him \$230 million guaranteed over five years, or you could look at it as over \$10 million per acuser.

The most jarring part of the situation was how much power and say Watson had.

He had a full no-trade clause in his contract with the Houston Texans and was able to make his pick from a handful of serious suitors.

It should be noted that Watson has been cleared of criminal charges, which is why this trade was made, but the 22 civil suits against him remain.

Cleveland paid a hefty cost in order to gain his services and burned their bridge with quarterback Baker Mayfield in the process, and perhaps even some fans.

I am not sure how I would react if I were a Browns fan, which I am not. It is easy to take a moral stand in March and say you won't root for them, but when he throws his first 70-yard touchdown pass in the fall you may feel differently.

Then again, considering the franchise, if the Browns' ineptitude over the past quarter century has not driven their fans away, a star quarterback in his prime probably will not either, no matter the off-field concerns.

Mike Ryan Ruiz, executive producer of the Dan Le Batard Show with Stugotz can no longer root for the Browns and has declared himself a free agent fan, and I can't really blame him.

22 accusers are hard to ignore for some people. Not for NFL front offices of course, as the attorney for Watson's 22 accusers claims none of the NFL franchises who were among the final suitors for Watson reached out to them for their input.

There are some bad apples playing the games we love at a high level, and it can be hard to separate and balance.

It is easier to stomach when a third-down running back or the nickel cornerback on your favorite team has some shady characteristics, but when the guy plays the most important position in sports, it becomes a little more difficult to ignore.

Michael Vick was able to return to the NFL, but that was after he had served his time in prison. We will have to wait and see what becomes of Watson's legal situation and the Browns are obviously prepared as well, when you look at how the contract is structured.

University sports break refresher

By Morgan Douglas
Sports Editor

Baseball

Owls' baseball is off to a hot start after opening the season down south with games in Florida and South Carolina.

They could not have asked for a better start to the season, jumping out to a perfect 9-0 record, but have come back to earth a bit dropping three of their last seven games to put their record at 13-3 as of this writing.

Although conference play has yet to begin in the NE10, the Owls have the highest winning percentage (0.813%) of any team in the conference to this point.

The offensive production for the Owls has been the most impressive aspect, as they have scored 10 or more runs six times already and are undefeated when scoring at least seven runs.

Owls' baseball will next take the field on Saturday, March 26 on the road against the College of Saint Rose. The team has yet to play its home opener which will take place on April 2



PHOTO | COLLEEN MURPHY (SCSUOWLS.COM)
First baseman Jack Drewry at bat.

Softball

Owls' softball began over spring break with the team playing its first eight games in Winter Haven, Fla. and finishing with a 4-4 record.

Catcher Jacqueline Dumont, a senior, leads the team in home runs (2) runs batted in (7) and total bases (17) and is tied for the team lead in hits (9) with infielder Katrina Roy, a sophomore.

As the Owls fly north, their first matchup will be a doubleheader against Post University on the road on Monday, March 21.

Despite the .500% record, softball has outscored their opponents 34-27 in the first eight games. A positive run differential is a promising sign as the season ramps up.

Following Monday's doubleheader, softball enters a three-game homestand which begins with another doubleheader on Wednesday, March 23, against Saint Thomas Aquinas, a team they defeated 8-2 in Fla. earlier in the season.



PHOTO | SCSUOWLS.COM
Pitcher Emma Gorham on the mound for her team down in Florida over spring break.

Lacrosse

Owls' Lacrosse only played one game over break, a road loss to Flagler College this past Saturday by the final score of 13-11.

Attacker Karlie Rowe, a senior, continued her fine start to the campaign by scoring another three goals. Rowe has scored three or more goals in three of the teams four games to start the season.

Rowe is currently tied with attacker Bayleigh Takacs, a senior for the team leader in goals, as each has scored 10 goals apiece to this point.

Takacs has recorded at least one goal in every game this season.

The Owls will look to improve on their 1-3 record when they take the road yet again to play Pace University on Wednesday, March 23.

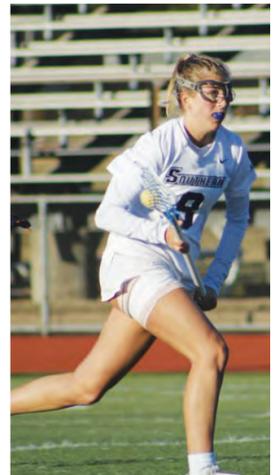


PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN
Attacker Brianna Shaw playing on Jess Dow Field.

Gymnastics

Owls' Gymnastics competed all over the East Coast during spring break with meets in Maryland, New Hampshire and Rhode Island.

It culminated in the Inaugural Gymnastics East Conference Championship where the Owls placed fifth out of eight schools.

Although a fifth-place finish may not sound like a tremendous feat on the surface, look closer.

The team's meet score of 194.200 broke the program's previous record of 192.800 set in February 2020.

In the process, gymnastics also broke the program's record on the vault which they themselves set back in February 2021 and the program's bars record with a score of 48.625, breaking the previous record set back in 2019.

Up next for gymnastics is the NCAA East Regional Championship set for Friday, April 1 as the Owls look to build off their record-breaking performance.

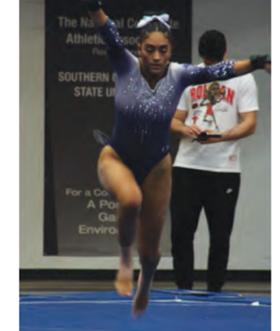


PHOTO | BRIA KIRKLIN
Sara Ortiz doing her floor routine.

Track & Field

Men's track and field head coach John Wallin was named East Region Men's Coach of the Year, an honor voted on by the US Track Field and Cross Country Coaches' Association following the completion of the 2022 NCAA DII Indoor Track & Field Championships in Pittsburg, Kan. Which concluded on March 12.

2022 marked Wallin's eighth time winning the honor for indoor track.

For outdoor track, which begins Thursday, March 24, Wallin has won East Region Men's Coach of the Year nine times and will begin the outdoor season in search of his historic tenth time.

Freshman Ella Maclean was named NE10 Women's Track Rookie of the Year for the indoor season, the announcement was made on March 10.

Both the men's and women's track and field teams will travel to Raleigh, NC to begin the outdoor season with a meet at NC State.



PHOTO | BRIAN FOLEY (SCSUOWLS.COM)
Ella Maclean competing in the NE10 Conference indoor track and field championship.