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North Hall celebrates Hispanic Heritage

By Jaylen Carr
Sports Editor

Inside North Campus Midrise lobby, you hear Latin music from Bad Bunny, the aroma of delicious empanadas and see students learning Spanish.

The residential advisors of North Campus hosted a Hispanic Heritage event on Oct. 5 to celebrate Hispanic culture.

Residential advisor Kimberly Roig said, "We definitely want to highlight and celebrate a lot of our residents who are also foreigners."

North Campus is home

to the International Living Learning community, where they house all international students, according to Owl Connect.

"We wanted to make sure that other cultures are represented here," said residential Advisor Quentin Askew. "Diversity and inclusion is very important to us."

At the event there was a savory pastry dish, called empanadas, for all the students to snack on while learning Spanish phrases.

Advertising Major Marta Sangro, a senior, taught students Spanish phrases and words. Sangro is from

Spain, and she considers English her second language. She took the time to teach each student that came through the lobby a phrase they can remember and use in a conversation.

Sangro said that the residential advisors held this event because it was a great way to include people.

"It's nice if you go somewhere and you know how to say something in their language," said Sangro.

Madison Goodson Residential Advisor said North Campus tries to have at least six events a month.

"I personally wanted to try to put as much multicultural in the building as possible," said Goodson. "I did want to prioritize getting as much diversity base events."

Biochemistry major Daniel Devissiere, a junior, said he came to the event to help the residential advisors set up for the event but connect with Hispanic culture.

"Every culture has something to offer," said Devissiere. "Culture changes people."

The North Campus residential advisors—Roig, Goodson, Askew—want to do more culture events

this year for residents. "Our campus is full of different cultures," said

Goodson. "You can't celebrate a culture if you know nothing about it."



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

The students of North Campus are filling into the lobby to check-in at the event and learn how to speak Spanish.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Residential Advisor Quentin Askew speaking to a student about the delicious empanadas.

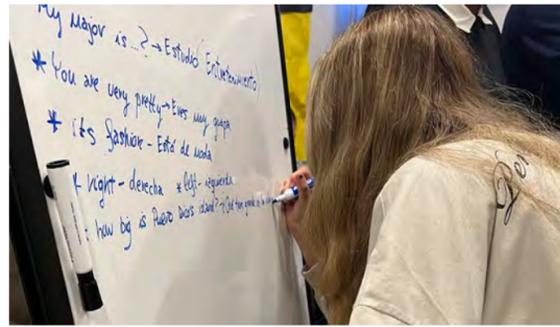


PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Advertising Major Marta Sangro, a senior, is writing different Spanish phrases on a whiteboard for students to learn.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Beef and chicken empanadas were served during the event to honor Hispanic culture.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Biochemistry major Daniel Devissiere, a junior, (left) and Kimberly Roig residential advisor (right) setting up the guest table for the Hispanic Heritage event.



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

Advertising major Marta Sangro, a senior, (left), Biochemistry major Daniel Devissiere, a junior (middle) and Residential Advisor Madison Goodson teaching the students Spanish



PHOTO | JAYLEN CARR

North Campus lobby check-in desk was decorated with different Hispanic country flags.

Political activists speak on midterm elections

By Ali Fernand
Features Editor

The upcoming 2022 midterm election will define how American politics look for years to come. President Joe Biden's term is approaching its halfway point and citizens are analyzing how he has fulfilled his campaign promises.

The focus for voters this year is party control in Congress. There are two focuses on the elections this year: the House of Representatives and the Senate. College students will be impacted by the election results with issues such as student debt relief and voting rights being at the forefront.

"At the federal level, we have to make sure that President Biden's agenda stays on track," said Vice President of College Democrats Nate Gross. "If we elect a majority Republican in Congress, there will be at least two more years of stalled legislation."

According to NPR, Republicans are gaining popularity with voters. This could win them the majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"At the federal level, I think Republicans will gain seats," said President of College GOP Madelyn Dean. "That's usually what happens at midterms when there's a Democrat in office."

The same thing happened in 2018 under President Donald Trump and in 2014 under President Barack Obama. The opposite parties gained seats in those midterms because they were able to run on the dissatisfaction that they were feeling under each presidency.

The hot topics that intrigue voters this election are abortion rights, gun rights, the Jan. 6th insurrection and the safety of America's democracy.

"At the state level, we need to make sure that we protect the rights that the Republican Supreme Court is trying

to strip away," said Gross, referring to the Supreme Court's overturning of Roe v. Wade (1973).

The overturn of Roe v. Wade got rid of the federal right to have an abortion. This leaves states to be the ones making decisions on the legality of abortion.

"As far as the Republicans, this term we're focused on finances and the economy," said Dean. "We're never going to win on being pro-life in Connecticut; it's about being strategic with your platform."

Politicians must adjust the issues they focus on to appeal to the voters in the area. This is specifically difficult for candidates running in states where their party is in the minority.

For the Connecticut local elections, Republicans have a harder time because they are running in a state where Democratic candidates are popular.

"Most of the candidates that are running are incumbents," said Gross.

Incumbents typically have the advantage

when it comes to races for political office. However, the candidates running against them can campaign on the issues faced under their leadership.

The election for governor is currently between Democrat incumbent Gov. Ned Lamont and Republican businessman Bob Stefanowski.

Connecticut's House of Representatives seat for the 5th district is between

Democrat incumbent and Congresswoman Jahana Hayes and a past member of Connecticut's State Senate, Republican George Logan.

Dean said, "As far as GOP candidates, he is probably our best shot to win."

Connecticut's Senate seat is up between incumbent Senator Richard Blumenthal and Leora Levy.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 8. According to CT

Portal, college students can request an absentee ballot in Connecticut three weeks before the election. They can also apply for an emergency ballot six days before the election day.

Prior to election day, students can get involved in campaigns and share information on social media.

Dean said, "Always vote, even if it's the day of and you're Googling the names that will be on the ballot."



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

College Democrats posing at Involvement Fair.

University brings the 80s back with Roller Skates

Photos and Story by Sarah Shelton

Photo Editor Luke Molwitz
Photographer

Roller skating, a popular trend from the 1980s, was brought to the university on Thursday, Oct. 6.

Located in the Residential Basketball Court was a green and red glow in the dark tile floor, bins of skates and

free t-shirts for students who signed up for the event.

This event, called "Glow Skate," was held by SCSU Recreation and Fitness, also known as RecFit, and Resident Hall Association, RHA.

Each student who signed up had a specific time slot for an hour to skate around.

Some students already knew how to skate, others were learning. Some did not even skate at all.



Photo | Luke Molwitz

A group of students getting ready to pose for a picture.



Photo | Sarah Shelton

A pair of skates laced up ready to be skated on.

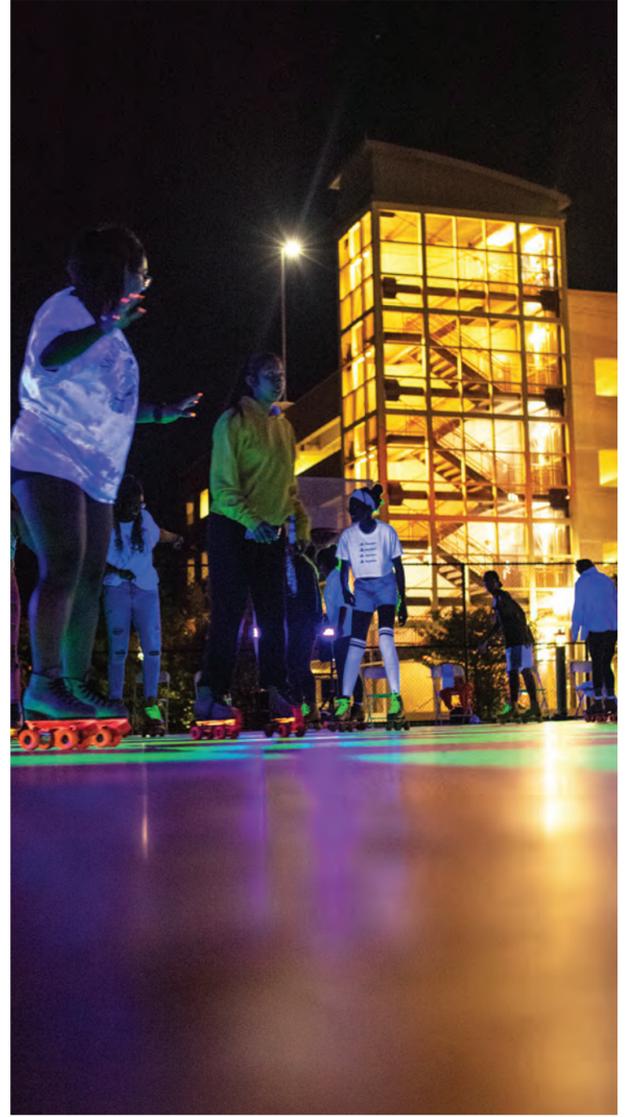


Photo | Luke Molwitz

Students skating in front of the west parking garage.



Photo | Sarah Shelton

Non-skater Giana Cardonita, a senior, supporting her friends learning how to skate.



Photo | Luke Molwitz

Students skating by reflecting off the glow in the dark tiles.

Student opinions on the new Banner Student app

By Sarah Shelton
Photo Editor

Over the summer, Banner Web seemed to disappear as the university updated it to Banner Student.

According to the university's IT help desk website, "Banner Web is the Student Information System at SCSU. Banner Web is used to manage student records data and activities. Students are able to check admissions status, search course catalog, register for classes, check financial awards, pay tuition, check grades and apply for graduation."

While Banner Student performs the same tasks as Banner Web, the format is entirely different. This change was announced on August 10 in an email stating, "on August 16th BannerWeb will be upgraded to

Banner Student. All of the existing resources (Student Services, Billing/Payments, Financial Aid) will still be available but with a new look and a much-improved mobile browser experience."

One difference noticed among students is they cannot have multiple things open at once now. For example, if you have the schedule planner open and go back to Banner Student on the other tab and click on degree evaluation, the tab open for schedule planner closes and it opens the tab for degree evaluation.

"I'm not the biggest fan, but in some respects, it is better," psychology major Sylvana Burno, a junior, said.

Burno said it is easy to find things on the new platform, such as her Grade Point Average, also known as GPA.

Similarly, interdisciplinary studies

major Ariana Munoz, a senior, said she is not that bothered by the change, but was not sure how she felt about it at first.

"At first it was a bit off-putting because obviously, it's different than what I was used to seeing in prior years so I spent a bit of time just clicking through trying to find where things are," Munoz said. "It was a bit of a minor inconvenience in the first week or so but now I've just gotten used to it."

While some students have figured it out by now, some still do not like the change.

Psychology major, Jacob Adorno, a senior, said he feels that Banner Student is more tedious to "get around."

"I was a peer mentor my sophomore year and one of the main resources we offered for first-year students was helping them navigate Banner Web, help them navigate

SCSU apps in general, but they're mostly using Blackboard and Banner Web," Adorno said. "I'm on it a lot now because I need to keep track of my activity for scholarships and any transcripts to be able to be eligible for the scholarships that I apply for because they need my transcripts."

Adorno makes the point that it may be a good change for freshmen because they have to learn it anyway, but not for upper-class students.

"It is going to take us a while to get adjusted to it. Unlike those first-year students, we don't have that much time to do so before it may come to bite us," Adorno said. "At least Blackboard has not been changed, if it was Blackboard I would get nothing done. Everything would be late."

Adorno said he appreciates the university for always attempting

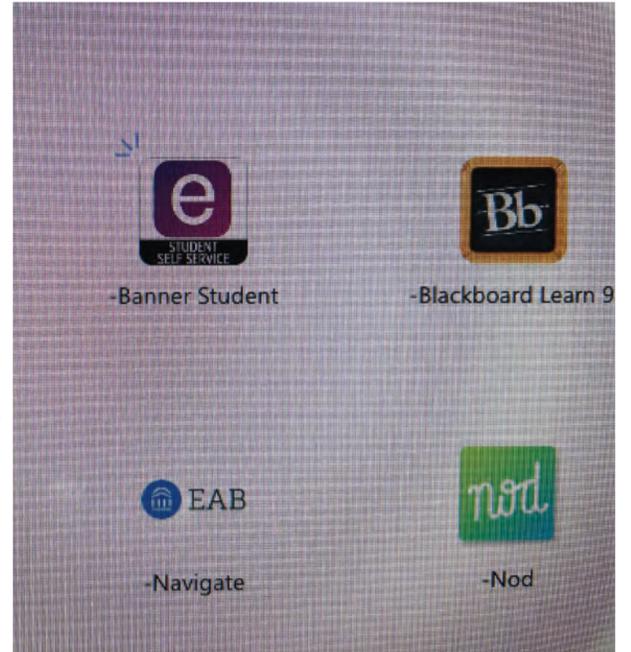


Photo | Sarah Shelton

Banner Student app on the MYSCSU app page.

better changes, but some things are fine the way they are.

"It was fine the way it was. I don't see the reason

why they had to change it all that much," Adorno said. "But the higher-ups had some incentive, had some purpose in doing so."

Crescent Players put on “Once on this Island”

By **Ali Fernand**
Features Editor

A story of love, tragedy and death, “Once on this Island” is a tale of two star-crossed lovers.

“It is a love story about a young girl from a peasant village and a wealthy boy,” said Computer Science major Amerigo Salvi, a junior, who plays “Agwe and Armand.”

The peasant is the main character, Timoune, played by Paris Looney. The wealthy boy is the other lead, Daniel, played by Gian Melendez.

First, the characters are introduced when Timoune is a young child. Young Timoune is played by Tamia Barnes.

“She is going through a lot because she has just lost her parents,” said political science major Tamia Barnes, a senior.

Timoune is a character that goes through a lot of struggles. She is poor and

an orphan. However, the couple that adopts and raises her shows a lot of love. They consider her a blessing from the gods.

The gods also play a large part in the story. The four gods are the god of the earth, the god of water, the god of love and the god of death. They cause the situations that lead to the events of the main character’s meeting.

The god of death is the most threatening of these gods. This god is played by Aleeki Shortridge.

“He’s a sly demon of death,” said interdisciplinary studies major Aleeki Shortridge, a senior. “He’s collecting people and their souls”

The main conflict is if Timoune will let love or death win. Her love for Daniel always wins, despite him being wealthy and letting his wealthy parents decide his life.

“He’s so stuck in his privilege. Deep down he



PHOTO | ALI FERNAND

Actors in “Once on this Island” take a bow after their performance on Saturday, Oct. 8.

is a good kid,” said theatre major Gian Melendez, a senior.

One of the main ideas of the show is to challenge the racism that exists within the wealthy society. The hotel gives the black characters a difficult time. There is even a scene where “TonTon” gets slapped by

one of the hotel workers.

“It’s a show about people of color, so I feel like that’s a statement to make,” Gian Melendez said.

The conclusion of the play is tragic, but it ends with hope for a new society. There is a chance for the characters that survive, such as Timoune,

to have a chance at love.

“Once on this Island” featured a university alumnus and professional actor, Eric Clinton. He graduated in 2018 and has landed roles in shows such as “In the Heights” and a movie called “Prom House.”

“A lot of my beginnings, a lot of the things I have

learned were from this theatre department,” Clinton said.

In the play he is the character “TonTon.” He is the adoptive father of the main character Timoune.

Clinton was an active member of the theatre department. He was featured in a commercial that the university put out a few years back.

“I was the feature for SCSU’s commercial that went to every TV network during the Olympics, during the All-Star Game,” Clinton said.

This commercial was very important to Clinton and his acting career. He has been able to use it to promote himself and earn gigs once he had graduated.

However, he got the offer to come back and perform at the school for this show. He was able to make it work despite his busy schedule.

“It’s tight. I have another show going on,” Clinton said.

Students sweat and study for success

By **Mirka Molina**
Contributor

Doing schoolwork right after exercise can help students be more productive. That was one fun fact shared at “Sweat and Study,” a workshop held during the university’s Success Week this month.

The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services (CASAS) presented Success Week, the third week of the semester, where students around campus attended various events like Mindfulness “Monday, Sweat and Study,” “Hispanic Heritage Month Kickoff,” “Food for Thought” and others. This was a way to meet new people and get involved at the university.

The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services (CASAS) also celebrated its first birthday bash on Wednesday, Sept. 14, where they gave out cupcakes, made sensory bottles and played board games.

According to Katie De Oliveira, the Director of the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility, the birthday bash was the most popular event that week; many students came by. “That was an opportunity for students to make appointments,” said De Oliveira.

On Tuesday, Sept. 13 they did “Planner Palooza” to help students manage their time. This is where they had students talk about their goals for the semester and what they want to accomplish.

“Sweat and Study” was an event where The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility collaborated with campus recreation in which students participated in Yoga.

“The idea on this event,” De Oliveira said, “was to talk about why exercise helps support students. It supports their academics and enhances their memories.”



PHOTO | MIRKA MOLINA

Regina Martinez, a sophomore, and Taisha Diaz, a senior, work at the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility on Monday, Oct. 3.

She explained that this was a way for students to learn the importance of jumping in and doing schoolwork right after exercise because students can be more productive.

De Oliveira believes that exercise helps with memory, concentration and strength.

An event that she wishes would have had more student involvement was “Planner Polooza” because it involved a lot of student organization. She explained how it helps students get more organized with time management.

From De Oliveira’s academic lenses, Success Week is usually on the third week of classes because by week three, students have gone through all their classes a couple of times. Week three is when faculty starts to assign papers and projects.

“Week three and week four are when students start to get a little nervous about moving forward in the semester,” said De Oliveira.

For the last few years, student involvement has developed theme weeks up until midterm. The first being Week of Welcome, followed by the second being Involvement Week and the third being Success Week.

The Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services did a lot of things focusing on success and bringing attention to their resources.

De Oliveira says the idea was to get students to go by their center and see that they have tutoring, skill support and accommodations.

“In our office we don’t want anyone to leave without getting the support they need,” said De Oliveira.

The director of the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services idea of Success Week is to let students know that there are offices out there like advising, career resources and CASAS to help support them and their success at

the university.

According to De Oliveira, the plan is to keep doing Success Week every year.

Besides, she says the Center for Academic Success and Accessibility Services plans to do something in the Spring for Success Week.

She is happy that different departments and people on campus are being more and more involved in these weeks, and she hopes that this involvement continues.

“This is a really exciting initiative and I think it’s really cool that Student Involvement came up with all these themes,” said De Oliveira.

Her hope for the future is to get more faculty involved in Success Week.

Opinion: Peanut butter and disappointment

By **Sarah Shelton**
Photo Editor

Every Thursday Programs Council, also known as ProCon, holds a “PB&J” event where from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. students get to grab snacks and a drink. However, this week one was let down.

In 2019, my freshman year, this event was my favorite event as it had a long table of different loaves of bread, different types of peanut butter such as fluff and Nutella and different types of jelly. COVID-19 ended up turning this event into grabbing an “Uncrustable” which is a prepacked peanut butter and jelly sandwich with a snack and a drink.

I have not been able to attend this event in years due to my class schedule. This semester I have class from 11:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. with my next class starting at 12:25 p.m. so I typically have to run by it every Thursday without being able to wait in the long line that is always formed.

On Thursday, Oct. 6 my second class was not meeting due to us having a work day and I was so excited to be able to stop by and grab a sandwich before running off to a meeting I had at 12:45.

I sat in my English class

yawning and hungry but excited to grab a snack this week. I really enjoy attending ProCon events, especially when it involves free food of any kind.

To my disappointment, at 12:15 p.m., I ran down the Engleman stairs to a line of confused and also disappointed students. ProCon seemed to be a no-show.

My friend Luke and I waited until 12:25 p.m. and walked away when most students also gave up waiting. I checked ProCon’s Instagram to see no updates.

It made me sad because Luke was looking forward to this as it was a quick way to grab a snack before going to photograph President Joe Bertolino who was currently speaking in the Student Center Ballroom.

While I may seem overly dramatic right now, this may have been my only opportunity to attend this event my senior year and I also had no food that day. I walked off to my meeting hungry.

To my surprise, as I was walking by the Student Center at 12:27 p.m., I saw a few people pushing a cart toward Engleman that was full of snacks. It was 30 minutes late with no update. Many students missed their favorite event for the week.

I still love ProCon. Thank you for feeding us students weekly.

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Volleyball team defeats Franklin Pierce 3-2

By Ben Martin
Sports Writer

It's a tie game at two sets a piece between the Owls' volleyball team and the Franklin Pierce Ravens on Friday night at Pelz Gymnasium. The Owls just evened up the game by barely winning the fourth set 25-22.

After the fourth set, the team huddles in the tunnel looking for fuel to keep persevering through a long game. They turn to their head coach Lisa Barbaro for some words of wisdom.

"Just have fun, confidence and faith," Barbaro said. "Play like a team and go after it."

The Owls took their coach's words to heart, as in the fifth they came out on fire and took a 7-0 lead with server and outside

hitter Sara Enright, a junior, leading the charge. The Owls eventually went on to take the fifth and final set 15-12 and won the game 3-2.

Winning the game moves the Owls record to 13-8 and their Northeast 10 conference record to an even 2-2.

"It was a fun game to play," Enright said. "We worked really hard, and I think we did a good job of executing our plan tonight." Enright ended the game for the Owls with 11 kills second on the team to middle blocker Payton Reis, a senior, who finished with 16.

According to Owls' setter Taylor Jones, a junior, the weekend loss was not the only motivating loss the team had on their minds.

Last year the Owls went to Rindge, New Hampshire to battle the Ravens and the

Ravens won that game in five sets. Jones said the team came out with a lot of fire because of last year's loss. Jones and her teammates were determined to protect their home gym and not let the Ravens repeat last year's outcome.

Along with the losses as adversity for the Owls coming into the game, more of it was added on during the game. The Owls lost right side hitter Sydney Bennett, a freshman, to injury during the game.

"They could have shut down," Barbaro said. "Instead, we used that as our fuel to finish and get the win to pick up our teammate."

Along with all the adversity stacked up against the team on Friday, in the fifth set the Owls were tasked with a task that they need to work on according to Jones, Enright and coach Barbaro: finishing sets

and games. After jumping out to a 7-0 lead, the Ravens started scoring more consistently as they came within one to make the set 13-12.

The Owls eventually took the final set 15-12, but the Ravens come-back was a bit alarming.

"We need to finish because we tend to get to the end of the game and let up a little bit," Enright said.

With the Owls facing adversity during the game, the team was very proud of their win on Friday. "I think we worked really hard to get to that fifth set," Jones said.

Coach Barbaro feels great about her young team. "Tonight was a really big growth opportunity for our young team," Barbaro said. "I think this young team is starting to come together and I think we will have a good second half of the season."

Field Hockey is striving to improve this season

By Hailey Roy
Contributor

The field hockey team is hungry to improve its 3-14 record from their 2021 season.

"We want to improve on our record and certainly how we compete goal scoring wise; how we defend," the head coach, Kelley Frassinelli, said. During Frassinelli's

time with the field hockey team, she coached 13 All-Americans 26 and All-Northeast 10 Conference picks.

Frassinelli is getting her team ready for the season by watching game films and getting them mentally and physically prepared.

"It's coming here and being prepared mentally before you can be prepared physically," Frassinelli said.

"We have weekly

meetings talking through stuff that's troubling, bothersome or stressing them out. We try to take care of that whole person first and foremost and then we try to prepare them physically to be on the field."

This season, the fall women's sports team is set to play against Mercy College, Assumption University, Bentley University, Pace University

and other colleges. Their game formation this fall goes back and forth between 2-5-3 and 3-4-3.

The Owls' first game was located in Kutztown, PA. at Mansfield University. The game ended with a score of 0-2.

"Listening to music and dancing in the locker room to get each other hype is probably one of our pre-game rituals," Grace Conselyea, a senior, said.

Another locker room normalcy is questions of the day written on the whiteboard for the team to answer. These questions have included "What's your guilty pleasure?" and "Do you consider a hotdog a sandwich?"

"It's just a way to get to know people more through fun questions," midfielder Sarah Gallagher, a freshman, said. "Sometimes there are yes or no or sometimes they're open-ended."

Team bonding is critical



PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

Melayna Brooks (right) attempting to get the ball.



PHOTO | HAILEY ROY

Sarah Gallagher (left) hitting the ball out from the offensive player on Sept. 26.

for the team according to Coach Frassinelli.

"For them to realize they walk in different shoes. You don't know somebody

else's day until you ask them about it or you talk about it or get on that level where you can bond with someone," Frassinelli said.

"For them it's getting to know each other whether it's small silly games or talking

beforehand." Frassinelli hopes her team recognizes their strengths.

"This team certainly has the ability and has the skill; once they start recognizing that more and more which I think they already have," Frassinelli said. "They're a super core group of individuals who have great talent once they put it together we'll do great things."

Coach Frassinelli doesn't blame loss on the rain

By Ben Martin
Sports writer

It's raining hard at Jess Dow Field, and despite the inclement weather and a night where you would not expect a game to be happening, the Owls' field hockey team is persevering through it.

Although the conditions in this game were something the Owls are not used to, head coach Kelly Frassinelli said the team was too caught up in the weather and should have stuck to their original game plan.

"We shouldn't be worrying about rain or the sun or whatever is happening outside," Frassinelli said.

"It's something we can not control and what we control is what we do on the field, and we did not focus on that."

Although the Owls should not have been focused on the rain, Owls forward Abbey Kellerman, a senior, said the rain cooled the team on the field.

The Owls' field hockey team lost to the Mercy College Mavericks 3-1 on Wednesday. The loss moves the field hockey team's record to 3-5 and their Northeast 10 conference record to 2-3.

Although the Owls lost by two, they did score one

goal in the game. That goal came from Kellerman. Kellerman's goal came off a pass from midfielder Trinidad Rodriguez-Ricchiuti, a sophomore.

"It felt good. I was hoping we could knock a few more in," Kellerman said in response to scoring her goal.

Kellerman's goal gives her fourth on the year tying her with Ricchiuti for the team lead in goals. Ricchiuti's assist gets her to three assists on the year which leads the Owls.

Along with Kellerman's goal, Owls' goalie Kaitlyn Parent, a freshman, added another six saves to her season total. Those six saves bring Parent's total for the season up to 66 through her first nine games of her college career.

Although the Owls did a few things well, Frassinelli did not see many good things from their matchup with the Mavericks.

"Not a good game at all," Frassinelli said. "We certainly did not show up for this game; we weren't doing the basics that we have been working on and it showed certainly in the score."

As the Owls progress through the season, they feature eight more Northeast 10 conference opponents. To finish the

season strong, the Owls need to improve off of every outing.

"We got to learn from our mistakes," Coach Frassinelli said. "We really need to

refocus and come back tomorrow."

Frassinelli specified that the Owls need to work on the basics like receptions, first touches and ball movement.

Along with Frassinelli, Kellerman agreed that the Owls need to use Wednesday's tough game as a learning experience.

"I think we are going to

come back in the next game with more intensity and take all the struggles we had this game and come back for the next one," Kellerman said.



PHOTO | SARAH SHELTON

SCSU field hockey players are fighting to get the ball against Mercy College on Oct. 5, 2022.