

The Charger Bulletin

The student news source for the University of New Haven

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Men's basketball beats Southern, advances to NE-10 semifinal

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

Rivalries are reborn in the postseason with both teams one loss away from elimination, fighting to play another day in the quest for a championship. The regular season standings are an afterthought and all that matters is the opponent in front of you.

The Elm City rivalry is as strong as any, and in front of a packed house that reached capacity the New Haven men's basketball team fought for a hard-earned 75-59 win over crosstown rival Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU). Five players finished the game with double-digit points for the Chargers as they advanced to the Northeast-10 (NE-10) semifinals game.

New Haven's offense came out firing with two three-pointers in the first minute from guard Ty Perry, who finished second on the team with four scores from behind the arc. Perry's start to the game helped put the Chargers ahead early, taking an eight-point lead just six minutes into the game.

Forward Davontrey Thomas, who finished with a game-high 21 points, put New Haven ahead by 13 after a jumper with seven and a half minutes to play in the first half. SCSU made it a five-



New Haven's Quashawn Lane looks to pass against SCSU, West Haven, Feb. 26, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.

point game after a three-pointer from guard Ulyen Coleman as they approached the break.

After a jumper from New Haven guard Quashawn Lane, the

Owls made it a one-score game with 44 seconds remaining on a three from guard Logan Bagshaw. As time expired at the end of the half, Lane knocked down

a turnaround jumper to double New Haven's lead.

Forward Majur Majak was a huge contributor for New Haven, finishing the first half with four blocks to help keep the Chargers' lead in the biggest game of the season. His 3.0 blocks per game lead the NE-10 in the regular season, in the middle of a defense that has stood strong for New Haven all season.

SCSU tied the game at 44 after a three from Coleman with 14 minutes remaining in the second half, and then tied it again at 47 after a three from guard Sean James, who reignited the Elm City rivalry, blowing a kiss into the New Haven crowd.

Davontrey Thomas fired right back at James, blowing him a kiss after knocking down a go-ahead three, then following it up with another big shot to make it a six-point game for the Chargers. Thomas dominated down the stretch for New Haven, scoring eight of the team's next 12 points to put them ahead by 13 to seal the game with 2:28 left to play.

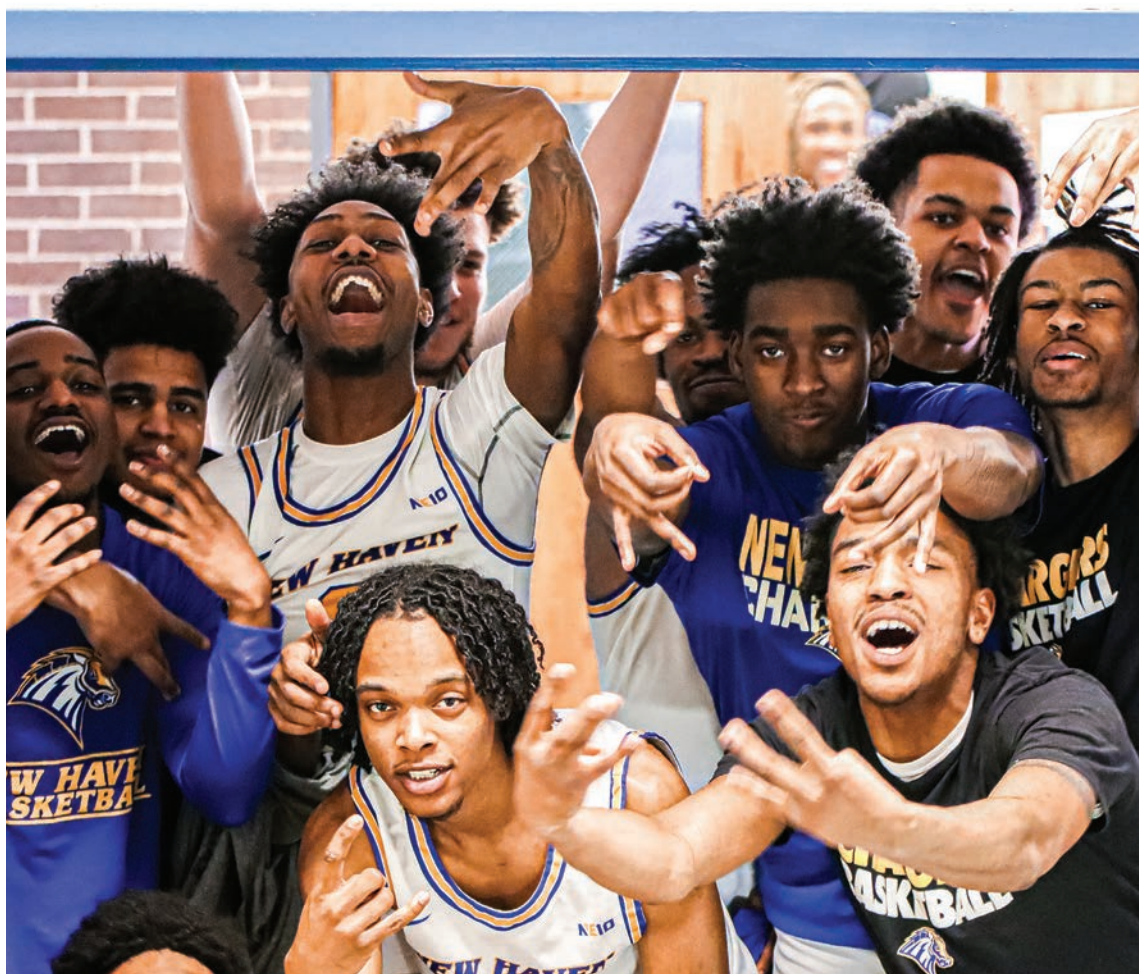
Guard Victor Olawoye ended the scoring for New Haven with a layup to make it a 75-59 game, a score that would hold to the buzzer, giving the Chargers a

berth to the NE-10 semifinals round, where they will take on number one seeded Southern New Hampshire University on Wednesday.

Thomas led New Haven's offense with 21 points, while Lane added another 15. Perry contributed 14 points, while Olawoye and Majak both scored 11. Majak also hauled in 13 rebounds and blocked six shots, anchoring the New Haven defense all night. Lane led the passing attack for New Haven, connecting on nine assists, coming just short of a double-double.

The Chargers last faced Southern New Hampshire on Jan. 10, when the Chargers were dominated on the road. New Haven struggled to get it going on offense, losing the game 80-52. The team was led by Perry and Majak in that matchup, so look for the team to rely on them again in the semifinal. However, it will take a big performance to avoid their same struggles from happening again.

Tipoff is scheduled for 7 p.m. as New Haven's run for a conference title continues against the best team in the conference. More information about the game can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.



New Haven celebrates after advancing to the semifinals, New Haven, Feb. 26, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tori Gonzalez.

Students gear up for Spring 2024 Nashville study-away program

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

Picture this: you're spending your spring in Nashville, Tenn., nearly a thousand miles from the chilly confines of West Haven. You're currently in the garage-turned-office of an established music executive, with gold and platinum plaques encircling the walls around you. Your job? Getting songs into strip clubs.

That was the experience of Ben Robinson, a senior music industry major and bassist for local band "Bob The Weather Cat" who traveled to Nashville in the spring 2022 semester for the university's study-away program. And while his internship may sound a bit unconventional, he is one of many students who received a great educational experience in Tennessee.

"We would listen to hundreds and hundreds of songs that had been released," he said. "And we would have to put them into a spreadsheet so it really helped me with organization."

The uber-competitive experiential learning opportunity is a highly sought-after experience for many music industry and music and sound recording majors at New Haven. Nearly every hand in the room went up when Michele Rhoades, coordinator for the study-away program, asked how many students came to the University of New Haven explicitly for the opportunity to study in Nashville at an information session last Wednesday.

Among all the rising juniors and

seniors who will apply, only 18 students will be accepted to spend the spring 2024 semester in the Music City to learn from industry giants and veterans in the music business.

At the info session, students learned about the program's coursework, eligibility requirements, costs and details about the application process including important dates.

Mark Tavern, director of the Nashville study-away program, said participating record labels and companies include Blackbird Record Label, Big Machine Label Group, Red Light Management and Soundstage Records, among others.

Deanna Fielding, a senior music and sound recording major, is a solo artist known as "smudgeout" on streaming services. Fielding also went to Nashville in spring 2022 and said that she was primarily motivated to come to New Haven for the study-away program.

"I wanted to see what it's like in a real studio," she said. "I wanted to see what being an engineer is actually like... Obviously we're in school and we're learning how to do it, but that doesn't necessarily mean that that's what the career is like."

In Nashville, there are no food plans or university housing; students must enroll in an internship, secure their own housing and find their own meal plans—the level of independence is an uptick from the experiences at New Haven.

Fielding suggested that living with roommates will make the

experience much easier to bear.

"They take care of you and you take care of them," she said. "That's kind of like your family for a little bit. And it's important to leave the nest... to get outside your comfort zone. Because it's painful for a second but once you rip the

Band-Aid off, you'll feel so much better... like 'Oh wow, I did get my own groceries [today].'"

Fielding said she enjoyed her time in Nashville so much that she stayed past the spring semester into the summer as she worked for companies and made connections,

and plans to return for spring break this semester.

Fielding and Robinson said that two of the greatest features of studying in Nashville are the local restaurants and opportunities to meet celebrities. Fielding lauded locations such as Baja Burrito, Sunflower Cafe and Edley's Bar-B-Que as "delectable," while Robinson touted Caliber Coffee Co. as carrying "the best cold brew [he's] ever had." Fielding also said she had the pleasure of working in a studio session with country music superstar Dolly Parton.

With his parting words, Robinson issued some motivation to students who are considering the study-away program.

"If you're on the fence about doing it, just do it," Robinson said. "You can always rescind your application, but you can't submit an application late, so definitely go for it if you're on the fence."

The deadline to apply is March 26, and the spring 2024 group will be selected by the end of the semester.

For any questions, email Tavern or Rhoades at mtavern@newhaven.edu or MIRhoades@newhaven.edu, and stay up to date with the current Nashville students on Instagram @musiccitychargers.



Students in the Nashville study abroad program working in a studio, Nashville, Feb. 19, 2023. Photo courtesy of @musiccitychargers on Instagram.

New coordinator of leadership ready to help student leaders on campus

BY JUSTIN COVIELLO
Campus News Editor

When most students think about getting involved on campus, that might translate to joining a few Recognized Student Organizations (RSOs) early in your collegiate career and potentially holding an executive board position as an upperclassman. The new coordinator for leadership, diversity and inclusion at the Myatt Center and the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership, and Orientation (CSELO), Tim Prince shattered these expectations as an undergraduate student and shared he is a proud Virgo.

Prince graduated from the University of Bridgeport in 2022 with a bachelor's degree in human services and psychology, where he accumulated an impressive resumé from campus involvement. He served as a peer mentor and orientation leader, president of their gender & sexuality awareness club, captain of the step team, public relations chair for their student government and worked for the university's Dean of Students Office and Office of Residential Life.

With the sheer number of leadership positions that Prince held during his time in college, it is not surprising that he was scouted for a position in student affairs soon after graduating.

"Khristian Kemp[-Delisser]... actually used to work at my institution and was almost like a mentor for me when I got into the field," Prince said. "So when the position opened up, Khristian was like, 'This position would be really good for you, especially as you're coming out of college.'"

As the coordinator for leadership, diversity and inclusion, Prince assists in planning the First Year Leadership Experience (FLEx) and Student Orientation, Advising and Registration (SOAR), oversees the Board of Multicultural RSOs and offers leadership skill-building opportunities.

The aspect of his new role which most enticed him to join our university community is fostering student engagement.

"Seeing students come in as first-years, not really sure how they're going to fit in [or] how they're going to acclimate," he said. "And then seeing them contribute to campus, seeing them involved in clubs and

going to events is really fulfilling to me."

Prince wants students to not only strive for and hold leadership positions, but to grow within them.

"I really want students to be more confident in their leadership positions," said Prince. "When you get to that last stage [as a president], there's nobody else you can turn to but yourself so you really get to learn a lot more about yourself... [which leads to] really good transferable skills for resumés in the future."

Prince is looking forward to becoming more ingrained in the campus community and is excited for students to view him as a resource.

Dean of Students Office releases first issue of Wellness Newsletter

BY L'DIANA UDD CALICE
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 9, the Dean of Students Office released the first issue of their Wellness Newsletter. The newsletter will be released monthly throughout the semester with topics regarding "intellectual, mental, physical, emotional, and social wellness initiatives." Considering February is the month of love, the first issue focuses on maintaining a relationship with healthy behaviors.

The newsletter offered tips from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center on how to ask for digital consent, delving into topics such as texting and sharing photos online. One tip focused on the importance of not sharing intimate photos of a partner without their explicit consent. These tips aim to help students make sure that all parties are comfortable when interacting online and to protect the trust that a person has built with their partner.

The Dean of Students Office Director of Title IX/VAWA Compliance Ashley Dunn discussed the importance of releasing the monthly newsletter to the campus community. The newsletter's

purpose is to create a community based on acceptance and understanding, freeing the university community to experience opportunities that will promote student learning and personal development, according to Dunn.

"[The University's Division of Student Affairs] developed the Wellness Newsletter[s] in an effort to provide expanded information around wellness initiatives," Dunn said. "Our hope is for community members to reflect on their current wellness practices, learn about new/differing wellness practices, and ultimately to reinforce the importance of holistic wellness."

On Feb. 13, a variety of independent events highlighted in the newsletter were held around campus. One event focused on understanding the differences between a toxic relationship and a healthy relationship, whilst enjoying a fun game of jeopardy.

Be sure to stay on the lookout for future editions of the newsletter and events that will promote various wellness conversations by the Dean of Students Office. To read the newsletter for yourself, head to the Dean of Students Office's email deanofstudents@newhaven.edu.



The entrance to the Myatt Center, Sept. 3, 2022. Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Erick Cuatzo.

Mayor's Advisory Commission hosts first town hall of 2023

BY ERIN SMITH
Politics Editor

The New Haven Mayor's Advisory Commission is a partnership between West Haven and the University of New Haven founded in February 2015 by students, staff and faculty. Their mission is to better university relations and involvement within the West Haven community.

The commission is advised by Associate Professor Chris Haynes, who teaches topics such as international affairs, national security and political science.

Haynes founded this program because, "It's important for there to be dialogue between elected officials and the community." The town hall took place on Feb. 21 at West Haven City Hall and was the first town hall meeting of 2023. Mayor Nancy R. Rossi answered many questions regarding the new waste program, city finances and Mayor Rossi's future in West Haven. Rossi, being the 12th mayor in the city's history, has held the position

since December 2017, and is the first female mayor West Haven has elected into office.

The town hall was moderated by Cameron Carre, a junior political science major. He said, "This town hall is meant to give West Haven residents a chance to hear from and engage with Mayor Rossi on current issues impacting the West Haven community."

Rossi said in her opening remarks, "Town hall meetings have always been a great way to facilitate transparency between the West Haven community and my office. I am so grateful for the ongoing collaboration between UNH and the Mayor's Advisory Commission and my office."

Many of the night's questions centered around West Haven's Food to Clean Energy program that was established on Nov. 7. The pilot program is funded by a \$1.3 million state grant from the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.

The program asks residents of West Haven to use the bags they

receive from the city to get rid of their trash. Orange bags are used for trash and green bags are to fill with food waste. West Haven's normal trash service will bring the orange bags to their incinerator, while the food waste will go to Southington's Quantum Biopower facility to be converted into clean energy.

A resident of West Haven asked Mayor Rossi "If this becomes a [permanent] program, how are you going [to] incentivize people to actually do it?"

In response, Rossi said "We are only part way through the actual pilot plan so that's the whole purpose of the pilot plan. Then, we will take a look once we are completely through with it."

This program's advisor is Pam Roach and Rossi said to "please, please contact her because we do want this program to work and the best way to do it is if we all work together and try to get our questions answered."

Another question asked anonymously was "what is your [Mayor Rossi's] strategic plan to moving the city forward?"

"MARB [Municipal Accountability Review Board] did give us some money," Mayor Rossi said. "But we did efficiencies and did things differently. In order to approve our fund balance and to keep the city very, very solvent."

MARB provides technical, financial and other assistance related accountability for municipalities experiencing various levels of fiscal distress.

The City of West Haven was referred to MARB in December 2017 following the city's issuance of approximately \$17 million of deficit bonds.

In April 2022, West Haven was labeled as a Tier IV municipality, meaning Tier IV provides the MARB with additional oversight tools, most notably the ability to hire a financial manager. Tier IV oversight can help the city implement the cultural changes and financial infrastructure development that previous oversight boards have been unable to enforce.

"The city is partnering with MARB to make sure the city

stays on good financial ground moving forward," Mayor Rossi said. "I want to continue as a partnership not a stakeholder."

When asked what her legacy will be as mayor, Rossi said "We had to create a five-year financial plan, something that in the history of West Haven to my understanding is something that has never been done..."

The town hall concluded with Mayor Rossi discussing her running for the mayor position again. She said, "I'll be honest with you, I haven't made that decision. I really have to sit down and talk to my family... and what they think... because as you know this is a 24/7 job."

UNH's Mayor's Advisory Commission's first town hall of 2023 helped answer some questions for the residents of West Haven. Town halls will be held every 2-3 months, so be sure to keep up to date with UNH Mayor's Advisory Commission's Instagram @unehavenmac to learn more about upcoming meeting dates and locations.

President Biden takes secret trip to Kyiv

BY LILY FLEMING
Contributing Writer

On Feb. 20, President Joseph Biden secretly traveled to Ukraine. These top-secret travel plans for Biden included a plane ride on an Air-Force C-32 jet departing at 4:15 a.m. which arrived in Poland around 7:57 p.m. A motorcade then picked them up and began driving on an empty Polish highway. Biden departed a train station around 9:37 p.m. on an overnight train ride into the Ukrainian warzone.

Biden endured 10 hours of travel to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. Biden entered the streets of Ukraine with Zelensky during an air-raid siren to emphasize the support the United States is willing to provide to ensure Ukraine's independence from Russia.

Jake Sullivan, a U.S. national security advisor, joined Biden on this trip. He said U.S. officials did not inform Russian officials of Biden's plans to travel to Kyiv but that "We did so some hours before his departure for deconfliction purposes." He also said these travel plans "required a security, operational, and logistical effort from professionals across the U.S. government to take what was an inherently risky undertaking and make it a manageable level of risk."

Sullivan said this trip is "not a celebration but an affirmation of commitment, of resilience of the Ukrainian people." Biden decided the trip was worth the

risk to ensure that the message was heard.

Upon his arrival, Biden expressed his excitement to have returned to Kyiv. In Mariinsky Palace with Zelensky by his side he said, "one year later, Kyiv stands, and Ukraine stands. Democracy stands." Zelensky shared his appreciation for Biden's visit and said "thank you so much for coming, Mr. President, at [such a] huge moment

for Ukraine."

Biden did not visit Ukraine without purpose. After spending a few hours in Kyiv, he promised to release another \$500 million military aid fund. This military aid included artillery ammunition, Javelin missiles and Howitzers. However, Biden did not mention the advanced arms that Ukraine was seeking. Zelensky said that he and Biden spoke of "long range weapons and weap-

ons that may still be supplied to Ukraine, even though it wasn't supplied before."

Zelensky and Biden visited St. Michael's monastery where two soldiers bearing wreaths led them along the Wall of Remembrance — a memorial of more than 4,500 soldiers who have died since Russia illegally annexed Crimea in 2014.

Once Biden began his travels back to the U.S. the air-raid

alarm stopped. The air-raid alarms sound daily in Ukraine; officials have been warning that Russia is planning a large-scale missile attack on the anniversary of the war this Friday.

Biden's 40-hour trip to Kyiv was momentous, traveling under secrecy to visit Ukraine, he hopes to show Ukraine that the U.S. is willing to provide military reinforcements and support during these times of war.



U.S. President Joe Biden meets with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenski, Kyiv, Ukraine, Feb. 20, 2023. Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons/White House.

No More Chemo Rally takes on Twisted Thursday

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero" played in the Alumni Lounge, putting a smile on Charge Through the Night for St. Jude Treasurer Nicholas Grassi's face. Smiles popped onto the faces of more members when people filed into the Alumni Lounge for the No More Chemo Rally this past Thursday.

The No More Chemo Rally was a Twisted Thursday collaboration between Charge Through the Night and the Center for Student Engagement, Leadership and Orientation. Attendees were asked to begin the night by heading to the fundraising website to register either themselves or a team to collect donations to the cause.

Charge Through the Night has currently raised \$6,671 for the St. Jude Hospital and their mission to tackle childhood cancer. The goal for the night was to raise an additional \$200. They raised more than triple this goal, ending the night with a total of \$661.

Opportunities arose for attendees to donate and spread the word about the fundraising through the organization's challenges for the night. Students earned points by completing tasks of varying degrees, and there were five prizes for people who earned the most points.

For 10 points, the first challenge was to send the fundraising link to three people in different sports teams. Friends of attendees were not the only ones receiving the fundraising link, as the next challenge was to send their personal donation link to a celebrity. Messages were sent to

figures ranging from President Joseph Biden to musicians such as The Weeknd, Ice Spice and Doja Cat.

Phone-a-friend got heated when attendees had to get at least two people to come to the Alumni Lounge within 10 minutes. People ran to the lounge doors, even down the stairs to the Bartel's entrance, to make sure their friends would arrive and secure their 15 points.

Running to doors was not the only workout of the evening, as

people leaped to the floor and did five proper pushups for 10 points.

Brain muscles were used for trivia questions, one of which asked who Charge Through the Night's Executive Director Kelvin Vasquez's favorite artist is. Someone earned 10 points by correctly guessing The Weeknd, who also happened to receive a fundraising link.

Once the challenges were completed, there came time to announce the winners of the

night.

Fifth place went to Kira Condap, a business management major who won a hydro flask.

Fourth place went to Matthew Rosenblum, a computer science major who won a Fire TV Stick.

Third place went to Alyssa Hagen, a psychology major who won a projector.

Second Place went to Thomas Rooney, a homeland security and emergency management major who won a JBL Flip 5 wireless speaker.

Drumrolls pounded through the room before first place went to Thomas Fang, a national security major who won Beats Solo headphones.

After awards were announced, people filed out of the alumni lounge while Doja Cat's name made a reappearance as her song "Woman" played.

To keep track of Charge Through the Night's events, check their Charger Connection page and their Instagram @une-whaven_stjude.



Students participate in Charge Through the Night, West Haven, Feb. 23, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Mia Adduci.

Carhartt Fashion Show ends Engineer's Week on the runway

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

WNHU 88.7's DJ table was front-and-center near the German Club stage creating an upbeat atmosphere for the Carhartt Fashion Show. Event manager for the show Lucas Nunez, a senior civil engineering major, was happy to find a DJ from the radio station. "We are good with math but not with photoshop or being a DJ," he said.

Nunez, the president of the university's chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), said that ASCE collaborated with the National Society of Black Engineers to pull off the event. This collaboration included finding poster designers and their WNHU DJ, who was there to blast the songs that contestants picked out for when they entered the stage.

"Power" by Kanye West played as Raymond Feliz, a senior civil engineering major, stepped out as fog rolled onto the stage. Feliz, whose outfit was inspired by just collecting different pieces from friends, gave a smooth turnaround on the stage before stepping away.

Keiffer Neumann, a senior chemical engineering major, danced in front of the audience to "Harder Better Faster Whopper" by Sad Luli and Diamond BrickZ. Neumann said his outfit was inspired by Russian Nesting Dolls, as the outfit had many parts to it.

Tony Varbaro, a senior computer engineering major, came out dancing to "The Home Depot Beat" by Home Depot while carrying a hammer. The song choice was ironic, since Varbaro said part of his outfit came from Lowe's.

University engineering stu-

dents used Carhartt products throughout some aspects of the fashion show, which are popular among construction workers too, because of durability while dealing with heavy duty materials.

Jenn Tucci, a senior forensic science major, came onto the runway as "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton played. Tucci said her outfit was inspired by her father, who was an electrician that wore Carhartt products and would drag her as a child to the Carhartt store.

Lightning McQueen, the fictional race car from Pixar's "Cars," came to life in senior mechanical engineering major Ian Robinson's outfit while "cbat" by Hudson Mohawke played. It was not until Robinson removed his jacket that the audience saw the small Lightning McQueen backpack he was wearing.

Nick Mayers, senior civil engineering major, decided to go

back in time with his dinosaur suit while "Jurassic Park (trap edition)" by Pedro DJDaddy played. Later on, Mayers took off the prehistoric outfit to reveal a reflective vest from Carhartt. Sebastian Silva, a senior mechanical engineering major, came out with a shovel in hand while "Mannequin Challenge" by Young Thug and Juice WRLD played. His outfit was composed of thrifted clothing items.

Kendall Barrow-Spencer, a senior chemical engineering major, took the stage while "Trance" by Metro Boomin, Young Thug and Travis Scott played. Barrow-Spencer said people asked if the outfit was inspired by the "iCarly" character T-Bone when it was merely pieces that the contestant threw together.

Contestants' personalities shined through during the interview session conducted by the event's host, Daryl DeCohen Jr.,

a senior mechanical engineering major. Interesting subjects came up, including Barrow-Spencer saying he slept without socks, a debate on whether Pluto is a planet or a rock and half the audience and contestant pool being divided on pineapple on pizza.

Another highlight of the evening was a dance performance from the Miss Majorettes, who gave a slow yet powerful and perfectly coordinated performance.

At the end of the night, the top three winners of the contest were revealed. In third place was Robinson, the Lightning McQueen fanatic.

Silva came up in second place, winning a Carhartt beanie.

The audience cheered for Varbaro, the first-place winner who controversially combined Home Depot with Lowe's, and came away winning a Carhartt hoodie.

Microaggressive rhetoric present at BSU comedy show

BY MIA ADDUCI
Managing Editor

Perspective

Last Wednesday, the Black Student Union (BSU) hosted a comedy show as part of the event lineup for Black History Month. The Bucknall Theater had barely enough seats in the house for BSU's comedy show. Music flooded the speakers as everyone entered; whoever was on aux kept the energy high.

The stage was set for a night of entertainment, however, as alumnus comedian Emmanuel Hudson proceeded through his comedic skits, there became more to question about what kind of "humor" was meant to bring the audience together.

The skit started out on a high note, with jokes about attending a PWI, jabs at the residential halls and audience participation to test the amount of game that New Haven has through pickup lines.

The content surrounding dating culture in the modern day only progressed, until Hudson started off a new section by saying, "dating these days is confusing; you don't know what anyone is."

He continued, saying that

"you might as well make the bathroom signs..." and made a shrugging gesture, suggesting that such be the replacement for "male" and "female" symbols dividing these spaces.

Hudson also talked about how during his YouTube career, he would receive comments where people would ask him if he was gay. He said that he would be quick to defend that this was not his sexuality. He "used to find myself always arguing online trying to defend myself until I realized and I stopped and I paid attention to the advantages of being gay; looking at the privileges."

He also said that if he gets hit on by an ugly girl, or if Biden implements another draft, he will claim to be gay.

The jokes continued for some time.

"That's no disrespect to gay people," Hudson said to end the bit.

The crowd's laughter did not falter at all during this section.

BSU did not respond to requests to comment on the content of the show or questions as to whether the content was reviewed before the event took place.

In light of Black History Month, especially after an outcry from the student body

earlier this month surrounding a reduction in events hosted by the university, it is interesting to consider that events hosted by Registered Student Organizations such as BSU would

use their time onstage to make jokes about another marginalized community.

To take the time to target others instead of uplifting your own community when given a

platform is an unfair approach to your entire community, and those you happen to be dragging with your commentary.



Students gather in Bucknall Theater for the BSU comedy show, West Haven, Feb. 22, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Sadara Funches.

Incendio Dance Project gets people dancing at "Step Up or Step Out"

BY PRESLEY DEPUGH
Arts & Life Editor

Lights were dimmed and music pounded the walls of the German Club this past Friday during Step Up or Step Out. Incendio Dance Project's (IDPs) dance party was successful when university students steadily streamed in during the first half hour.

Admission into the event was \$2 for New Haven students and \$5 for non-students and alumni. Commissions were collected and donated to Alex's Lemonade Stand, an American pediatric cancer charity.

When holding an event for charity, having a lot of foot-traffic and a good number of guests can make the event a success.

"We figured the best way to get people to come out is to have a party scene," said Katya Rodriguez, a senior criminal justice major and vice president of IDP. The party scene on campus served as a different kind of Friday night function and an opportunity for students to donate to a great cause.

Juliana Cedorchuck, senior criminal justice major and the president of IDP, said the club was able to reach a variety of

students to get them to come to the German Club. "We have people coming from all different backgrounds that like all

types of music," said Cedorchuck. A WNHU 88.7 table was up on the stage playing songs for each genre of dance

club and for attendees to enjoy and dance to.

Other recognized student organizations (RSOs) came to the German Club to support Alex's Lemonade Stand and show off some of their moves as well. Dancers from groups ranging from the Chargers K-pop Dance Crew to the Multicultural Greek Council came to donate and just have a great time.

Reaching different people across campus was an achievement of Cedorchuck and the rest of IDP, especially since they are making an effort to get more students involved.

Cedorchuck also said that IDP should hold more events in the German Club, which would allow more large dance parties to take place. IDP plans on holding more classes for students to learn Latinx styles of dancing, such as salsa, bachata, merengue and many more.

If you want to keep track of IDP's events, check out their Charger Connection page and their Instagram page @incendio-dance.



Students at the Step Up or Step Out event, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Andrea Rojas.

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The importance of community at the university

BY EDITORIAL STAFF

Editorial

Sporting events often provide a quick allegory for the real world. This weekend, the New Haven men's basketball team hosted their crosstown rivals, Southern Connecticut State University, with a trip to the Northeast-10 semifinals on the line. With the schools being just three miles apart, the importance of home court advantage was obvious.

The university community came out and packed Charger Gymnasium. The collective energy of the crowd served as a true "sixth player," helping elevate New Haven's play and pushing them to a dominant playoff win.

While there may not necessarily be that proverbial "sixth player" in our day-to-day lives, the communal support of those in the university can go a long way towards fostering a growing and prosperous society of

students.

We are a relatively small university with around 7,500 total students. However, a number of our students are doing truly impressive things in a variety of mediums. Whether it be on a field, in a lab, on paper or any other place possible, student accomplishments should be continually celebrated and supported by those on campus.

There are times where this sense of community comes apart. There are moments where it feels like groups may pull away from each other rather than recognizing that we are all students in the same place, striving to find success and a path into future careers. While differences will exist, creating communal importance for all accomplishments on campus can help give students the confidence and comfort to experiment in their field.

With that being said, it is imperative that our student body makes the effort to venture beyond their immediate circle

of clubs, friends and general interests. We have the tendency to stick with what we are comfortable with and miss a lot of things going on around campus. Stepping out of our comfort zone can help drive the univer-

sity forward and expand upon the already impressive work being done on campus to foster that same feeling of support that was behind the athletes on Sunday afternoon.

La vita oltre i nostri confini: Life beyond our borders

*The American interpretation: American stereotypes abroad.*BY STEPHEN GANGI
Executive Business Manager**Column**

The intriguing perpetuations of stereotypes: not all of them are bad, but certainly not all of them are good.

Growing up in the United States, most of us are introduced to people of many backgrounds, cultures and ethnicities, but we are also introduced to just as many stereotypes about different people from around the world.

Where I am from, Italians are looked at as strong, work-driven people who tend to be found on the louder side of a room when in conversations. Of course with every good stereotype, a bad one is just beside it. In my personal experiences, I noticed that some associate Italians with gang/mafia violence while others consider them uneducated - a stereotype only further expanded upon after the hit MTV show, "Jersey Shore" - and one stereotype I have more commonly heard, prone to aggression or violence.

After spending two months living amongst Italians from Tuscany, I can safely say I have been a witness to examples of American stereotyping in Italian media and corporations.

One Italian stereotype, that most are aware of, is their love for their local cuisine. With each region in Italy showcasing their own unique spin on traditional cuisines, many are proud to represent their people through their food. This same luxury is not given to American cuisine abroad.

Within my time here, I have noticed two unsurprising themes when discovering different restaurants claiming to have genuine "American" styled dishes: diner food and the old wild west.

Beginning with the diner themed restaurants, the specialty food here consists of

eggs and bacon for breakfast, and sandwiches or burgers for lunch. The food here is the closest I've discovered to the stereotypical food from America, but it tends to miss a key component. No, I'm not talking about chemical preservatives. I'm talking about the atmosphere. While eating at these restaurants, the walls will be filled with American "merch," usually consisting of street signs, flags and — yes, I'm being serious — cars. The decor is so overdone that it's all someone can focus on, and it distracts from the food in front of you. After trying dishes from multiple diner themed restaurants, I can safely say nobody has bagels that are better than those from the tristate.

The restaurants that are as frequent as the diners are the "Wild West" themed ones. These are inherently problematic, not only due to their interior decor consisting of tepees and wagons, but also the blatant stereotype that is plastered all over the establishments. As of this moment, I have not eaten at one of these restaurants but after a quick glance at their online menu, the dishes they offer are everything you would expect from a restaurant claiming to have American cuisine. Burgers, fries, chicken (and tex-mex).

Discovering the different customs and ways of life while abroad has revealed more about instinctual human nature. Stereotypes exist all over, some shape one's identity in the eyes of others, while others generate misinformation about the people who are victims to these rumors.

Stereotypes are common practice around the globe, and although our stereotypes and perceptions of others may differ from country to country, region by region or even town by town, we possess more similarities with each other than we might expect.

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Lent as a counterfeit Catholic

BY LINDSAY GIOVANNONE
Columnist**Column**

I lived like a good Catholic for more than 15 years. I attended Catholic school from the age of three until I graduated high school. I went to church every Sunday with my family, received my first Communion in third grade and was confirmed in ninth grade. It was the typical religious journey of any Catholic child.

However, when I was 15-years-old, I stopped liking religion. My tether to Catholicism snapped and I'm still not entirely sure why. While I wanted to be part of the church and feel that same joy everyone else around me seemed to have, I couldn't.

I stopped going to church with my parents except for major holidays. I was still receiving As in my religion classes, but the work felt cumbersome and menial. I tried prayer programs and retreats, and even became a peer minister in high school, hoping I would somehow be struck with the awesome power of God and reconcile with Him and the Church, but to no avail. I continued to try to participate in the church holiday seasons and observanc-

es, but stopped doing even that once I graduated high school.

The church has recently left Ordinary Time and is now in its new holiday season: Lent - a 40-day observation that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday. Last week on Ash Wednesday, I got a knot in my stomach when I saw people with black crosses smudged on their foreheads. For more than a decade, I stood before a priest and heard the words, "You are dust and unto dust you shall return." I have not heard these words in over three years and haven't so much as considered attending an Ash Wednesday Mass since high school graduation in 2020. This year, I felt awkward looking at anyone with a cross; It seemed like God was judging me through the burnt palms.

I believe that the 40 days of reflection are felt most by anyone struggling with Catholicism. My religious family and friends observe Lent like clockwork each year, and, because of them, I'm self-conscious of the fact I'm not.

For the 40 days of Lent I don't reflect on the significance of Jesus' sacrifice or the goodness of God, I reflect on where I went astray and why my relationship with Catholicism seems irreparable.

The XFL returns with entertaining Week One games

BY ANTHONY ZAMBRI-MORAN
Contributing Writer

The XFL returned on Feb. 18-19 with four games kicking off around the country. The return marked three years since the league's original comeback in 2020 that ended abruptly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The shutdown ultimately caused the XFL to file for bankruptcy. In Aug. 2020, actor Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson and others purchased the XFL. Johnson continuously advertised the league and made his presence known in week one by attending all four games over the weekend.

The first game back between the Vegas Vipers and Arlington Renegades was the first of three one-possession games. The contest was a tale of two halves for the Vipers, who came out firing with a 14-3 lead at halftime only to turn the ball over multiple times in the second half and see their lead disappear.

The game came right down to the wire with the Vipers, now trailing, scoring a touchdown with 8 seconds left to make it 22-20. Still down by two, the Vipers attempted a two-point conversion to tie the game only to be sacked by defensive lineman T.J. Barnes. The game ended with the first fourth-and-fifteen attempt of the season, the XFL's alternative to onside kicks. The attempt by the Vipers was unsuccessful and the game ended with a 22-20 win for the Renegades.

The only blowout win of the

weekend came in the Houston Roughnecks' 33-12 victory over the Orlando Guardians. The Roughnecks, coached by ex-NFL head coach Wade Phillips, dominated on both sides of the ball. They scored 24 unanswered points and finished with seven sacks and three interceptions as a team on defense. Former New York Giants defensive lineman Trent Harris was unstoppable for the Roughnecks, collecting four of the seven sacks.

After scoring a touchdown on their first drive, the Guardians struggled to get anything going on offense with former Denver Broncos quarterback, Paxton Lynch, eventually being benched in the third quarter. The game ended quietly with the last two drives for the Guardians ending in interceptions, both thrown by backup quarterback Quinten Dormady.

Sunday's doubleheader began with the St. Louis Battlehawks and San Antonio Brahmas facing off in front of 24,245 fans at the Alamodome, nearly double the amount of any other game in week one. The first three quarters were a defensive battle with seven punts and the only points coming from three field goals.

The game changed in the blink of an eye in the fourth quarter as the Battlehawks staged a comeback after trailing 15-3 with three minutes remaining. Veteran NFL quarterback A.J. McCarron led the Battlehawks down the field in eight plays resulting in a touchdown.

After the touchdown, the Bat-

tlehawks attempted and converted a three-point conversion from the 10-yard line, an option that has been implemented by both the XFL and USFL. After attempting and completing an onside fourth-and-fifteen try, the Battlehawks maintained possession and drove down the field once again. The drive was capped off with a 14-yard touchdown pass to former Buffalo Bills seventh-round pick Austin Proehl, securing the victory for the Battlehawks with a final score of 18-15 over the Brahmas.

The final game of the XFL's opening weekend was between the Seattle Sea Dragons and D.C. Defenders. The Sea Dragons started hot in both halves, with former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Ben DiNucci leading the team to touchdowns on both opening drives. However, these were the only touchdowns of the game for Seattle who were shut down by the Defender's defense.

Former NFL wide receiver Josh Gordon had a solid game recording six receptions for 74 yards and a touchdown for Seattle. The Defenders scored the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter, and the game concluded with the last five drives ending in four turnovers and a punt.

The Defenders came away with a 22-18 win, yet the game will likely be remembered for one of the strangest crowd moments. D.C. fans formed a beer snake made of empty beer cups when security guards intervened and took it

away. The angered D.C. fans began throwing lemons onto the field, pausing the game as the fans started a "free the snake" chant.

One cause for concern for the XFL will be the disappointing TV viewership numbers. Even though the games were broadcasted at the same times as in the 2020 debut,

this year's viewership was down at least 50% for every game. An attempt to bring back a historically unsuccessful league with a small market of fans has not gone as planned so far, but as the season goes along the league could start to see spikes in the total of fans that tune into the games.



The San Antonio Brahmas and Orlando Guardians face off, Orlando, Fla., Feb. 26, 2023.
Photo courtesy of @xfl on Instagram.

Previewing the 2023 World Baseball Classic: Schedules, rosters and rules

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

The time has come. After six years, baseball players from all over the world will once again be able to showcase their talent on the worldwide stage in a tournament designed by Major League Baseball (MLB) to help grow the sport globally.

A tournament filled with flair, passion and energy will take center stage from March 8-21 as players start to gear up for the 2023 season. Fans will travel to the four hosting cities to watch some of the top players in baseball represent their countries and compete to earn the honor of being the top team in the world.

The World Baseball Classic (WBC) returns for the first time since 2017, after postponing the 2021 tournament because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's tournament will feature more countries than ever before, expanding from 16 teams to 20 playing in Phoenix, Ari., Miami, Fla., Tokyo, Japan and Taichung, Taiwan.

The tournament will start with four pools of five teams, each playing their pool play round in one of the host cities. The two teams with the best record in each group will advance to the quarterfinal stage, leaving eight teams to play in a single-elimination bracket until

one team stands as the champion at LoanDepot Park in Miami.

Pool A will be played in Taiwan from March 8-13, consisting of Chinese Taipei, Cuba, Italy, The Netherlands and Panama. Cuba is considered to be the favorite among this group to win the tournament at +2500 odds, as they will bring a team filled with MLB veterans and some of the brightest young stars in the league, headlined by Chicago White Sox center fielder Luis Robert.

Pool B will hold one of the favorites to win the title with Japan currently set at +300, only behind the Dominican Republic at +200 and the United States at +275. Japan won the first two WBC's in 2006 and 2009 and is fielding a team full of MLB players and international phenoms such as two-way superstar Shohei Ohtani and 23-year-old slugger Munetaka Murakami, who has won back-to-back Most Valuable Player (MVP) awards in Japan's Nippon Professional Baseball (NPB) league and posted a 56 home run season in 2022. Rounding out the group will be Australia, China, Korea and Czech Republic who will play in Tokyo from March 9-13.

Pool C features the defending champion United States alongside Canada, Colombia, Mexico and Great Britain playing in Phoenix from March 11-15. The U.S. will look to defend their title with a

team stacked with MLB superstars led by team captain Mike Trout, Mookie Betts, Nolan Arenado, Trea Turner and Nolan Arenado.

The combination of talent and experience on the roster has put the U.S. in the conversation to be perhaps the best team entering the tournament featuring a lineup of All-Stars and a rotation of pitchers that can limit runs, a lethal combination that could keep them safe from the newly implemented tiebreakers that could be the difference between moving on and being eliminated from contention.

Pool D will combine perhaps the most well-rounded group with three teams in the top five favorites to come away with the title. Dominican Republic headlines the group and is set to play Israel, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and Nicaragua. 2017 runner-up Puerto Rico is listed at +1100 to win the tournament, while Venezuela is listed at +1000.

Dominican Republic will field a loaded lineup filled with MVP candidates, the 2022 World Series MVP Jeremy Peña and 2022 National League Cy Young winner Sandy Alcántara. A team filled with superstars at almost every position and has the potential to be possibly the best lineup in WBC history. With the level of talent on their roster, they will certainly be a team to watch throughout, regardless of what team you are a fan of.

If there is a tie between two teams

at the end of pool play, the team that won the head-to-head matchup will hold the tiebreaker. In the event of a tie between three or more teams, they will be ranked based on the following criteria:

1. Lowest quotient of fewest runs allowed divided by the number of defensive outs recorded in games between the teams that are tied.
2. Lowest quotient of fewest earned runs allowed divided by the number of defensive outs recorded in games between the teams that are tied.
3. Highest batting average in games in that round between the teams tied.

If the teams are still tied, the people in charge of the WBC will hold a "drawing of lots," and will pick teams out of a hat to decide who advances. Now that the WBC holds 20 teams, a relegation system will be used for the first time this year for teams who place last in pool play to play in a qualifier tournament for the next WBC. The top four teams in each pool will automatically be given an automatic berth to participate in the next tournament.

Each team has a roster of 30 players with a minimum of 14 pitchers and two catchers. Major League teams can have a maximum of 15 players from their entire organization selected to the WBC and have the option to block players from participating if the player has a

certain injury status.

Notable players being blocked from playing include New York Yankees pitchers Luis Severino and Nestor Cortes, Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw and Miami Marlins infielder/outfielder Jazz Chisholm. Teams are allowed to make substitutions for events such as injuries and paternity leave, taking a player from their Available Player List or their Designated Pitcher Pool which holds up to 10 pitchers who can be added to the roster at any stage of the tournament.

Every team participating in the WBC will be included in the prize pool, with the total this year being \$14.4 million. The total is split evenly between the players and countries with each team earning a minimum of \$300,000 for participating. Like the MLB postseason, the more you win, the more you earn.

Finishing first in the group in pool play will give the country another \$300,000, \$400,000 for reaching the quarterfinal round, \$500,000 for reaching the semifinals, \$500,000 for reaching the championship game and \$1 million for winning the tournament. The team that comes away with the title will earn \$50,000 per player in the 14-day period with the other half of the winnings going to the country directly.

Baseball opens season in Myrtle Beach, starts the season 2-2

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

Spring sports are officially underway as the New Haven baseball team opened their season by traveling to Myrtle Beach, S.C. to play their first four games. Coming off a season in which they finished 24-19 and placed sixth in the southwest division of the Northeast-10 (NE-10), the Chargers field a team with young and talented players to complement their experienced players as they look to make it back to the conference playoffs for the first time since 2021.

A new season usually comes with struggles due to a lack of at-bats, but New Haven's offense got off to a hot start, averaging 8.5 runs per game to start the season.

Scoring 17 runs in a doubleheader against Wilmington University, the lineup gave the Chargers a chance to start the season with two wins, but the Wildcats won both contests in a pair of extra-inning one-run games with a 13-12 win in 11 innings in the first game, and a 6-5 win in eight innings in the second.

In game one, Wilmington scored two in the first on back-to-back home runs from infielder Tyler Pirrung and outfielder Mikey Rodriguez. New Haven responded in the second inning with four runs, started by a leadoff home run by right fielder Tyler Wells, followed by a bases-loaded walk from designated hitter Cole Maucere and two more runs coming on a wild pitch, plating first baseman Andrew Bianco and third baseman Andrew Cain.

New Haven scored at least one run from the second to the seventh inning, taking a 12-7 lead. Wilmington came storming back in the late innings, with a six-run ninth inning



The New Haven baseball team huddles before facing Wilmington, Myrtle Beach, S.C., Feb. 24, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Neva Bostic.

that tied the game at 12 and scored the winning run in the 11th on a sacrifice fly from outfielder Nick Nocella.

New Haven struck first in game two of the doubleheader with a four-run fourth inning capped off by a two-run home run to right field off the bat of Wells. Bianco tacked on an opposite-field home run in the fifth to make it a 5-0 game, which is where they stood for the rest of the game.

Wilmington got on the board with a fielder's choice by second baseman Erik Grady, and the big blow came in the sixth inning on a grand slam

from first baseman JJ Killen, tying the game at five.

The game was tied until the eighth inning when center fielder Nic Hertzfeld was hit by a pitch, scoring designated hitter Shawn Edevane and sweeping the doubleheader.

New Haven's bats struck early against Chestnut Hill College, scoring five runs in the first to lead the way to their first win of the 2023 season. Third baseman Andrew Cain crushed a three-run home run to center field followed by a double by shortstop Kenneth Franquiz to plate the team's fourth and fifth runs of the inning.

Cain knocked in another run on a single to right field to score Maucere, who hit a one-out single to set up the scoring chance. Wilmington cut into the lead in the middle innings, scoring two runs on a home run by designated hitter Ahmaad Goldson in the fourth inning and scoring on an error in the fifth to make it a two-run game.

In the bottom of the fifth, catcher Josh Lester knocked in a run on a two-out double to right field, followed by a single by left fielder Owen Pincince, plating Lester and giving New Haven an 8-3 lead.

Wilmington scored two runs in the

seventh, but it was not enough to erase the deficit they faced all game. Closing pitcher Drew Silverman registered his first save of the season as New Haven found themselves in the win column before their last game of the weekend.

In their final game of the weekend against Molloy University, New Haven once again got off to a hot start at the plate with a huge seven-run third inning that provided all the runs they would need.

Freshman right-handed pitcher Randy Ramnarace got the start for the Chargers with a strong debut, going five innings allowing only one hit and racking up seven strikeouts. Freshman Tyler Sausville then came in after and three four scoreless innings with six strikeouts.

Lester continued his strong start at the plate, driving in the first run for New Haven with a single to center field. After a walk to Pincince, Franquiz hit a grand slam to left field to make it a 5-0 game. New Haven's clutch two-out hitting continued in the third as designated hitter Matt McIntire singled to left field to score two more.

After a two-run single in the third inning by Molloy third baseman Aidan Larkin, New Haven scored their final two runs of the game in the sixth, coming away with a big 9-2 win against a powerful lineup.

New Haven will go back to Myrtle Beach on Friday as they kick off a three-game series with I-95 rival, University of Bridgeport. This will be the last series for the Chargers before playing five games in Boca Raton, Fla., then coming home for their home opener on March 17 against Bridgeport. More information about the team can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.

WBB drops first-round matchup against Franklin Pierce

BY CHRISTOPHER ELWELL
Sports Editor

A strong season with wins in 11 of the last 14 regular season matchups came to an abrupt end with the New Haven women's basketball team dropping their first-round playoff matchup against Franklin Pierce University. As the buzzer sounded for Franklin Pierce's 56-49 upset win, New Haven's hope of making a run to the championship came up short after their fantastic stretch before the end of the season.

New Haven's offense got off to a hot start, establishing a five-point lead in the first three minutes of the first quarter. Guard Camryn DeBose put up a pair of threes and guard Kameryn King added one of her own halfway through the first quarter to add to their early lead. Forward Aurora Deshaies knocked down a pair of free throws to make it a 10-point game as the offense continued to roll.

With 33 seconds remaining in the quarter, Franklin Pierce cut the deficit to six after a layup from forward Ines Gimenez Monserrat, who finished with a game-high 24 points. Guard Lindsay Hogan made a pair of free throws to close out the first quarter with the Chargers ahead by eight.

Hogan picked up where she left off at the start of the second quarter, knocking down a three to put New



New Haven's Camryn DeBose holds the ball against Franklin Pierce, West Haven, Feb. 24, 2023.
Photo courtesy of Charger Bulletin/Tyler Rodriguez.

Haven ahead by double digits once again. The offense could not maintain their strong pace from the first quarter as they endured a 4:16 scoreless streak, but the defense stood tall and kept the Ravens from closing the gap.

After a free throw from guard Anna Badosa Soler made it an eight-point game, Deshaies knocked down a jumper, followed by another three from Hogan to put New Haven ahead by 13. The first half ended as a nine-point contest after two consec-

utive baskets from Franklin Pierce in the final two minutes.

New Haven scored a game-low nine points in the third quarter as the offense failed to convert on quality opportunities and turned the ball over four times. Their big lead began

to disappear, giving Franklin Pierce more chances with the ball, outscoring New Haven 12-9 in the quarter.

Guard Kenzie Sirowich brought the lead down to six with 1:21 left to play in the third quarter with a jumper, sending New Haven into a 30-second timeout. Forward Leighanna Lister made it an eight-point game on two free throws with 50 seconds left, but Gimenez Monserrat added a pair of free throws of her own to bring the lead back down to six going into the fourth quarter.

The fourth quarter was dominated by Franklin Pierce's offense, starting with a layup and a three-pointer from Gimenez Monserrat to make it a one-point game. The Ravens held the lead for 16 seconds after a layup from Sirowich before forward Bianca Pendleton knotted the score at 41 with seven minutes left to play.

After Pendleton made a free throw, New Haven went on another scoreless streak that spanned just under four minutes. In that time, Franklin Pierce was able to take a two-point lead that they would hold for the rest of the game, coming all the way back for a huge upset win in the first round of the NE-10 playoffs.

A season full of promise for New Haven comes to a disappointing end as the quest for a championship continues. More information about the game and the program can be found at NewHavenChargers.com.