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A CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY PRODUCTION

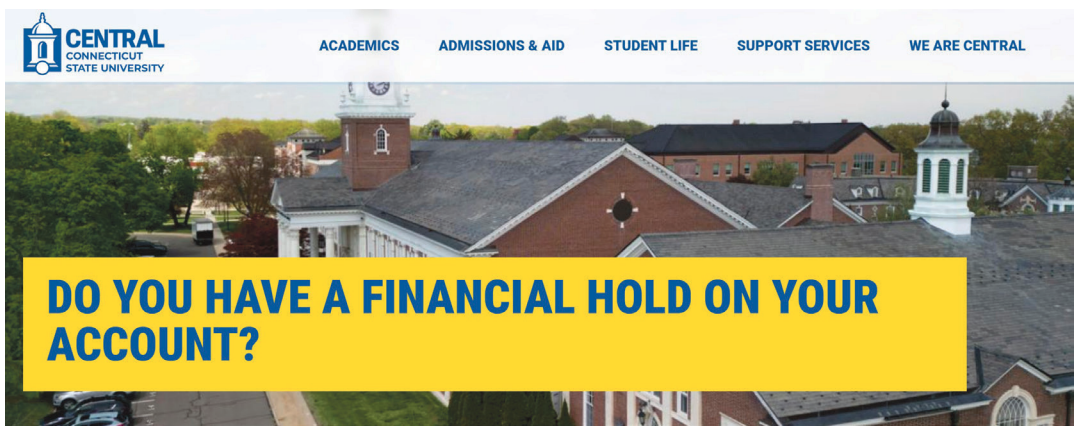
The Recorder

OCTOBER 21ST 2026 VOLUME 139, ISSUE IV

The $1,000 Barrier: CCSU's Financial-Hold Policy and the Students It Claims to Serve

by Dr. Timothy Scott
Professor

At Central Connecticut State University, an unpaid bill can determine whether a student is allowed to register for the next semester. With Winter 2026–27 and Spring 2027 registration approaching, CCSU has lowered the balance that can trigger a financial registration hold from $3,000 to $1,000. For students already juggling tuition, rent, work, and family responsibilities, that change is not a minor bookkeeping adjustment. It can mean missing a required class, delaying graduation, or leaving college altogether.



Screenshot of the CCSU Financial Hold Assistance page. ccsu.edu

A public university that talks constantly about removing barriers ought to explain why it has just made one harder to clear.

CCSU has reported that 53 percent of its students are first-generation, 35 percent are Pell-eligible, and about 40 percent are students of color. These categories overlap, but they tell us something important about the people the university serves. An unpaid balance may reflect a delayed financial-aid award, an employer reimbursement that has not arrived, a family emergency, or the simple arithmetic of trying to earn a degree on low wages. Those students do not need a lecture about responsibility. They need a reasonable way to stay enrolled while they pay what they owe.

Consider what happens when a student struggling with an outstanding balance follows the university's advice and attempts to arrange a payment plan, only to discover that the enrollment period has already closed. No workable alternative was offered. Sadly, this is not hypothetical. CCSU's financial-hold assistance page directs students toward payment plans and additional borrowing,

$1000 *continued on page 2*

Bejeweled Building Post Generates Disappointment

by Ron Marq
Design and Layout Editor

On September 28, @ccsu_official, the official Instagram account of Central Connecticut State University, posted the following image with the caption:



"When Kizer gets ahold of a bedazzling kit💙🔱 #WeAreCentral"

The photos contain an AI-generated bejeweled façade of Memorial Hall, as well as a photograph of Central's mascot Kizer's face covered in gems. While adding the glittering backdrop of Madonna's track 'Lucky Star', the Central community, as well as the public, didn't take a shine to this post due to image concerns, lack of artistic taste, and its hypocritical usage when taking academic integrity into account.

Psych major and music minor Student Gialena Cruz stated reputation concerns for students and Central itself.

"Personally, I don't see the purpose of the post," Cruz said. "If they want to do something cute like that, this could've been so easily done without AI. AI is just taking over a lot of opportunities that can benefit students and their careers beyond Central. If a student did it, it would've been more meaningful."

Many art and design majors have felt pressure from their peers and professors urging AI usage for creative endeavors, aware of the detrimental harm it can cause to its users' immediate cognitive and mental state as well as potential professional outlook. Graphic design major Alexia Strumi shared her feelings on AI as a creative crutch.

"It's not very professional," Strumi said. "They could've had a design student Photoshop it and even stick gems on Kizer's costume and post that. You're not taking time for the whole designing process, that's where the value lies."

Many different AI-generated marketing content for fields such as food service, event fliers, and "artwork" have had a large focus on 'prompt to product' rather than polishing the process. Central recently both renovated Sanford Hall with its own cybersecurity wing, as well as Vance Academic Hall with its own basement floor dedicated to AI studies and research. However, the usage of AI in academics proves to be a double-edged sword.

Central's student policy guide on AI usage on the Burritt Library website states:

"To avoid violating the Student Code of Conduct's Academic Integrity policy, students must adhere to the AI policy provided by their professor, avoid plagiarizing, and cite their sources, AI or otherwise. AI can be embedded into tools such as Grammarly, so the use of these tools (beyond simple grammar and spell checking) may not be allowed within a course or a specific assignment. If your professor says that you cannot use AI and you're tempted to use it anyway, this action will violate academic integrity policies, threatening your standing here at CCSU. More importantly, you will short-change your own learning. Using AI tools can be the intellectual equivalent of training for a marathon by having someone else do practice runs on your behalf. Will it save you time? Yes, but on the day of the marathon, you will be woefully unprepared! Professors create assignments to help you build your ability to learn, as well as to gain knowledge and to build specific skill sets. Developing mental "muscles" will be key to your success here at Central and throughout your life."

Central also offers an AI minor study program, a concentration in AI alongside a bachelor's degree in computer science, as well as an upcoming master's degree program in AI.

The idea for the post came from a trend made famous by pop star Olivia Rodrigo who began her Unraveled tour in Hartford this past September. Various regional landmarks, universities, and performance venues posted themselves adorned with generated gemstones and have also received unpopular comments for the usage of AI.

POST *continued on page 2*

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Editor-In-Chief
Nicolina Coronis

Managing Editor
Noah Gavin

News Editor
Liam McCusker

Social Media Editor
Eary Banushi

Sports Editor
Andrew O'Sullivan

Lifestyle Editor
Ny'Asia Martin

Design/Layout Editor
Ron Marq

Staff Writers
Ronan Hinckley
Cody Dzis

Contributors
Jobee Kessler
Jacob Savoy
Michael Killeen

Weekly meetings on Thursdays @ 5:30 pm at

The Recorder Office
CCSU Student Center R107
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

860•832•3744

theccsurecorder@gmail.com
centralrecorder.org

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SCAN HERE FOR OUR LINKS

***POST** continued from front*



Hartford's PeoplesBank Arena donned AI-generated gemstones for Olivia's Unraveled Tour.
instagram.com

This is the first and only AI-generated post on Central's Instagram thus far. Having taken the backlash to heart, their consensus was to continue using whatever may attain a goal, whether through man-made or machine-made means. They also expressed wanting to get more community engagement so that Central's community can tell them exactly what they would like to see represent them on Instagram. Given the Central community's comments on the bejeweled building, all that glitters is not gold.

***$1000** continued from front*

yet payment plans have enrollment deadlines and fees. For students already struggling financially, a supposed solution becomes another obstacle. The university encourages them to seek assistance, but when they do, they may discover that the opportunity has passed. Meanwhile, their education hangs in the balance.

The university has handled financial holds differently before. In a 2020 accreditation progress report, CCSU described raising the hold threshold from $800 to $20,000 during the COVID-19 emergency as part of its efforts to support students. The pandemic was exceptional; that temporary measure need not become permanent policy. But it demonstrated that the university understood how financial restrictions could interrupt education. What evidence persuaded CCSU that a much tighter threshold is necessary now?

The question is harder to dismiss when considered alongside administrative spending. Under former President Zulma Toro, CCSU pursued a costly polytechnic initiative and spent $180,000 on promotional videos produced by Miceli Productions alone, according to records obtained through a recent Freedom of Information request. That sum is equivalent to 180 student balances of $1,000. Marketing expenditures and student debts are not interchangeable budget lines, and the comparison is not an argument that every unpaid bill should be forgiven. It is a question of priorities: how readily does an institution find money to promote itself, and how much flexibility will it show students trying to remain there?

CCSU's Bursar's Office has clarified that holds arising from Winter and Spring balances will generally be imposed only after the Spring add/drop period. That is helpful as far as it goes. But it does not resolve the situation of students whose existing past-due balances may prevent them from registering in the first place. Postponing some holds is not the same as addressing the harm caused by others. Deferring an existing hold does not erase a debt; it gives a student more time to pay without losing a place in class.

Meanwhile, basic questions remain unanswered publicly. Who approved the drop from $3,000 to $1,000? Was it a CCSU decision or one directed by the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities system? Why that amount? How many students will be newly affected, how much additional revenue is expected, and what will happen to enrollment and retention? Has anyone assessed which students will bear the greatest burden? A policy that can push people out of college should not be adopted without an account of its likely costs, including the tuition lost when students cannot return.

None of this means CCSU should ignore legitimate debts. It means that collecting them should not needlessly defeat the public mission of the university. CCSU should restore the $3,000 threshold pending a transparent review, publish clear hardship and appeal procedures, and offer timely registration overrides for delayed aid, scholarships, veterans' benefits, employer reimbursement, disputed charges, or administrative errors. Students making reasonable payments should be able to continue their education, even when a standard payment-plan enrollment window has passed.

If CCSU's leaders believe the lower threshold will improve the university's finances without harming students, they should release the evidence and defend the decision publicly. Until then, calling the policy "student success" does not make it so.

A student may owe CCSU $1,000. That does not absolve the university of what it owes its students: a fair chance to finish the education they came there to earn.

Timothy Scott is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Central Connecticut State University.

First-Time Central Voters Weigh In

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Some Central Connecticut State University students who are first-time voters say they are planning to vote in the 2026 Connecticut gubernatorial race but have not been closely following the election.

According to a Pew Research Center survey published in July 2026, 64% of adults ages 18 to 29 said they follow national news at least somewhat closely. Levels of engagement at CCSU in the gubernatorial race appear to vary among students.

Gabriella Mastropetre, a freshman earth science major and Democrat, said she plans to vote in the election. She has followed the race somewhat and is familiar with the two main candidates Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont and Republican candidate Ryan Fazio, but she said she has not done much research on them.

"I haven't done as much research as I should, but I know who they are," Mastropetre said. "I'm planning on doing research and looking into it more."

Mastropetre added that LGBTQ+ rights are an issue that is most important to her. She is planning to research where each candidate stands on this issue before deciding who she is voting for.

"I need to find more information about where the candidates stand," Mastropetre said.

Mastropetre has discussed the election with her parents, but she said she has not heard much discussion among students on campus and has not seen a lot of voter related activity.

Makayla Yankee, a freshman and mechanical engineering technology major, said she has seen ads from both candidates on social media, but she has not been closely following the race. Yankee is not currently registered to vote but plans to register before the election. She said she will likely register as unaffiliated and wants to learn more about both candidates before voting.

"I want to learn more about what they're planning to do before voting," Yankee said.

Yankee said she is mainly concerned about rights for LGBTQ+ and minority groups and healthcare access for women. She wants to look at where each candidate stands on these issues.

"I will consider each candidate individually and where they stand when I decide who to vote for," Yankee said.

#KizerSays

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Early Voting sign in New Britain, Connecticut.
Nicolina Coronis

Yankee has not heard a lot of students on campus talking about the election and thinks more information on it could get them more involved.

“More flyers on each candidate, how to register, and more information about them would be great,” Yankee said.

Xavier Grayson, a freshman psychology major, is not planning to vote in the election.

Grayson is registered to vote and is unaffiliated, but he said he has not been following the election and does not know enough about Lamont and Fazio or their positions to decide who to vote for.

“I don’t know anything about the election,” Grayson said.

Grayson added that he saw an ad from Lamont discussing taxes, but he has not done any research on either candidate. He has also not heard anyone on campus discussing the election. He has not seen any information on Fazio.

Grayson said affordability is an issue that is top on his mind, but he has not really noticed the rise in prices over the last few months because he does not do the shopping for his family.

Grayson, Mastropetre, and Yankee all have different levels of knowledge on the gubernatorial race. Mastropetre and Yankee are planning to learn more about both candidates and their positions before they vote, but Grayson said he won’t be doing any research or voting since he doesn’t think he is informed about the election.

The Little Expenses Adding Up On Campus

by Ny’Asia Martin
Lifestyle Editor

Tuition is not the only college cost. From transportation and food to laundry and school supplies, everyday purchases can add up and affect how students manage their money and participate in campus life.

For students at Central Connecticut State University, those expenses can look different depending on whether they commute, live on campus, or work while attending classes. But the students interviewed for this story shared one common experience: the smaller costs of college can become a significant part of their weekly budgets.

Sarah Cobb, a CCSU senior who works at Sephora, estimates that Cobb spends between $75 and $100 a week. Cobb uses her paycheck to cover transportation, food, and other essentials while trying to put some money aside.

“It’s kind of hard to balance my check with saving and spending, but taking out a little each check does something,” Cobb said.

Working between 10 and 15 hours a week, Cobb mentioned her job also affects how much she can participate in campus activities and hang out with friends. Because she works on weekends, Cobb sometimes misses opportunities to attend events.

“There have also been times when I made the decision to go to work instead of hanging out with friends, at the end of the day, my responsibilities come first,” Cobb said.

For Cobb, managing money is not just about deciding what to buy. It also means making choices between earning money and spending time with friends or participating in college activities.

Commuting brings a whole different set of expenses. Xianna Ocasio, a freshman at CCSU, commutes every day for about 15 minutes and estimates spending around $80 a week on transportation. Ocasio also spends money on food, drinks, and items needed from the bookstore.

Although commuting is often viewed as a way to save money, Ocasio said it does not always work out that way for every student.

“Everyone thinks it helps save money more, and I agree, but not all the time; not everything is the same for everyone,” Ocasio said.

Ocasio also explains that costs beyond transportation can affect students’ ability to attend classes regularly or stay on campus for additional activities.

“Sometimes it can catch up faster than you expect, especially when you’re spending money on things outside of just going to school, so it may affect whether you can show up every day or have time to stay for extra activities,” Ocasio said.

Students who live on campus face their own expenses, even when housing and meal plans are already covered. Senior Nyla Young estimated spending between $50 and $100 a week outside of these costs. Young said those outside expenses include toiletries, laundry, school supplies, snacks, drinks, transportation, and occasional outings with friends. Food can be another source of spending when the dining hall is closed, the weather is bad, or the available meals do not meet a student’s needs.

“I was surprised by how quickly the little expenses add up,” Young said.

“Things like laundry, snacks, toiletries, and random items you need throughout the semester can end up costing more than you expect.”

Young estimated spending between $30 and $50 a week on food, snacks, and drinks alone, depending on how often Young purchases items outside their meal plan. Convenience can also contribute to these costs. When students are busy with classes, buying something they forgot or grabbing food can seem like the easiest option. However, Young said those purchases become noticeable over time.

To save money, Young has cut back on eating out and purchasing necessary items, choosing instead to save for more important expenses. The experiences of each of these students show how college spending extends beyond the cost typically associated with higher education. While a commuter may be concerned about transportation and a residential student may spend extra on food and necessities, both still have to account for everyday purchases.

No single set spending amount applies to every college student. Expenses depend on individual needs, living arrangements, transportation, and personal choices. However, the students’ experiences highlight why planning for the smaller costs can matter just as much as larger bills.

For students preparing for college or adjusting to campus life, the lesson is to account for more than tuition, housing, and meal plans. Budgeting for transportation, personal necessities, food outside regular meal hours, and unexpected purchases can help students understand where their money goes and make informed decisions about their spending.

THIS WEEK’S CAMPUS EVENTS

Anime Club
Paint & Slip
Wednesday 10/21 @ 7:30 PM
Philbrick/Camproom

Student Government Association
Fall Into Registration
Friday 10/23 @ 7 PM
Vance Academic Center Room 108

American Choral Directors Association
Spooky Halloween Bash
Friday 10/23 @ 7:30 PM
Welte Hall

107.7 WFCS The Edge × Devils Den’s @ 10
Halloween Boiler Room
Thursday 10/23 @ 10:00 PM
Semesters Café

Annual Alcohol Awareness Fair Takes Place In Student Circle

by Noah Gavin
Managing Editor



Jaden Correa takes the beer goggles walk with Lt. Homestead from CCSU Police supervising Noah Gavin

The Central Office of Wellness Education held their annual Alcohol Awareness Fair at the Student Circle on October 15.

The purpose of the fair was to spread awareness not just about alcohol abuse, but also on the many different clubs, services, and resources that are available to Central students on campus.

May different offices of services at CCSU came out to represent at the fair, such as Advising, Study Abroad, Nursing, and the CCSU Police Department.

Students could visit these tables and get stamps on a voucher and could redeem a fully stamped voucher for fried dough or a T-Shirt.

Wellness Education Coordinator, Alison Burge, likes how this how this annual event is one of the many things that brings the campus together.

"This event brings together community resources to educate students on support and resources on campus and awareness about alcohol and [safe practices]," said Burge.

Burge thinks events held by Wellness Education like this one are important to college students to spread awareness.

"We want students to have knowledge of the resources that are available to them so that they can make informed decisions when it comes to risky behaviors, such as alcohol use," said Burge.

Students were able to participate in different activities, such as inflatable attractions as well as a beer goggle walk provided by campus police.

One student that participated in the event, accounting major Jaden Correa, likes events like this that bring the Central community together.

"I saw a community out [in the Student Circle] so I came," said Correa. "I think it's very interesting for [Wellness Education] to create fun on top of learning basic facts that everyone should know, and everyone is here to have fun and learn."

Pre-nursing major Marie Doelien also tried the beer goggles walk at the Central Police stand, and enjoyed the free food and knowledge the event had to offer.

"It's nice to raise awareness to everybody in the school about [resources available], because it could help people that are dealing with things on the inside."

Many of the clubs were also raising awareness about other important problems facing youth, such as suicide prevention. CCSU Nursing was there with a project that showed the linkage between alcoholism and mental health struggles.

Registered nurse, Tatiana Perez, was showing students with a poster board how to recognize the signs of unhealthy drinking and how to help peers in need.

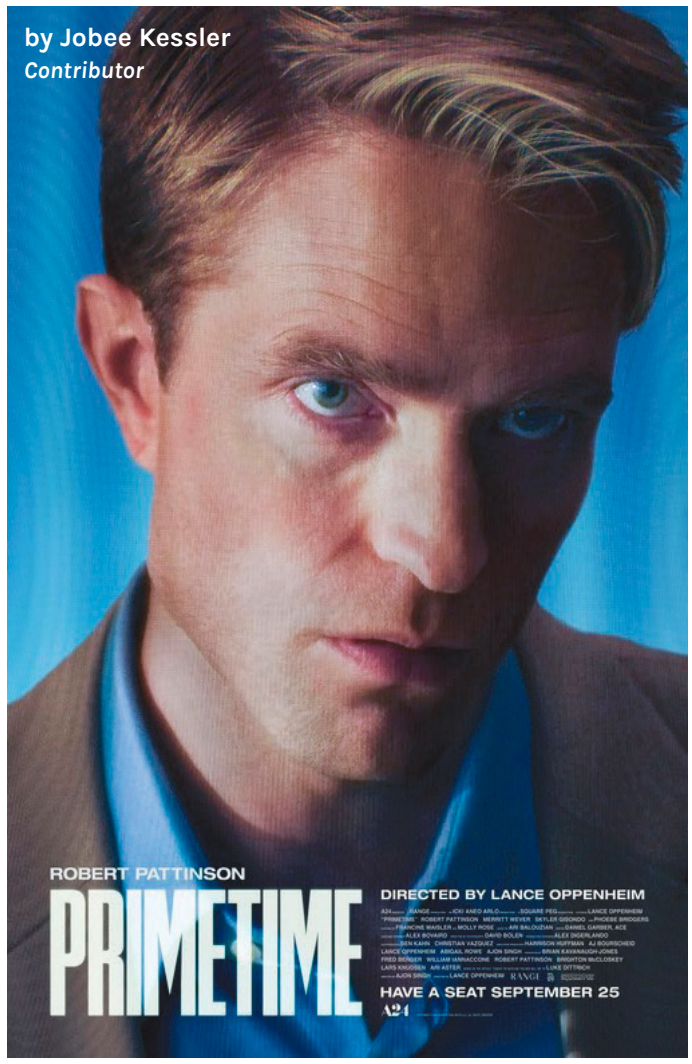
"This project shows the relevance between alcohol usage, binge drinking, and mental health, as well as how to recognize the signs of a mental health crisis and [what to do] to prevent mental health struggles in college students," Perez said. "Protective factors, like building connections, starting conversations, joining a club, things like that."

Perez wants CCSU students to know that it is always okay to reach out for help when you need it.

"Years ago, it was taboo to talk about mental health issues, and students face different struggles and it's OK to have those and it's OK to get access to help," Perez said. "Everybody feels alone sometimes, and we are here showing them the resources that we offer on campus."



Free fried dough was provided to students that filled out all of the stamps on their voucher. Noah Gavin



Official theatrical release poster for 'Primetime'. imdb.com

by Jobee Kessler
Contributor

Like Network and Videodrome before it, Primetime feels primed to enter the annals of great and cynical television films.

Starring Robert Pattinson as NBC's Chris Hansen, eerily channeling the man's aura to dynamite result, and Merritt Wever as producer Andie Bender, whose gentle ruthlessness is as unsettling as her host's erratic nature. Director Lance Oppenheim's narrative debut hits like a daring punch–confident and aggressive in its messaging.

Skyler Gisondo, the film's heart, shines as "Decoy Dan," a hopeful actor (with a penchant for Rent) who's equally disgusted and consumed by his role as an underage boy in Hansen's sting series "***To Catch a Predator***". Those that remember the show should be impressed by the ways in which Primetime anchors itself squarely in the mid-aughts; specifically through David Bolen's cinematography and Daniel Garber's editing, not to mention the specter of Saddam Hussein hanging over the film's events.

The film-making and acting blend into an intoxicating miasma that hangs even after the credits roll. Haunting the film is the question: if we refuse to admit that monsters are just humans, are we doomed to eternally chase ghosts and ghouls? Placing Decoy Dan–a pretend child–in front of a wall featuring posters of missing children only highlights this. Wishing to be a hero, ridding the world of "ancient evils," leaves you living a fairy tale, often with dangerous outcomes.

Watching the film left me equally enthralled and disquieted. The pushy place gives the film a restless feeling, and we are propelled through the sordid action. The leads are all amazing, and I was entranced by seeing each character spiral into darkness.

★★★★★

"Primetime"
Direction: Lance Oppenheim
Screenplay: Ajon Singh
Starring: Robert Pattinson, Merritt Wever, Skyler Gisondo, Phoebe Bridgers

[Now Playing at AMC Plainville 20, Picture Show Berlin, and Cinepolis West Hartford]

Skydance Acquires Warner Bros. Discovery... ...Now What?

by Andrew O'Sullivan
Sports Editor

After months of speculation, the buyout of Warner Bros/Discovery by Paramount Skydance is official, as the deal was closed on October 6. To those only tangentially tapped into the world of television and media, half of those words mean absolutely nothing. Here's a bit of context.

Warner Bros., as a studio, has existed for over a century, but its lifespan has been far from straightforward. Founded in 1923, it operated independently until being acquired by Seven Arts Productions in 1967 to form Warner Bros.-Seven Arts. Warner Bros.-Seven Arts was subsequently acquired by Kinney National Company in 1969, later being spun-off into a new company called Warner Communications with other media assets. Time Inc. bought Warner Communications in 1990 to form Time Warner, which was subsequently bought by AT&T in 2018 and renamed WarnerMedia. In 2022, AT&T sold WarnerMedia, and it was merged with Discovery Inc. to create Warner Bros/Discovery, and after four years of fluctuation it has now been officially acquired by Skydance corporation.

On the other side, Skydance was formed in 2025 via a merger between Paramount Global and the Skydance Corp, the former being a conglomerate formed via the marriage of Viacom (owner of Paramount Pictures) and CBS (a longtime Paramount ally) and the latter being a media production company founded in 2006 who had worked alongside Paramount in film production.

To make things simpler for everybody, the people who own CBS now also own TNT.

WBD had been in dire straits for years, merging their subsidiaries and cutting programming & employees while continuing to hemorrhage money, including a $10 Billion loss in Q2 of 2024. Multiple restructuring of the corporation would soon follow as CEO David Zaslav attempted to recover, including an attempted separation of Warner Bros and Discovery Global in June 2025.

In September, however, David Ellison of the recently married Paramount Skydance Corporation officially announced he was exploring a bid to acquire the entire company, which was later upended the next month when Netflix announced their own planned offers, and both sides officially submitted bids in November, along with Comcast. The former two sides would engage in a legal battle throughout the next few months, with concerns surrounding both Skydance's hostile takeover-style pounce on WBD and Netflix's intended focus on streaming rather than cinematic feature films.

Eventually, Skydance would up their offers to WBD as Netflix officially declined to increase its bid in February 2026, allowing Skydance to become the forefront buyer in the bidding war. Despite antitrust lawsuits from 12 states in July, and legal issues thereafter with California Governor Gavin Newsom, the suit was settled in September 2026 and the deal itself officially closed in October, with the new three-headed conglomerate being renamed to Skydance Corporation.

All that information was, assumedly, incredibly dense and confusing. But now that the buyout has gone through, what will become of the new Skydance regarding programming and future vision? And what does the deal mean for American media as a whole?

The most obvious matter regarding the new-look Skydance is simply how many assets they have, especially on television. They already had control over the CBS and former Viacom networks, but the addition to traditional Turner and Discovery channels makes it one of the most powerful entities on both linear and streaming television, as the respective streaming services of Paramount+ and HBO Max will be integrated in due time with a combined audience of 221 million subscribers.

Multiple networks that formerly competed against each other for viewers and advertisers are now awkwardly under the same roof, such as the traditional children's giants of Cartoon Network and Nickelodeon, infotainment networks like Smithsonian Channel, Animal Planet, and Discovery, lifestyle programming networks TLC, MTV, BET, HGTV, and Food Network, as well as premium networks HBO and Showtime.

Sports programming will also have a new look. CBS Sports and TNT Sports (formerly Turner Sports) have been long-term bespoke broadcasters in their own right, and as a result Skydance now has control over a sports juggernaut with links to the NFL, MLB, the NHL, NASCAR, NCAA Football & Basketball, UFC, PGA Tour, the WNBA, the UEFA Champions League, and more, easily making it the most expansive sports broadcaster on American airwaves.

Whether or not Skydance will proceed with all of their new sports properties is still up in the air. After all, sports television is practically the only piece of appointment television not decimated by the rise of streaming and is incredibly lucrative to broadcasters, so when current contracts are up, Skydance's competitors will be rabid.

However, one of the most contentious merged properties is Skydance's news division.

CNN, founded by Ted Turner in 1980 as America's first 24-hour cable news network, has been a liberal stalwart on the air in the 21st century. With the new ownership, many critics are worried that Skydance will push CNN in a different direction.

Skydance CEO David Ellison and his father Larry are both direct allies to President Donald Trump and his administration. Following the 2025 merger, Ellison appointed journalist Bari Weiss (who notably had little to no professional broadcast journalism experience) as head of CBS News, which has seen heavy criticism over the past year under Weiss' leadership, including controversies surrounding spiked stories, fired reporters, and general mismanagement behind the scenes.



The infamous Warner Bros. water tower emblazoned with "A Skydance Corporation" Getty Images

CNN, famously, was one of many media outlets President Trump attempted to block from White House press meetings last month, and critics such as Syracuse University professor J. Christopher Hamilton have argued the merger is another backhanded way of "... [Exerting] influence in ways that are much more subtle than directly telling an editor what stories to cover."

This view was shared by Secretary of War Pete Hegseth in March, who criticized CNN's coverage of the Iran War and said, "the sooner David Ellison takes over that network, the better." White House Communications Director Steven Cheung would echo similar statements, calling the network's coverage of Iranian politics "a total disgrace" and likening them to Pravda, the principal propaganda newspaper of the Soviet Union

Skydance officially announced on October 12 that current CEO and chair Sir Mark Thompson would be staying in his role, saying that he will lead "with the same responsibilities and prerogatives that I have now," but the exact details of CNN under new ownership are yet to air.

The immediate aftermath of the merger not only brought theories and speculation surrounding the future of programming but also saw a mass leak of promotional assets from Warner Bros. Animation, totaling upwards of 200 GBs. Character rigs, storyboards, and show bibles from decades of past animation would be available for the public leading to criticism of Skydance's security was an almost instantaneous embarrassment for the young conglomerate.

Having only existed in its current form for two weeks, to speculate on the future of Skydance after this massive merger is relatively rash and imprudent, but that hasn't stopped us mere mortals from asking questions. Such as, "What will become of Nickelodeon and Cartoon Network?", "Will Paramount+ and HBO Max cost more money as a combined service?", "Will the Trump Administration continue to attempt to twist the American media landscape to continue the façade of how well they have actually been running the country?", and definitely most importantly, "Does this mean NASCAR's gonna air races on CBS again?"

The only thing known for certain was once said by the great philosophical mind, Abed Nadir. "TV's rules aren't based on common sense. They're based on the studio wanting to milk their profits dry."

2026 World Series Preview: The Milwaukee Brewers And Tampa Bay Rays Chase MLB History

by Cody Dzis, Noah Gavin
Staff Writer, Managing Editor



Paste body copy below and delete this paragraph up to the drop cap and replace it with the first letter of article's first word.

Baseball fans, rejoice - the Los Angeles Dodgers' run at the top is over. There are two new teams headed to the World Series: the Milwaukee Brewers and the Tampa Bay Rays. Neither team has ever won a Fall Classic in their history, and both fan bases are eager to get over that hump. It will be an elite matchup, featuring the two best regular season records in baseball battling in a seven game set. These teams each grabbed the 1-seed in their respective leagues through red hot offenses and lights out pitching. This World Series is a can't miss historic matchup.

For the first time since 1982 and second time in the franchise's 57-year history, the Brewers will play in the World Series. Under manager Pat Murphy's lead since 2024, the Brewers are hoping to bring the franchise's first championship home to the smallest market team in the MLB.

Milwaukee finished the 2026 regular season with a franchise-record 103 wins, earning their fourth straight NL Central title in a row and the No. 1 seed in the NL. Starting with a first-round bye, Milwaukee won the NL Division Series 3-1 over the San Diego Padres (91-71) followed by a 4-0 sweep against the defending champion Dodgers (100-62) in the NL Championship Series.

The Brewers is that they redeemed themselves from the 2025 NLCS, where the Dodgers swept the Brewers. This year, Milwaukee flipped the script on L.A. and swept them to advance to the Fall Classic.

During the regular season, the Brewer offense finished leading the entire MLB in run differential (+214), setting a new franchise record by 50 runs. They also ranked first as a team in batting average (.258), hits (1,422), as well as second in runs scored (832) and fifth in stolen bases (162).

Surprisingly, Milwaukee ranked 29th in home runs (154) and scored 32.1% of their runs via the long ball (the lowest rate in the majors), but still managed to drive runs in. Six Brewer batters finished with over 100 hits and six with at least 50 RBIs.

The Brewers had two all-stars this season, one of them being their catcher William Contreras who finished the regular season `with 153 hits, 94 RBIs, 82 runs scored, 18 home runs and a .270 BA. Contreras has raked in the playoffs, leading Milwaukee in BA (.367), hits (11), home runs (3) and on-base percentage (.457).

A major help has also come from 22-year old left fielder Jackson Chourio, who led the Brewers during the regular season in batting average (.291) and was second in stolen bases (23) and home runs (25). In the postseason, Chourio's been struggling to hit, only going 6-for-35 with only two home runs and seven RBIs.

The right side of the infield has also produced in the lineup. Second baseman Brice Turang and first baseman Jake Bauers both hit well for Milwaukee in the regular season. Turang led the team in hits (156) and RBIs (100) but has also struggled in the playoffs as he's gone 6-for-27 with only two RBIs. Bauers earned the NLCS MVP award after going 4-for-14 with a home run, six RBIs, a .286 BA and .983 OPS. In the regular season, Bauers led Milwaukee in home runs (26) and OBP (.389).

Milwaukee's rotation has also been phenomenal all year, ranking second in team ERA (3.51). Leading the rotation is the MLB's 24-year old force of nature, right-handed pitcher Jacob Misiorowski.

In just his second major league season, "The Miz" in 30 starts finished the regular season as the league leader in earned runs allowed (1.80) and strikeouts (252) while finishing with a 1.24 WHIP and a 16-5 record in 174.2 innings pitched, and is the front-runner to win the National League Cy Young Award. In the playoffs, Misiorowski has only pitched twice, striking out 11 in 8.1 innings allowing nine hits and three earned runs, walking four. With plenty of rest since his last start, Miz is the probable starter for Game 1 of the World Series.

Another young pitcher, RHP Logan Henderson produced 110 Ks and a 2.47 ERA in only 98 innings in the regular season. The final key contributor from the bullpen is LHP Aaron Ashby. In 89 innings, Ashby finished the regular season with 116 Ks and a 3.12 ERA, earning four saves in the process. In the playoffs, Ashby appeared in six games and has struck out 11 and earned two saves in 12 innings.

The Brewers have plenty of momentum right now. They have been able to rest since Thursday, Oct. 15. They also have home field advantage, starting the World Series with the first two games at home. Tampa Bay might be gassed by the time the World Series starts on Friday, Oct. 23. Milwaukee will have eight days of rest and preparation for the race toward their first championship in franchise history.

The Tampa Bay Rays come to the World Series as the American League East Champions, with the best record in the AL (98-64). This is their first World Series appearance since 2020, and manager Kevin Cash is looking

The AL clinch came off a 4-2 ALCS series win over the Cleveland Guardians and a Game 6 that really displayed Tampa Bay's potential offensive power in a dominate 7-3 victory.

The Tampa Bay Rays were second in the league in batting average (.257), 6th in On-Base Percentage (.324), and as a team struck out the least in the majors (18.9% strikeout rate) but ranked all the way down at 18th in the majors in slugging percentage (.399) and just an average of 1.02 home runs a game, 25th in the league. This isolated offensive power and lack of high-end over-the-fence ability is a weakness of theirs.

Because of this, one could argue that Tampa Bay's pitching is what anchored their success throughout the season. The Rays team pitching ranked first in WHIP (1.131), allowed the least walks on average per game in the majors (2.54 Walks per 9 Innings), and ranked 6th in the league in team ERA (3.65).

Even though the Rays' offensive power can be isolated, they still have some elite hitters in their order. The offensive is engined by first basemen Yandy Diaz, who hit .293 this season with 22 home runs, one against Milwaukee, and 85 RBIs.

Driving runners to home plate in the middle of the order, the Rays have Junior Caminero at third base who batted .276 this season with a whopping 42 home runs and 101 RBIs, and DH Jonathan Aranda with a .274 batting average this season grabbing 92 RBIs and 22 home runs.

The last key on Tampa Bay's offense is the speedy left fielder Chandler Simpson who batted .306 in 2026, had a .335 OBP, and led the AL in stolen bases at an impressive 90 bags.

Now onto that elite run preventing pitching. The Rays' rotation is led by righty Drew Rasmussen, who had 16 wins in the regular season, with an ERA of 2.67 and 174 strikeouts. Rasmussen has also been elite for the rays in the postseason with a 1.29 ERA, 23 strikeouts, and .76 WHIP. He has yet to be given a loss this October. RHP Griffin Jax is also in the Rays rotation and grabbed 116 strikeouts with a 1.18 WHIP. Jax is normally a starter for Tampa Bay but has served out of the bullpen in the playoffs.

In the bullpen, the Rays have closer Bryan Baker, who had 41 saves with 63 Ks in the regular season. He only let up 35 hits.

If the Rays want to win, they will need their pitching to come out strong and hose off the scorching hot Brewers offense, and see key production early from their strong bats to grab some momentum on the road at American Family Field in Wisconsin.

Dzis' Prediction: Brewers in 5, MVP: William Contreras

Tampa Bay could take either Game 3 or 4 in Tampa, but Milwaukee's spearheaded by Misiorowski and Henderson and have a tough lineup that racks up base hits and succeeds with runners in scoring position. The rotation for Tampa is good, but Rasmussen will be early in the series and will face one of the Brewers' top pitchers on top of facing a productive lineup. Contreras is swinging a hot bat and will be the driving force that drives in runs to earn Milwaukee their first ever title.

Gavin's Prediction: Brewers in 5, MVP: Garrett Mitchell

The Rays are a formidable matchup for Milwaukee, but just not a strong enough one. I think the Rays grab one game at Tropicana but drop the rest of the series. The Brewers offense will be able to take control of games down the stretch. Garrett Mitchell has come up in clutch moments for the Brewers this October and could easily be a pivotal player in this series.

WORLD SERIES SCHEDULE

Friday, October 23
Game 1: Tampa Bay @ Milwaukee (Fox)
Saturday, October 24
Game 2: Tampa Bay @ Milwaukee (Fox)
Monday, October 26
Game 3: Milwaukee @ Tampa Bay (Fox)
Tuesday, October 27
Game 4: Milwaukee @ Tampa Bay (Fox)
Wednesday, October 28
Game 5: Milwaukee @ Tampa Bay (Fox)*
Friday, October 30
Game 6: Tampa Bay @ Milwaukee (Fox)*
Sunday, October 31
Game 7: Tampa Bay @ Milwaukee (Fox)*
*if necessary

CCSU Volleyball Sweeps Weekend Series at Home Against Chicago State



by Andrew O' Sullivan & Cody Dzis
Sports Editor, Contributor

Anja Milosevic shows determination on the game at hand, given her awaited comeback.
Steve McLaughlin

Following a tough start to the season and a 1-15 record coming into the weekend, the Central Connecticut Women's Volleyball team were able to sweep the visiting Chicago State Cougars in a weekend doubleheader on Friday and Saturday.

Junior outside hitter Olivia Keckler produced a combined 16 kills, eight digs, two aces and 21 service points over the two games.

The Blue Devils (4-15, 2-4 NEC) shut out the Cougars (insert record here) in both matchups, 3-0, on Friday and Saturday.

Before Friday, Central's last win was over a month ago in a 3-0 win over NJIT. Since then, Central was on a 9-game losing streak coming into Friday.

The first game against the Cougars began with the Blue Devils immediately taking control, with Breanna Ginley and Anja Milosevic putting up great numbers with multiple blocks and kills. Central never gave up the lead as the set drew on, eventually taking first blood with a 25-18 set win.

The second set began with CCSU in control again, with Madison Fulgencio delivering a clutch kill to restrain a potential Chicago State comeback. In the middle of the set, Central goes on a 12-3 run as Chicago was unable to do anything against the relentless 3-pronged attack of Ginley, Keckler, and Cullen Winter. The second set would end 25-11 in Central's favor.

After a long rally to begin the third set, a fire was lit underneath the Cougars who kept Central humble for the remaining game time, with the score never erring by more than five points for much of the set. Ginley, Keckler, and Milosevic remained strong and were able to fend off any attacks as the Blue Devils completed a Friday sweep 25-17.

In the second game, middle blocker Breanna Ginley had nine kills, one dig and 11 service points in Friday's win, and added seven kills, two digs and 12 service points in Saturday's win.

After early back-and-forth in the first set, CCSU broke a 4-4 tie with a 5-point stretch and later to end the set scored seven straight points to claim the first set 25-16.

Central went on runs of four and five points to gain early momentum in the second set against Chicago State. The Cougars started earning points in the set, but the Blue Devils kept battling back and forth to keep their lead and win the set, 25-11.

Chicago State scored the first point of the final set, but then Central went on a 10-point run and seemingly took full control of the final stretch. Chicago couldn't make enough ground to regain any momentum, and Central would end the game with a 25-17 final set win.

On the season, Keckler now leads the Blue Devils with 247 kills, 126 digs, 21 aces and 282 service points in 19 games played. Keckler ranks 3rd in the Northeast Conference in kills and in service points. Ginley has 117 kills, 55 total blocks, 21 digs, 11 aces and 160 service points as well for CCSU.

Another key contributor from the weekend was setter Anja Milosevic, who had 36 and 31 assists in both games against Chicago State. Milosevic ranks 5th in the NEC in assists with 382 assists.

Speaking to The Recorder on Friday, head coach Alyssa Broccoli was pleased with her team's performance in the first game.

"We had a game plan and we executed it," Broccoli said. "The second set was obviously statistically our cleanest set and we really did the basics the best."

Playing clean ball was the goal through the whole match, with Broccoli emphasizing passing, serving, contact, and generally focusing on "their side of the net".

The game plan heading into Friday was also relatively the same.

"Obviously it shifts a little bit depending on your opponent. But volleyball is not as complicated as people make it out to be. I think the difference tonight was that we passed the ball really well and then we served the ball and got them out of system."

Broccoli and the team watched film to study Chicago State's tendencies, which led to efficient execution on both sides of the ball.

Broccoli was satisfied with the performances of her whole team, but specifically praised Gabriella Burdier, Annabella Denomme, Meg Burklund, and Olivia Keckler.

"Those are our primary passers and servers and obviously without them passing consistently and efficiently it's hard to run the offense."

She also praised Milosevic, who had been out for a while and returned to form like she never left.

Although the weekend went extremely well for the Blue Devils, Broccoli refused to chalk any of the team's future success to a momentum swing.

"I don't believe in [momentum]. Tomorrow is a brand new day. We're not going to underestimate them especially based on what they've done this year with other teams in the conference. It doesn't mean anything."

The Blue Devils look to build off their successful weekend with a road series at Mercyhurst (Pennsylvania) on Friday, October 23 and Saturday, October 24 at 6 and 1 P.M.

Weekly Scoreboard

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15

CENTRAL 3 | NEW HAVEN 2

Highlights:
Goals: CCSU - Riley Powers, 1 goal. Rebecca Devereux, 1 goal. Mia Hageman, 1 Goal; UNH - Savannah Reed, 1 Goal. Molly Heras, 1 Goal.
Assists: CCSU - Alex Rhodes, 1 assist. Sadie Passante, 2 Assists.
Saves: CCSU - Melina Ford, 3 Saves; UNH - Jordan Galicia, 5 Saves.
Records: CCSU 6-6-1, 4-1-1; UNH 3-10-1, 2-4-0.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

CENTRAL 3 | CHICAGO STATE 0
25-18, 25-11, 25-17

Highlights:

Chicago State - Nayella George 5 digs, 2 kills, 1 block; Nina Mitchell 3 kills; Camryn McCollum 7 kills, 7 service points; Kristine Bakhad 7 assists, 6 digs, 5 kills; Rayon Thigpen 1 kill.

Central - Breanna Ginley 9 kills, 1 dig, 1 ace, 11 service points; Meg Berkland 4 digs, 1 ace; Olivia Keckler 8 digs, 4 kills, 2 assists, 1 ace, 10 service points; Anja Milosevic 36 assists, 4 digs, 2 kills, 2 aces; Cullen Winter 8 kills, 9 service points; Madison Fulgencio 5 kills; Hanley Schmidt 8 kills, 9 service points.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

CENTRAL 43 | MERCYHURST 40
AWAY TEAM 7 7 15 14 - 43
HOME TEAM 11 7 7 15 - 40

SCORING SUMMARY:
H - S. Hampton 9 yard pass from A. Gevaudan (E. Fincher rush).
H - 47 R. Marcantonio 38 yard Field Goal
A - R. Turley 1 yard pass from B. Griffis (J. Hennessey kick)
H - E. Van Dyke 52 yard rush (R. Marcantonio kick)
A - I. Stopke 17 yard pass from B. Griffis (J. Hennessey kick)
H - A. Lattimore 33 yard pass from A. Gevaudan (R. Marcantonio kick)
A - 25 D. Smith Jr. 36 yard rush (G. Wiggins pass from 10 B. Griffis)
A - 25 D. Smith Jr. 2 yard rush (J. Hennessey kick)
H - A. Lattimore 27 yard pass from A. Gevaudan (R. Marcantonio kick)
A - I. Stopke 1 yard rush (J. Hennessey kick)
A - D. Smith Jr 1 yard rush (J. Hennessey kick)
H - D. Evans 8 yard pass from A. Gevaudan (E. Van Dyke pass from A. Gevaudan)
Records: Away Team 3-3 | Home Team 1-6.

CENTRAL 3, CHICAGO STATE 0
25-16, 25-20, 25-12

Highlights:

Central - Breanna Ginley 7 kills, 2 digs, 2 aces, 12 service points; Meg Berkland 7 digs, 1 assist; Olivia Keckler 8 kills, 4 digs, 2 assists, 2 aces, 11 service points; Anja Milosevic 31 assists, 8 digs, 5 aces, 3 kills, 8 service points; Cullen Winter 8 kills, 8 service points; Madison Fulgencio 6 kills, 1 assist, 1 dig, 7 service points.

Chicago State - Nayella George 9 kills, 7 digs, 1 assist, 10 service points; Graci Littlejohn 3 kills, 1 block; Nina Mitchell 4 kills, 1 dig; Camryn McCollum 6 digs, 2 kills; Kristine Bakhad 8 assists, 3 digs, 2 kills; Rayon Thigpen 3 kills, 1 dig.

Records: Central 4-15,2-4 NEC; Chicago State 1-17, 1-5 NEC.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18

WOMEN'S SOCCER
CENTRAL 4, DELAWARE STATE 0
DELAWARE STATE | 0 | 0 - 0
CENTRAL | 2 | 2 - 4
Goals: Central - Riley Powers 1, Eve Girardi 1, Emma Radoncic 1, Rachel Wygant 1.
Assists: Central - Alex Rhodes 2, Riley Powers 1, Emma Radoncic 1, Kayla Ward 1.
Saves: Central - Melina Ford 2, Taylor DeFlorio 2, Kayleigh Smith 0; Delaware State - Johoanna Lynn Hornyak 7, Dorcas Ikechukwu 3.
Records: Central 7-6-1, 5-1-1 NEC; Delaware State 0-11-0, 0-7-0 NEC.

MEN'S SOCCER
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT 1, LE MOYNE 0
Highlights:
Goals: CCSU - Santiago Marin Gutierrez, 1 goal (P).
Assists: N/A
Saves: CCSU - Carter Fitzgerald, 10 Saves; LM - Wyatt Dupell, 5 Saves.
Records: CCSU 5-7-1, 3-1-1; UNH 6-3-4, 2-1-2.



PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

Davon Smith Jr., Carter Fitzgerald, Riley Powers, Aidan Budge, Mya Morobito, Chris Jean, Santiago Marin Gutierrez, Mia Hageman
ccsubluedevils.com

by Jacob Savoy
Contributor

Central Connecticut State University football's sophomore running back **Davon Smith Jr.** rushed for 220 yards on 13 carries, while rushing for two touchdowns, one of them being a career long 85-yard rush to the end zone, in Saturdays 51-14 win over American International, earning him his third **NEC rookie of the week** honor of the season.

Central Connecticut State football running back **Davon Smith Jr.** rushed for 162 yards and three touchdowns in a 43-40 comeback win over Mercyhurst on Saturday to earn national recognition as the **Stats Perform FCS National Freshman Player of the Week**.

Smith was among several CCSU athletes recognized this week by the NEC as Players of the Week, Athletes of the Week or Prime Performers. Other Blue Devils honored over the past week are below.

NEC Men's Soccer Player of the Week - Carter Fitzgerald, GK: Made a career-high 10 saves and recorded his fourth shutout of the season in a 1-0 victory over first-place Le Moyne. Fitzgerald leads the NEC in save percentage and shutouts.

NEC Women's Soccer Player of the Week - Riley Powers, F: Scored goals against New Haven and Delaware State, while adding an assist in CCSU's 4-0 win over Delaware State.

NEC Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Week - Aidan Budge: Finished second overall at the NEICAAA Championship to earn his third NEC Athlete of the Week award of the season.

NEC Women's Cross Country Athlete of the Week - Mya Morabito: Earned her fourth NEC Athlete of the Week honor after leading the Blue Devils at the NEICAAA Championship.

NEC Football Prime Performer - Chris Jean, DB: Continues to anchor the Blue Devils defense and remains one of the NEC's premier defensive backs after earning preseason All-America and Buck Buchanan Award Watch List recognition.

NEC Men's Soccer Prime Performer - Santiago Marin Gutierrez, MF: Scored the game-winning goal in CCSU's 1-0 road win over Le Moyne. The goal was his eighth of the season and third game-winner.

NEC Women's Soccer Prime Performer - Mia Hageman, F: Scored the game-winning goal in CCSU's 3-2 victory over New Haven, marking the first collegiate goal of her career.

Women's Soccer Dominates On Senior Day

by Michael Killeen
Contributor

NEW BRITAIN - The Central Connecticut State University women's soccer team continued their winning streak with a 4-0 shutout win over Delaware State in their Senior Day home game on Sunday afternoon.

The Blue Devils (7-6-1, 5-1-1 NEC) pounced early in the first half by a goal from midfielder Riley Powers that earned Central the early 1-0 lead. While the rest of the first half was relatively quiet, the silence was broken by a second Central goal 21 minutes into the half by forward Rachel Wygant, giving Central the 2-0 lead at the 45' whistle.

Two more goals were scored by Central in the second half to secure the 4-0 win. Senior defender Emma Radoncic scored early in the 49th minute, and Eve Girardi got on the board in the 56th to give CCSU their winning score.

"It felt nice to score, especially on Senior Day." Radoncic said. "I feel like we could all count on each other, and there's multiple players that can score."

Head Coach Mick D'Arcy says confidence in the team has been building with the continued winning streak in the conference.

"We've been scoring goals the last few games and we're averaging probably three goals a game. So that's good. That gives you confidence from there," D'Arcy said. "The more you win, the better you're gonna feel about it from there."

Coach D'Arcy also gave credit to the defense for Central's win.

"Defensively, I think it's been pretty strong from play," D'Arcy said. "We haven't conceded a whole lot of goals... the defense puts us in situations to create more offense."

Radoncic showed appreciation for the home crowd on Senior Day with a surprise appearance from the baseball team who were in attendance during the match.

"It felt really nice. I saw them and definitely like their energy from them, from the family, from parents," Radoncic said. "It was nice to see our support system and how big it is here."

The Blue Devils next travel to Upstate New York to play Le Moyne College on Sunday, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m.

WOMEN'S SOCCER
CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE 4, DELAWARE STATE 0
Delaware State: 0 0 - 0
Central: 2 2 - 4
Goals: Central - Riley Powers 1, Eve Girardi 1, Emma Radoncic 1, Rachel Wygant 1.
Assists: Central - Alex Rhodes 2, Riley Powers 1, Emma Radoncic 1, Kayla Ward 1.
Saves: Central - Melina Ford 2, Taylor DeFlorio 2, Kayleigh Smith 0; Delaware State - Johoanna Lynn Hornyak 7, Dorcas Ikechukwu 3.
Records: Central 7-6-1, 5-1-1 NEC; Delaware State 0-11-0, 0-7-0 NEC.

CCSU ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

CROSS COUNTRY
10/23 • 3:30 PM • Central Mini-Meet

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
10/22 • 5:00 PM • vs New Hampshire
10/23 • 11:00 AM • vs New Hampshire

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
10/23 • 6:00 PM • @ Mercyhurst
10/24 • 1:00 PM • @ Mercyhurst

WOMEN'S SOCCER
10/25 • 1:00 PM • @ Le Moyne
10/24 • 1:00 PM • @ Mercyhurst

SOCCER
10/25 • 2:00 PM • vs Chicago
SENIOR DAY