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The Recorder

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Voters Weigh Lamont's Affordability Record Ahead Of Election

by Liam McCusker
News Editor

Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont is running for his third term in office at a time when the cost of living is a major concern for residents. Lamont took office in 2019. He has pursued policies aimed at lowering health care, electricity costs, and expanding access to school meals.

A poll released by Quinnipiac University on October 14, 2026, found that twenty percent of likely voters identified the cost of living as the most important issue in deciding their vote for governor. Among those voters, 67 percent supported Lamont, compared to 30 percent who supported Republican candidate Ryan Fazio.



On Thursday October 23, Ned Lamont and Ryan Fazio debated live on air. WFSB

Democratic state Sen. Matt Lesser said Lamont is focused on improving affordability for residents. "The Governor has really focused on affordability and quality of life issues in Connecticut," Lesser said. "I think the voters recognize the Governor has had to lead the state through some tough challenges."

Lesser added that he worked with Lamont on H.B. 6003, which capped out-of-pocket costs for insulin and other diabetes medications at $25 per 30-day supply in 2020 and capped diabetes devices at $100 per 30-day supply for qualifying coverage. He said he and Lamont hope to continue working toward universal healthcare. "Healthcare is a huge cost driver for families and businesses across the state and it hurts our entire economy," Lesser said.

***AHEAD** continued on page 2*

A Pitch For Change: Ryan Fazio Looks To Capture The Youth Vote

by Noah Gavin
Managing Editor

Standing at the center of the Republican strategy of the 2026 Connecticut gubernatorial race is 36-year-old Ryan Fazio, a state senator from Greenwich who looks to become the state's first red governor in 15 years.

Fazio has come with the usual promises of an election candidate of making Connecticut a more affordable state for families to live in and businesses to run in, but he is also approaching another angle; appealing to young voters that are looking for a change. Ben Proto, Chairman of the Connecticut Republican Party, has heard that Fazio has appealed to younger voters in Connecticut.

"One of the things that Ryan has tapped into is being a candidate that really excites younger voters, and I think we haven't had that in a long time," Proto said. "We're seeing a lot of older Gen Z through millennial voters identify with Ryan and what he wants to do."

If elected, Fazio would be the first United States governor born in the 1990's.
Proto believes that Fazio's promise to improve affordability in the state is one of the reasons young voters should consider his campaign.

"Connecticut is number two in the country right now for 18- to 34-year-olds who live with their parents, that's a really sad statistic when you think about it," Proto said.

However, while recent polling data from Sacred Heart University shows that Fazio has closed the gap in young voters compared to data from all voters, Lamont still has 44.3 percent support of voters aged 18 to 34, leaving Fazio in the low thirties percentage.

"Young people need to look at Ryan Fazio and understand that he's the candidate that if he becomes governor that will put you in a position to stay in this state."

Some ad campaigns have attacked Fazio's legislative history as a state senator and label him as being very radical, like his votes against government programs against free breakfast in public schools and closing community hospitals.
However, Proto has one reason why this may not be the case.

"Ryan was endorsed by the independent party here in Connecticut, which I think is an indication that he is not an extremist in either direction," Proto said. "The largest group of voters [in Connecticut] are people who are not affiliated with the Democrat or the Republican party."

It is worth noting that the Ned Lamont campaign did not seek endorsement from the Independent Party.

Professor of political science at CCSU, Dr. Paul Petterson, can see the appeal in the Fazio campaign looking to grab youth voters in the state.

"If Fazio is framing his campaign around his youth, around being a path-breaker and the need for change, I think there is some appeal there," Petterson said. "Because I know there are people dissatisfied with Lamont, even Democrats, and that could combine with the general thinking that, maybe if we had somebody else [in office] maybe they'd just bring something else we need."

Petterson, however, believes that sometimes grabbing the young voter's attention is easier said than done, and a fresh candidate alone might not be enough.

"What could keep [younger voters] home is a feeling that none of the [new] candidates are really convincing them that just because they vote for someone different that person will be able to make a change," Petterson said. "People aren't staying home because they are complacent and happy [with life in Connecticut], whether they turn out or not is, are they motivated enough, to take the time [to vote]."

Petterson thinks that Fazio has not immediately grabbed the attention of all young voters yet.



Fazio support sign found in Plainville. Noah Gavin

***PITCH** continued on page 3*

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SCAN HERE FOR OUR LINKS

***AHEAD** continued from front*

Lesser supports universal breakfast in schools believing it is important for supporting a child's education.
"It's hard for a kid to learn if they're hungry," Lesser said. "Hunger is a real issue and it's affecting a lot of families."
Housing costs are another major concern for residents.

Dylan Coxon, a post-baccalaureate Central Connecticut State University student majoring in physical education, said he is no longer able to afford his own home.

"I used to rent a house and it just got too expensive and I had to move back home with my mother," Coxon said.

Coxon works part time as a substitute teacher in Middlebury, and said he has been working more to save money. Although he has not decided who he is voting for, he said he'd like either Lamont or Republican candidate Ryan Fazio to prioritize lowering housing costs.

Lesser said Lamont signed H.B. 8002 in November 2025 to address the state's housing shortage. The law requires municipalities to develop housing-growth plans by June 1, 2028, identifying housing needs and potential development sites.

"We have more to do on housing affordability and we have a housing crisis in the state and we need to do a number of things to strengthen protections for tenants," Lesser said. "We also need to build more housing."

Elijah Fatal of Bridgeport said his monthly rent recently increased from $800 to $1,200. He added that he has not decided who he is voting for and has mixed feelings on Lamont. "I hear some good things about him and I hear some not too good things about him," Fatal said. Electricity costs are another concern for residents. According to data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), Connecticut's average residential electricity price decreased from 27.60 cents per kilowatt-hour in July 2025 to 24.16 cents in July 2026.

The Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) approved a rate adjustment in April 2026 that took effect May 1, 2026, and is scheduled to remain in place through April 2027. It was expected to reduce monthly bills by roughly $30 for Eversource customers and $34 for United Illuminating customers.

Lesser mentioned Connecticut relies heavily on natural gas, which contributes to high electricity costs. He added that Revolution Wind, an offshore wind project in New London operating with 65 turbines, is intended to bring more supply to New England. The project began supplying electricity in March 2026.
Lesser added that President Donald Trump and his administration sought to rescind federal approval for the project in October 2026 and he said it is a huge disservice to Connecticut residents.

"It won't unilaterally solve the problem but it's a piece of the puzzle to reduce our reliance on any one energy generator and I can't understand why the President wants to block us from using a generator that's already available," Lesser said.

Dajeh McCall of New Britain said his electric bill takes up a large portion of his monthly budget.

"I still have to pay my car insurance, my phone bill and my car bill itself," McCall said. "So with electricity going up, my free money that I'm able to use is always dwindling."

McCall added that he doesn't go out to eat that often anymore and is prioritizing what he needs to buy over what he wants.

McCall said he doesn't have an unfavorable opinion of Lamont, but he has not decided who he is voting for. He'd like either candidate to work toward reducing electricity costs.

"He's done a good job, I do think there are some things he could do a little better, for example electricity," McCall said. "I know Ryan Fazio is advocating for that. If one of them can give me a solid way we're going to decrease these costs, they'll get my vote."



from the Official Facebook Page of Ned Lamont

#KizerSays
Nothing is scarier than reality... except for stats class. That's unreal.
JOIN THE RECORDER!



***PITCH** continued from front*

"To get people's attention, particularly young people's attention, you have to have a message that breaks through, that gets you on people's minds, and I don't think Fazio has quite had an issue that has quite done that," Petterson said. "He had to get in late relatively speaking to begin with, and there's a lot that competes with people's attention nowadays."

Petterson thinks that there are new factors in elections that play a factor in Fazio's race against the clock to get his name out.

"When you kick in the fact that in these election cycles we have early voting, you've got a whole situation where I would argue [Fazio] is in a much tougher environment because he's not as well known, running against a two-term incumbent running for his third term, who has had all sorts of visibility, it's hard." Petterson said.

Fazio has had trouble reaching some voters in his short turnaround time to craft a campaign, like CCSU cybersecurity major Kelvin Colon.

"[I haven't seen] anything at all about Ryan Fazio," said Colon. "If [other people] also haven't heard from him, nobody is effectively going to go out and vote for him."

Another Central student, music technology major Jason Lipscomb, has not heard about Fazio but can understand the idea that his unknown name could be an advantage to him.

"If you have people [in Connecticut] who want change, that's something people can look into," said Lipscomb. "They got a new guy here who I assume has a different plan from Lamont, and some people will be looking into that."

Some younger voters have already been drawn into Fazio's pitch for change in Connecticut, like Jeanna DeFusco, 25, from Oakville. "I feel like our taxes and the cost of living is so high right now, so somebody who wants to get one of those two things' [lower] is something I would much rather vote for, versus just somebody who 'aligns with my party'" said DeFusco.

DeFusco said that she trusts Fazio from what she has seen in his campaign ads.

"I'm a big YouTube watcher, and I see him on YouTube a lot as well as [other social medias]," said DeFusco, "To me, he seems like [a candidate] that's actually like, I live here, I actually care, and this is what I'm going to try to do."

Jacob Newton, 26, from Plainville, is voting for Fazio because he believes Ned Lamont's turn in office should be over.

"First and foremost, I don't believe governors should be able to serve more than two terms, I think there needs to be a change there." Newton said.

Newton also has seen Fazio's campaign on social media and is interested in his proposed plans for the state.

"The general direction the state is going [is bringing me to the polls], I've been saving up [to buy a house] for years, and it's very hard to find [one I can afford]," said Newton. "Again, governors shouldn't serve more than two terms, and with [the same officials], [our] government is going to keep going one direction, and that direction is not good."



DID YOU KNOW?

You can visit The Recorder's website, centralrecorder.org, for the latest election updates?

Connecticut's Governor's Race Raises Questions About Accountability in Public Higher Education

by Ny'Asia Martin
Lifestyle Editor

As Connecticut's gubernatorial election approaches, questions about accountability remain a concern following months of leadership turmoil.

Gov. Ned Lamont and Republican candidate Ryan Fazio have different views on how the state should address these concerns. During a recent gubernatorial debate on WFSB, both candidates discussed accountability and the problems within the Connecticut State Colleges and Universities (CSCU) system, which includes Central Connecticut State University.

Lamont defended his approach saying "We hold people accountable, and I have zero tolerance for any type of malfeasance out there."

Fazio, however, argued that Lamont failed to hold state leaders accountable.

"The problems in the CSCU system are precisely because the governor doesn't hold them accountable,"Fazio said.

The disagreement raises questions about the governor's role in overseeing the public college system and what changes may be needed moving forward.

Stephen Adair, head of CCSU'S sociology department, mentioned the problems go beyond individual leaders and may require broader changes.

"This is not just a series of bad apples, but there may be structural matters that need to be changed," Adair said.

The governor appoints nine of the 15 voting members of the CSCU Board of Rents, giving the office a role in the system's oversight. Although the governor does not directly select every university president, Adair mentioned the office still has a responsibility to address continued leadership problems.

He also emphasized the importance of public colleges for Connecticut students, particularly first-generation college students. Adair mentioned roughly 50% of CCSU students are first-generation students.

CSCU has introduced reforms, including a public accountability dashboard intended to track progress and make information about its efforts more accessible. However, questions remain about how the system will address deeper concerns about leadership, oversight and decision making.

For CCSU junior Peter Rosa, transparency is important, especially when decisions affect the student population.

"When it's gonna affect us all, I think it needs to be very transparent," Rosa said.

Rosa pointed to the university's decision to pursue a polytechnic designation as an example of a change he felt students should have been more informed about.

"I thought that was very weird and I think nobody here wanted it to happen," Rosa said. " I think decisions like that affect the student population, I think they need to be very transparent."

Rosa also described difficulties getting support from university departments, including Residence Life and student advising.

"I've just gotten no help in every scenario that I've come to them for," Rosa said, describing his experiences with Residence Life, student advisers and a dean.

As a transfer student who has attended CCSU for two semesters, Rosa mentioned his experiences have affected how he views the university's support for students.

"I do think there's more people here that do care, but I think they need to show it a lot better."

Rosa believes education should remain a priority for state leaders.

"I think education is absolutely something to invest in," Rosa said.

As Lamont and Fazio make their cases to voters, accountability in higher education remains a part of the conversation, Adiar mentioned addressing systems problems require broader discussions about possible structural changes while students like Rosa want greater transparency and support from university leadership.

THIS WEEK'S CAMPUS EVENTS

Pumpkin Palooza
Tuesday 10/27 @ 3:00 PM
Student Center

Halloween Party
Mosaic Member Organizations
Wednesday 10/28 @ 9:00 PM
Semesters Café

107.7 WFCS The Edge
×
The Recorder
Interview with Dr. Kostelis
Wednesday 10/28 @ 3:00 PM
WFCS Studio A

Spooky Boo-llywood Night
South Asian Student Association [SASA]
Wednesday 10/28 @ 9:00 PM
Semesters Café

Devils Den @ 10 PM: Spooky Stuff-A-Pal
Thursday 10/29 @ 10:00 PM
Semesters Café

IT WAS NEVER A PHASE, IT'S WHO I AM!

by Ron Marq
Design and Layout Editor





All photos taken by Ron Marq

Like the highschool student with the jet black oversized side bang wearing ripped black skinny jeans, a studded belt, a choker necklace, and a My Chemical Romance t-shirt all from Hot Topic; Not A Phase Café felt a bit out of place, but on purpose.

Nestled comfortably between two businesses on 1100 Main Street in Newington, owner Kim Parker said that the opportunity fell into their lap with no prior plans, though her husband Jared Linn worked at the very same location under a different name, The Toasted Oat.

"We thought it was a good idea to open something here," said Parker. "We liked the concept of a hip place here."

Not A Phase Café is an emo-themed restaurant with immaculate vibes, angsty aesthetics, and great food. "It's 'just down the street' so I'm actually surprised we don't see more students." explained Parker. "We have later hours since they got rid of the Starbucks in the town center, so we decided to open through Sunday until 7 PM". The free U-Pass for students - offered in the Card Office - and the CTFastrak bus system can bring you there in around twenty minutes from campus, but that friend with a car can jet you over there in about seven minutes.

The name of the café is a play on the common phrase of coming-of-age adolescents discovering themselves. Not only does it apply to aesthetics but also to sexuality, which is integral to their business model since they're all about inclusivity. While their place in Newington may seem odd on purpose, Not A Phase did not come without huge local support. On Sept. 12, 2025, one year after they opened, they held an anniversary flea market that will now be annual.

Newington-based tattoo and mural artist Kevin Boudreau has works featured all over the place! He's responsible for the colorful caffeinated critters adorned on the walls, as well as many other local artists. They are on the constant search for local artists to promote around the holiday season and beyond. This restaurant acts as a bastion for the former and current scene kids, as well as the punk rockers, goths, and oddballs. Alongside their spooky services, they also regularly team up Live Nation for ticket giveaways to touring rock acts that may be celebrating an album anniversary, like Taking Back Sunday and Pierce The Veil.

Midnight releases of various dark and macabre books have also been celebrated at Not A Phase including an upcoming one, appropriately on Black Friday. They will throw a Twilight themed party at the café on Friday, November 6th. Looks aside, this is truly a passion project of both Kim and Jared who have poured everything into this restaurant and thankfully had an existing 'skeleton' to build off of.



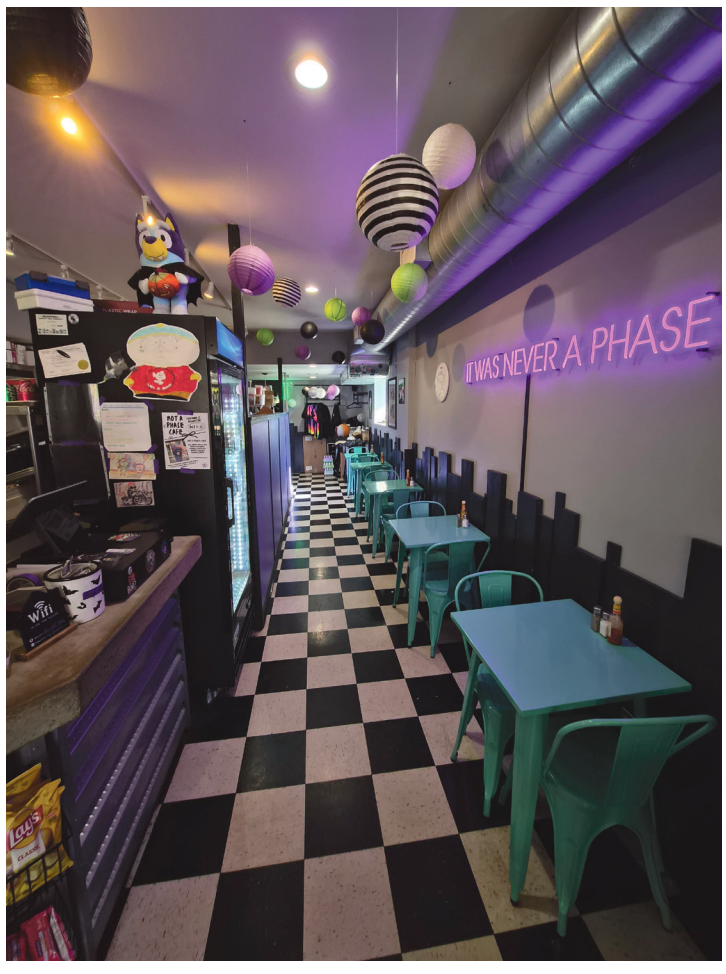
They are closed on Mondays, but open from 6 A.M. to 2 P.M. on Tuesdays and Wednesdays as well as from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. on Thursdays.

Selections include all-day breakfast and lunch, as well as lattes, matcha, chai, sodas, baked goods, energy drinks, and snacks. They offer an incredible selection of flavored syrups, café clothing, and even have plant-based, sugar-free, gluten free options, and even treats for dogs!

I tried their vegan avocado BLT that was absolutely sublime. Know that the weekends there can be rather busy, though they are currently looking to hire! Students are welcome to apply, they are on the lookout for seasoned chefs with kitchen experience as well as baristas with no experience.

There are plans for expansion, including a coffee truck and more! Specialty venues like these are usually found in more popular locations like NYC or Boston, so it's a welcome difference to have a place like this in our state. Some may call it cringe, but others call it freedom.





How Gerald Ford's Pardon of Richard Nixon Shaped His Presidency

by Liam McCusker
News 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.

More than five decades later, President Gerald Ford's decision to pardon his predecessor Richard Nixion remains one of the most controversial topics in the history of the United States.

Nixon became the only president in history to ever resign from office after it was discovered that he had engaged in the Watergate Scandal, where five people on his campaign team broke into the democratic headquarters and planted listening devices in order to spy on their opposing team in the 1972 presidential election.

Ford addressed the nation shortly after in September 1974 announcing the pardoning of Nixon and acknowledging that Nixon's prosecution would take many years and that it would put the country through a "national nightmare" and wanted the country to begin healing as noted by The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

The United States had also undergone nearly a decade of fighting in the Vietnam War with approximately 58,000 lives lost in the conflict and a chaotic withdrawal of American forces when communist North Vietnamese troops captured Saigon, the capital of the democratic South Vietnam with citizens attempting to grab onto departing American helicopters, and many Americans were still outraged over the pain that this war had put on the nation.

This decision, however, did not win favorable support from the majority of the American people and officials in Congress.

As noted by the New York Times in an article published shortly after the pardon, many lawmakers believed that Ford had made the decision to pardon Nixon without allowing the full legal process to be conducted and without letting the American people know the true length of Nixon's involvement in the scandal.



Former Vice President Gerald Ford, left, shakes hands with former President Richard Nixon in Washington, D.C., in December 1973. Ford, who said he sought to heal America after the trauma of the Watergate scandal that forced Richard Nixon from office in 1974, died December 26. He was 93. Getty Images

Ford also received many letters and messages immediately after he announced the pardon, as noted by Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library & Museum website, many argued that this pardon continued to cover up the Watergate scandal.

Some might also argue that Ford set a precedent that elected officials are not held accountable for their actions, an argument that resurfaced when President Donald Trump faced similar legal challenges in 2023 and was later dismissed on all charges.

It could also be argued that pardoning Nixon cost Ford his reelection in the 1976 presidential election.

Gallup polls taken in August 1974 shortly after Ford took office found him with an approval rating of 71%. One month later, after issuing the pardon of Nixon, Ford's approval rating dropped to 42% and did not rise higher than 53% for the remainder of his presidency.

Ford narrowly secured the Republican nomination for president in 1976, only receiving 117 more votes than former California Gov. Ronald Reagan, and was later defeated by Democratic candidate Jimmy Carter who won 297 electoral votes and 50.1% of the popular vote, compared to Ford who received 240 electoral votes and 48% of the popular vote, according to the National Archives.

As a result, Ford became the only president in American history who was never elected.

There is ultimately no straightforward answer regarding whether Ford made the right or wrong decision in pardoning Nixon. While it was done with good intentions to begin the process of healing the nation, there are valid arguments that it sent a bad message to the American people that politicians, particularly those in the top office are not subject to the same consequences for their actions as the common citizen. It is a debate that will likely continue for many decades.

AT CENTRALRECORDER AT THERECORDER

CCSU Swimming And Diving Breaks School Record, Falls To New Hampshire In Season Opener

by Cody Dzis
Contributor



Addison Kenney won a pair of individual events and swam the anchor leg on the record-setting relay Thursday night. Steve McLaughlin

The 200-yard freestyle relay team of Grace Young, Zariah Townsend and Lauryn Cowing and Addison Kenney broke the CCSU Connecticut State swimming and diving team's program record with a 1:37.06 time in a 202-149 2-day meet loss to New Hampshire on Thursday and Friday. The original record, set back in 2020, was broken by .36 seconds. The same team of Young, Townsend, Cowing and Kenney also won the 200 medley relay (1:47.64), and a similar team that saw Sophie Milhomens instead of Townsend won the 400 freestyle relay (3:32.13). Kenney and Milhomens were also double winners in individual events. Kenney won the 100 backstroke (56.46) and the 200 individual medley (2:08.58), and Milhomens won the 200 freestyle (1:56.87) and the 200 backstroke (2:04.31). For New Hampshire, Anna Mikish won the 100 and 200 breaststrokes (1:07.02, 2:24.43) and was part of the winning 400 medley relay team with Kelsey Mayers, Grace Mahon and Teagen Jeffers (3:56.36). Mahon also won both the 200 and 100 butterfly (2:05.54, 55.78). The Blue Devils next hit the pool in a 2-day tri-meet against Wagner and Southern Connecticut State starting on Friday, Oct. 30 at 4 P.M. and finishing on Saturday, Oct. 31 at 11:30 A.M.

NEW HAMPSHIRE 202, CCSU 149 (at Suydam Natatorium in New Britain)

200 Medley Relay: CCSU (Grace Young, Zariah Townsend, Lauryn Cowing, Addison Kenney) 1:37.06;

200 Freestyle: Sophie Milhomens (CCSU) 1:56.87;

100 Backstroke: Addison Kenney (CCSU) 56.46;

100 Breaststroke: Anna Mikish (UNH) 1:07.02;

200 Butterfly: Grace Mahon (UNH) 2:05.54;

3-Meter Diving: Grace Blume (UNH) 273.83;

50 Freestyle: Grace Young (CCSU) 24.32;

200 IM: Sophie Milhomens (CCSU) 2:04.31;

1000 Freestyle: Clara Ginnis (UNH) 10:31.82;

400 Medley Relay: New Hampshire (Kelsey Mayers, Anna Mikish, Grace Mahon, Teagen Jeffers) 3:56.36;

1-Meter Diving: Grace Blume (UNH) 267.83;

400 IM: Sydney Leblic Garcia (UNH) 4:32.34;

100 Freestyle: Grace Young (CCSU) 52.34;

200 Backstroke: Sophie Milhomens (CCSU) 2:04.31;

100 Butterfly: Grace Mahon (UNH) 55.78;

500 Freestyle: Marisa White (UNH) 5:07.83;

200 Breaststroke: Anna Mikish (UNH) 2:24.43;

400 Freestyle Relay: CCSU (Grace Young, Sophie Milhomens, Lauryn Cowing, Addison Kenney) 3:32.13.

Records: New Hampshire 1-0, CCSU 0-1.



CCSU Men's Soccer Wins Big On Senior Day

by Dylan Romagnoli
Contributor

Central's Men's soccer team won 7-0 against Chicago State on Sunday. The Blue Devils recognized a group of 10 seniors prior to the contest.
Steve McLaughlin

The Central Connecticut State University men's soccer team erupted on their senior day, scoring a season-high seven goals in a shutout win over Chicago State on Sunday afternoon.

With the win, the Blue Devils improved to 6-7-1 in the season and 4-1-1 in conference play.

Central celebrated their seniors pregame and kept the celebration going throughout the game. Five of their seven goals were scored by seniors behind Ben-Martin Wilkinson's two goals, followed by Trevor Rau, Caden Gallagher and Colin Wright each with one.

"There are a few who have been in the program for four years and a few who have transferred in, but either way they've all been great additions to the program," head coach David Kelly said. "Everybody contributes and as we saw today, even when we go to the bench, we have a deep squad and guys that can do business on the field."

Other goal scorers included sophomore Santiago Marin Gutierrez and junior Antony Recinos.

The Blue Devils started the game with a bang, as sophomore Santiago Marin Gutierrez bent a shot into the top right corner for a goal in just the third minute of the game.

Central was relentless in the first half, keeping the pressure on Chicago State throughout, scoring five goals on 15 shots.

"It was huge, to get the first goal as early as we did," Kelly said. "It set the tone for the rest of the first half, I'm sure it was a huge blow mentally to Chicago State and they just weren't able to recover."

After taking the lead, Rau scored his goal on an assist from Gallagher in the 13th minute, and four minutes later the roles were reversed when Gallagher scored off a Rau assist to extend the lead to 3-0 at the 17th minute.

"We saw this game as a big opportunity with where we are in the season," Rau said. "We had a great week of practice, and the boys came out buzzing. I think we all wanted to score and get this result; I think that's exactly what we did."

Junior midfielder Anthony Recinos scored his goal in the 24th minute assisted by Gutierrez, then assisted Wilkinson's first of his two goals three minutes later to go up 5-0 before halftime.

The two second half goals scored by the Blue Devils were from Wilkinson (Herman Toftevaag assist) and Wright (Gallagher assist) en route to the 7-0 shutout win.

The Blue Devils now have only two games left of conference play. Their next game is at Fairleigh Dickinson University on Thursday, Oct. 29 at 6 p.m.

Highlights:
Goals: Central - Ben-Martin Wilkinson 2, Trevor Rau 1, Colin Wright 1, Santiago Marin Gutierrez 1, Caden Gallagher 1, Antony Recinos 1.

Assists: Central - Caden Gallagher 2, Antony Recinos 1, Santiago Marin Gutierrez 1, Trevor Rau 1, Herman Toftevag 1.

Saves: Central - Grady Wilson 3; Chicago State - Jabulile Mooketsi 7.

Records: Central 6-7-1 (4-1-1 NEC), Chicago State 0-13-1 (0-5-1 NEC).

CENTRAL VS CHICAGO STATE @ CCSU SOCCER FIELD IN NEW BRITAIN

- 2nd	1	2	T
Chicago State (0-13-1, 0-5-1)	0	0	**0**
CCSU (6-7-1, 4-1-1)	5	2	**7**

Davon Smith, Jr. Named to Jerry Rice Award Watch List



by Eary Banushi
Social Media Editor

Central running back Davon Smith, Jr. was named to the 2026 Stats Perform Jerry Rice Award Watch List on Wednesday morning, putting him in contention for the top rookie in FCS football.

Through six games, Smith leads the Northeast Conference and ranks 24th nationally with 588 rushing yards. He sits 12th in the FCS with 98.0 yards per game (third among all rookies) and ranks fourth in the country with 7.35 yards per carry, the top mark among FCS freshmen. His production was highlighted by a 220-yard, two-touchdown performance against American International College, where he averaged 16.9 yards on 13 carries and scored on an 85-yard touchdown run. Combined with a 92-yard rushing effort against top-ranked Montana State and a 162-yard game at Mercyhurst, Smith has collected four NEC Rookie of the Week awards.

The inclusion follows an explosive rise for the Baltimore native, who appeared in four games last season and ran for 43 yards on 12 carries to keep his redshirt status. A former dual-threat quarterback who totaled more than 8,500 yards and state accolades at Mervo High School, Smith stepped into the primary backfield role and became the focal point of the Blue Devils' offense this fall.

The Jerry Rice Award is presented after the regular season by a national media panel to select the top rookie in FCS football, with past winners including current NFL stars Cooper Kupp, Cam Ward and Shedeur Sanders among its past winners.

Powered by Smith's production, Central carries a three-game winning streak and an unbeaten conference record into Saturday's home matchup against New Haven at Arute Field.

Blue Devils Continue Dominant Offensive Stretch to Win Fourth Straight Against New Haven

by Noah Gavin
Managing Editor

The CCSU Blue Devils football team scored 42 points in Saturday's game against the New Haven University Chargers, who were held to just 20 points, to win their fourth straight game. This four game stretch of over 40-point games is the first time this has happened in program history, as the red-hot Blue Devil offense keeps rolling through conference play, now 3-0 in NEC standings. The Central offense put up impressive numbers throughout the game, averaging 6.4 yards a play from their 153 total rushing yards on the day.

The Blue Devils set the tone early, covering 65 yards in just over the first three minutes of play to score a touchdown, ran in by quarterback Brett Griffis. The Chargers were only able to respond with a field goal their first drive, making the score 7-3 in favor of Central. Both teams traded punts for their next drives, and the first quarter ended on a Charger field goal drive from a fumble by Central running back Davon Smith Jr., recovered by New Haven's Tyler Hammel. The Blue Devils' first drive of the second quarter ended in a 52-yard field goal attempt by Jack Hennessey, that would've set a program record, but the kick was no good.

However, after forcing another punt the following drive by New Haven that was blocked by Central's Gabriel Wiggins, Central would have to go just 42 yards to get another touchdown, run in by Smith Jr. This drive was mostly helped by a 36-yard pass to wide receiver Michael Trovarelli, who would end the day with 78 receiving yards. The score would be 14-6, Central.

Continuing to hold strong on third downs, CCSU's defense then got yet another punt out of the Chargers, and the Central offense would go 80 yards to find the end zone again and make the score 21-6, Blue Devils. This drive was capped by Smith Jr.'s second rushing touchdown of the day, ending the first half. Smith Jr. also rushed for 16 yards on this drive, on his way to rushing for a total of 80 yards in the game.
New Haven received the ball to start the second half and would go 71 yards down field just for Central's Carter Banks to block a 36-yard field goal attempt by New Haven kicker Liam Quigley.

Central then immediately went 76 yards down the field to score their fourth touchdown of the game, on a short pass to the Blue Devils' Isaac Stopke, extending the lead to 28-6. During this drive. Griffis threw a deep 46-yard pass to Donovan Wadley to clear major yardage en route to the end zone. The next drive by New Haven found the end zone for the first time for the Chargers in the afternoon, with Charger quarterback Jake Tripptree connecting with wide receiver D'Arious Reed. New Haven would then fail a two-point conversion attempt, leaving the score at 28-12 in favor of Central. Following this drive, the Blue Devils would next punt but get the ball back on a recovery by defensive back Chris Jean on a muffed punt by the Chargers' LaSalle Rose Jr.

However, Griffis would give the ball right back to New Haven on an interception to the Chargers' Lucas Theriaque. But then, as the Chargers were coming back down the field, Carter Banks would make his second great defensive play of the game, strip sacking Tripptree and recovering the fumble for Central to take right back over again at New Haven's 22. Griffis then threw a 22-yard touchdown pass to WR Dave Pardo, to make the score 35-12 Central.

New Haven opened the fourth quarter on a touchdown drive to bring the score to 35-20 but would not have much else going. Central would score another touchdown in-between a forced punt for New Haven and a game ending interception by Tripptree caught by Central linebacker Malachi Mapp.

Blue Devils head coach Adam Lechtenberg has been enjoying how his team has been playing. "We have a really young football team, and I'm most proud of is we continue to get better as the season goes on," Lechtenberg said. "We've been able to respond [well] each week to adversity, when things don't go our way, we bounce back."

Lechtenberg knows that big defensive plays, like the ones Banks came up with, are key to winning games.

"When you force turnovers, when you force negative plays [out of the other team], you have a good chance to win the game and we did that today," Lechtenberg said. "Proud of how [the team] continue to play their butts off and I'm proud of their effort."



The Blue Devils played against The New Haven Chargers on Saturday. Steve McLaughlin

The New Haven Chargers played Central for the first time since 1992, as New Haven University just joined the NEC Conference in Division I football this past offseason. Coach Lechtenberg was happy to come out in the first match with a win, and looks forward to future in-state match ups.

"It's going to be an important game [every year] for both programs."

Linebacker TJ Shittu said that the team executed their preparation very well. "We had to come into today with a lot of physicality, and a lot of attention to detail," Shittu said. "[I trusted] the guy next to me and I trust his steps and knew he was going to do what he was supposed to do." Shittu said. The Blue Devils will host the Robert Morris Colonials for a Halloween match-up at Arute Field on Saturday, October 31 hoping to keep the win streak rolling.

WEEKLY SCOREBOARD

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23

CENTRAL CROSS COUNTRY
Mini-Meet (Men's 4th overall, Women's 2nd overall)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
(CENTRAL 3, Mercyhurst 1)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24

FOOTBALL
(CENTRAL 42, New Haven 20)

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
(CENTRAL 3, Mercyhurst 1)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25

WOMEN'S SOCCER
(CENTRAL 1, Le Moyne 0)

MEN'S SOCCER
(CENTRAL 7, Chicago State 0)

CENTRAL ATHLETIC SCHEDULE

MEN'S SOCCER
10/29 • 6:00 PM • @ FDU

WOMEN'S SWIMMING & DIVING
10/30 • 4:00 PM
10/31 • 11:30 AM

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL
10/30 • 6:00 PM • @ LIU
10/31 • 1:00 PM • @ LIU

FOOTBALL
10/31 • 12:00 PM • vs Robert Morris

WOMEN'S SOCCER
11/1 • 2:00 PM • vs Stonehill

CROSS COUNTRY
10/31 • Cross Country NEC Championships

MEN'S BASKETBALL
11/2 • TBA • @ Temple

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
11/3 • 6:00 PM • @ VCU