

The Recorder

April 3, 2025

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TechCentral Lab Moves to Elihu Burritt Library

By Jameson Lynch
Staff Writer

Silence and signs litter the once busy TechCentral computer lab in the Marcus White building as it moved last month.

Now moved to the Elihu

Burritt Library on the third floor, some people on campus said they were disappointed with the change.

Signs posted around campus and on the front door of Marcus White said the computer lab is now integrated in

the same areas as the “learning commons.”

Tech Central employee Kage Harrison said the move was made in an effort to condense all the services into one spot on campus.

“We are trying to centralize

everything because, when someone comes to study where do you go?” he said. “You go to the library.”

Some said the transition left “a bad taste” despite the attempt to centralize and condense.

CCSU student Michael Nohmy said the new location is inconvenient for him and others around the school

“It was convenient and now students have to walk across campus to go to Tech Central.”
See *TechCentral* on Page 3

Central’s Black Student Union Gives Glitz and Glam



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

By Elijah Hernandez
Staff Writer

An emphatic celebration of Central’s elegant students was held during the Black Student Union’s annual Black Gala in the Student Center’s Alumni Hall on March 7.

The theme of royalty led to students coming dressed in regalia worthy of their crowns and tiaras. Many were in dresses that eloquently twinkled when the camera flash danced across their gowns. Others had opted to

drape their trench coats over their jewelry and ties.

However, while the glitz and glam of the event is appealing on the surface, the cultural and ethnic implications speak to a larger issue.

Aaliyah Brown, President of BSU, said there is great importance to hosting events like the Black Gala.

“When your voice has been suppressed for so long, it’s extremely valuable to feel heard,” Brown said. “I think the Black representation on campus is getting better, but we still have a long way to

go.”

The Black Gala was held as the culminating event for Black History Month on campus. Brown said that this year it saw a different tone of importance at Central.

“Black History Month could’ve seen a lot more support to uplift the Black community on campus,” Brown said.

Claude Mann, a campus employee, said the significance of the month is seemingly being downplayed on a national level.

“I wish this country would

Jones, Momoh and Sellers win major NEC awards after historic regular season

By Marcus Saunders
Sports Editor

Guard Jordan Jones, forward Abdul Momoh and Head Coach Patrick Sellers of the Central Connecticut State men’s basketball team all won major Northeast Conference awards on Tuesday. Jones won Player of the Year, Momoh was named Defensive Player of the Year and Sellers was named Jim Phelan Coach of the Year. Junior guard Devin Haid and freshman guard Darin Smith Jr. were also recognized.

Jones became the sixth player in program history to win Player of the Year and the first since Ken Horton in the 2010-11 season. He averaged 14.4 points, 3.3 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game this season, while shooting 47.1% from the field and 36% from 3-point range. Jones upped his scoring in conference play to 16.3 points per game and shot 54% from the field and 43.5% from beyond the arc. With his performances this season, Jones was also named to the All-NEC First Team.

Momoh also made history on Tuesday, becoming the

first Blue Devil to be named Defensive Player of the Year since Tristan Blackwood back in 2007-08. Momoh, who was also named to the All-NEC Third Team, averaged nine points, six rebounds and a league-leading 1.6 blocks per game this season. His contributions helped the Blue Devils become one of the best defensive teams in the league, ranking first in the NEC in blocks per game, second in scoring defense, second in field goal percentage defense and second in rebounding defense.

After leading the Blue Devils to back-to-back regular season championships, Sellers won his second straight Coach of the Year award, becoming the sixth coach in NEC history to win the award in back-to-back seasons. This year, Central improved its win total by four games, finishing the year with a 23-6 overall record and a 14-2 record in conference play. The Blue Devils also led the league with a +9.7-scoring margin and currently hold the nation’s longest active win streak at 12 games.

Haid and Smith Jr. were also honored on Tuesday.

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About

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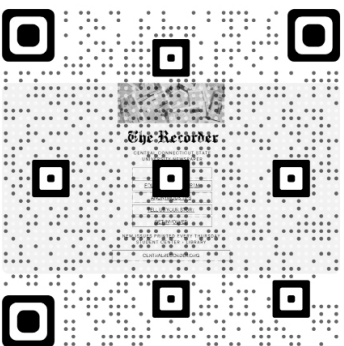
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SCAN FOR OUR LINKS

Divide Over Transgender Athletes in Connecticut Contact Sports Sparks Heated Debate Among Young Athletes

By Mariangelie Ramirez
Staff Writer

The ongoing debate surrounding the participation of transgender athletes in contact sports has ignited heated discussions among many aspiring young athletes in New Britain. Many are left grappling with issues of fairness, safety, and inclusiveness as school and government policies continue to evolve.

Aliyah Hernandez, 19, is a New Britain athlete who has participated in football and wrestling for the New Britain High School Hurricanes. Hernandez said she believes it's easier for women to achieve a male physique than for men to achieve a feminine physique, complicating participation for male-to-female transgender athletes in women's sports.

"If they try to take my

weight class, I would be upset because men are already stronger than women... it's like an addition to their already made genetic makeup," Hernandez said.

Hernandez said the rules and regulations for transgender athletes are fair and justifiable. But Hernandez said that, as a female athlete who has played alongside men, she would be upset if a transgender athlete was overshadowing her in her wrestling weight class.

James Jones, a 17-year-old Meriden resident also said he doesn't agree with transgender athletes being allowed to play in these types of sports.

"I don't know why they are allowed to play because they clearly have an advantage" Jones said.

Jones was a member at the Jitsu Academy for nine years

and said that these athletes have an unfair hormonal advantage. He also said that this advantage should be reason enough to not allow them in the sports.

There is also a lot of debate within the national organizations like the CIAC that says athletes can compete based on their gender identity, while the NCAA says that transgender athletes assigned male at birth may only compete on men's teams.

New Britain resident Jorge Luis Aponte said that these athletes should have their own league with separate rules and regulations. He had participated in NBHS's football team and now volunteers to coach the junior team.

Aponte said he had first-hand experience in seeing the sports become brutal and that male-to-female athletes pro-

vides an unfair advantage. "Competing in a women's [team], even though you're genetically going to dominate, is not fair at all," he said.

Cameron Dash, 18, said that he agreed with transgender athletes having their own league, saying that it would provide them with the ability to still participate in the sport.

While Connecticut law prohibits discrimination based on gender identity and emphasizes inclusion and protection for transgender athletes, the division amount some people continues. This is especially seen on a federal level as President Donald Trump banned transgender athletes in female sports.

As the debate persists, some Connecticut residents find themselves in conversation about today's athletic landscape.

Communism Community Grows on Campus



BUILD THE PARTY OF THE
**REVOLUTIONARY
COMMUNISTS OF
AMERICA**

**JOIN THE
COMMUNISTS!**

LET'S BUILD

By Maria Sevilla Sola
News Editor

The numbers of communists in the United States have been rising and has been making its way onto campus.

Eric Goodman, an advocate for the Revolutionary Communist of America, said he came to the school to talk to students about the new socialist party. He said that the capitalist system adopted by the United States overproduces goods but doesn't give back since it is not profitable.

"Communism basically means an economy that works for people and not for profit," Goodman said.

He said that Communism, to

him, adopts a democratic rationale that works to empower people to live without needing capitalist powers.

A study done by Jason Clemens and Steven Globberman, journalists at the Daily Caller and co-leaders of the 'Realities of Socialism' project, showed more people have started to agree with socialism in the U.S.

"The total agreement (strongly agree and agree) that socialism is the ideal economic system amongst the 18-34 cohort ranged from 43% in the United States to 53% in the United Kingdom," they reported.

Christopher Roth, a Busi-

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Have a story that needs to be told?
Tips or ledes that should be investigated?
Email us at editor@centralrecorder.org
or fill out the contact form on our website
centralrecorder.org



Communism

ness Major on campus, said that he does support communism and would consider himself a “big capitalist guy.”

He said that, although there are good aspects to these forms of society, he does not see it working long-term and finds there to be bigger issues arising.

“I think there’s aspects of it that are not realistic,” he said. “I know in communism everyone is equal, everyone is a comrade, everyone is on level terms.”

He said that this type of society is not possible and that there is always someone on top.

“The reality of it is, no matter what society you have, someone will always be on

top and someone will always be on the bottom,” Roth said.

He said that the biggest flaw is that, in any type of societal system, people will always take advantages and try to be at the top. He said a communist society is not achievable.

While some disagree, Sociology Professor, John O’Connor, said he leans more toward a socialist society and said people would benefit from learning a different point of view.

He said that a socialist society would look at the Marxist Theory and that it is the most sophisticated theory society has.

“Marxism is really about the critique of capitalism and also forces us to think about what

a non-capitalist future might look like,” he said.

O’Connor said he supports left-wing causes and is happy to see people like the RCA on campus. He said groups like this cause people to think about different questions and other perspectives.

“Whether we agree or disagree with those things, that’s for people to ultimately decide,” he said. “But I think that any organization that puts forward different ideas from the status quo, from the mainstream, should be celebrated.”

O’Connor said that it is important to learn about capitalism in society and think critically about communism in other countries. He said communism is something that should be explored because

history isn’t black and white, and he emphasized that people should do an in-depth reading on their own.

TechCentral

tral,” he said.

Nohmy said he favored the location in Marcus White because it was easier to access from areas on campus such as Willard DiLoretto Hall and others down the hill.

Kim Towler, a regular at Tech Central, also said she was frustrated that the location is now inconvenient for her.

“I’m handicapped,” she said. “I don’t need to be walking through the stacks!”

Towler said she was working on stories and the move to the commons has left Tech Central difficult and inaccessible for her.

“Not everything is easily accessible in the stacks,” she said.

While some are frustrated, Harrison said that the services remain the same such as laptop loans, IT support and others.

It is open Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LIFESTYLE

“Sunrise on the Reaping”: A New Look at Panem

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

“Sunrise on the Reaping,” by Suzanne Collins, the newest book in “The Hunger Games” series, gives readers a different perspective on the story of Haymitch Abernathy, a former victor of the Hunger Games and series’ protagonist Katniss Everdeen’s mentor. While the second book, “Catching Fire,” gave us the basics of what Haymitch’s experience was, “Sunrise on

the Reaping” offers a more in-depth look at the past of Panem and criticism of its politics.

Just like in the other prequel novel, “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes,” this book comes with a selection of quotes that inform the themes. Included are ones from George Orwell and William Blake relating to propaganda and two from David Hume exploring the notions of in-

ductive reasoning and implicit submission. Each of these ideas features prominently in the plot and inform every character and plot action.

The dramatic irony of the situation is what really makes this book work, in a similar vein to “The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.” We the readers know how this will end up, and it’s going to be a tragedy. But the precise mystery of the “how” and “why”

do a great job of keeping you hanging on every word.

The exploration of the use of propaganda by the Capitol takes on a new context in this book. Propaganda has always been a part of the series from book one. The Hungers Games are explicitly a show of the Capitol’s power to demonstrate the futility of resistance from the Districts. “Mockingjay” saw characters on both sides of the war

making and using propaganda to rally support from Panem’s citizens. But “Sunrise on the Reaping” explores even more of the deliberate ways government propaganda is used to misinform people to maintain the status quo. Even if you know the actual truth, what can you do with it in the face of a world unable and unwilling to look beyond the veneer they’re presented with? What ultimately becomes the truth

Gala

take Black History Month a little more seriously,” Mann said. “I mean it’s the shortest month of the year.”

A campus announcement showing support for the month included a link to the United States’ Official Proclamation on National Black History Month. But when you click it, an error pops up.

Brown said instances like these don’t stop her from being proud of who she is.

“It’s empowering to know where you’re from,” Brown said. “There are different ways to show support, but they’re just vessels that you can use to express yourself.”

Through turbulent times of stress and uncertainty,

the Black

Gala was a night when students could let go of those worries.

“Planning an event is always stressful and we had an extremely small budget, but we just had to condense some things, and I think it was a success,” Brown said. “This event was a night of relief and royalty where Black students could come and be Black.”



Photo by Elijah Hernandez

Panem

and what do you do with it? Everything that happens can be manipulated and used for Capitol propaganda, no matter what the tributes do. Nowhere is this clearer when Haymitch himself realizes, “I am trapped into doing [President Snow’s] bidding in the Hunger Games, the best propaganda the Capitol has.”

In a way, this book also uses the concept of “panem et circenses,” or bread and circuses. First brought up in “Mockingjay” to explain the rationale behind how the Capitol operates, the Latin phrase attributed to Juvenal has ties to the theming of the book. The people in this world only get their bread and circuses when they implicitly submit. And when they reject submission, they lose access and are thus punished and propagandized to serve as a warning. When you’re faced with a decision, knowing what could happen to you, the possible choices are staggering. And even when you don’t submit, what do you do next when your choice is rendered moot by propaganda?

There’s an interesting usage of younger versions of several

side characters in this book. Aside from Haymitch, we see President Snow, previous Hunger Games victors that featured in “Catching Fire,” future Gamemaker Plutarch Heavensbee, Effie Trinket, the Covey and even Katniss’s parents. It does feel like a bit of an indulgence to see some these characters again, but they all have vital roles in shaping the plot and how Haymitch acts within the 50th Hunger Games. They all lay down foundations of future events we see come to pass in original trilogy.

The infectious glamour of the Capitol once again makes an appearance. It’s dazzling to behold, just like in the first book, making it easy to forget or even ignore the truth of the circumstances the characters are in. From the growing opulence of the Capitol, to the spectacle it’s made out to be, you get suckered in to being a passive watcher, accepting the tributes being in a literal life-and-death scenario because it’s so fabulous. Even we the readers are not immune to the Capitol’s bread and circuses.

The repeated mention of the sun rising on the reaping and whether characters can prevent

it from coming to pass did come across as trite the more it was mentioned. With each subsequent use, it felt less and less like a realistic thing someone would say. It began to feel like the narrative was hitting you over the head with one of the featured Hume quotes and just a reference to the book’s title. Despite this annoyance, it still seems to be an unattainable idea to a jaded Haymitch when we the readers know that it is inevitable, again playing into the dramatic irony central to this prequel novel.

“Sunrise on the Reaping,” much like its predecessors, gives readers a lot to think about while exploring more of this dangerous yet alluring world. The series has always sought to criticism totalitarian governments and what part we as average citizens can play in their rule. Collins’ writing style remains sharp as ever, bringing out the humanity and depravity of the story’s events. It’s a great read for anyone, and best experienced with your brain turned on.

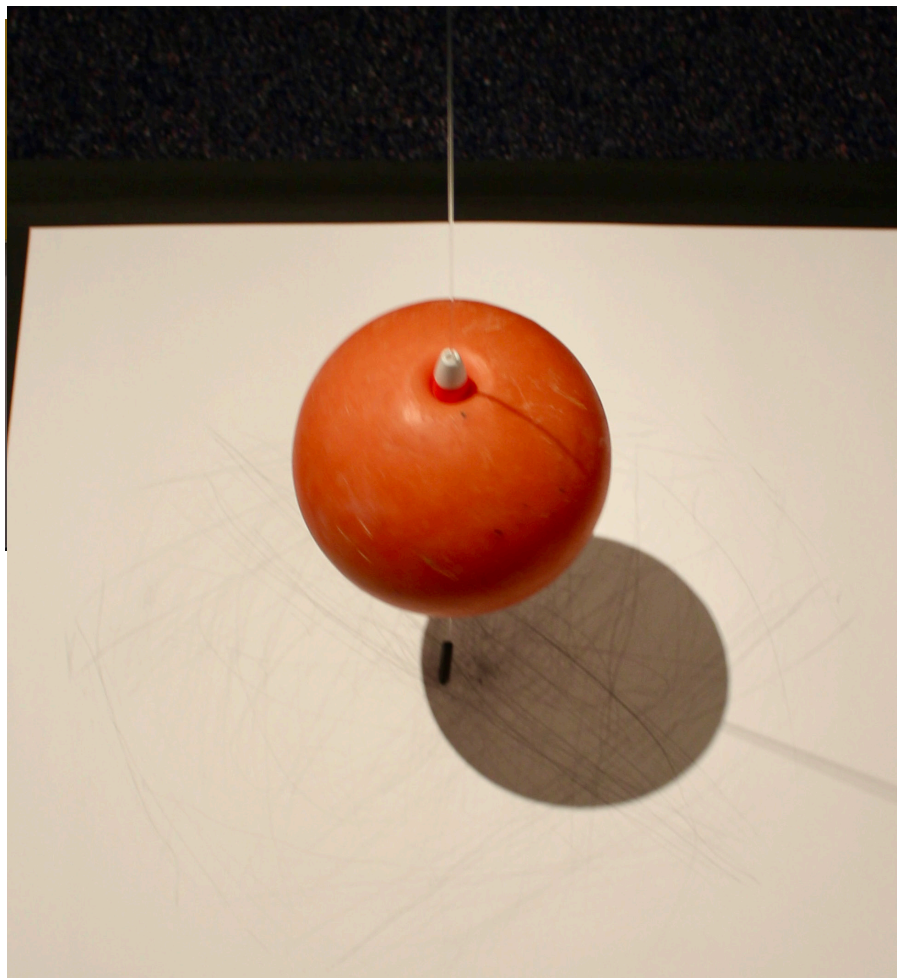
Lionsgate is currently producing a film adaptation of the book, set to be released Nov. 20, 2026.

APRIL Campus Events

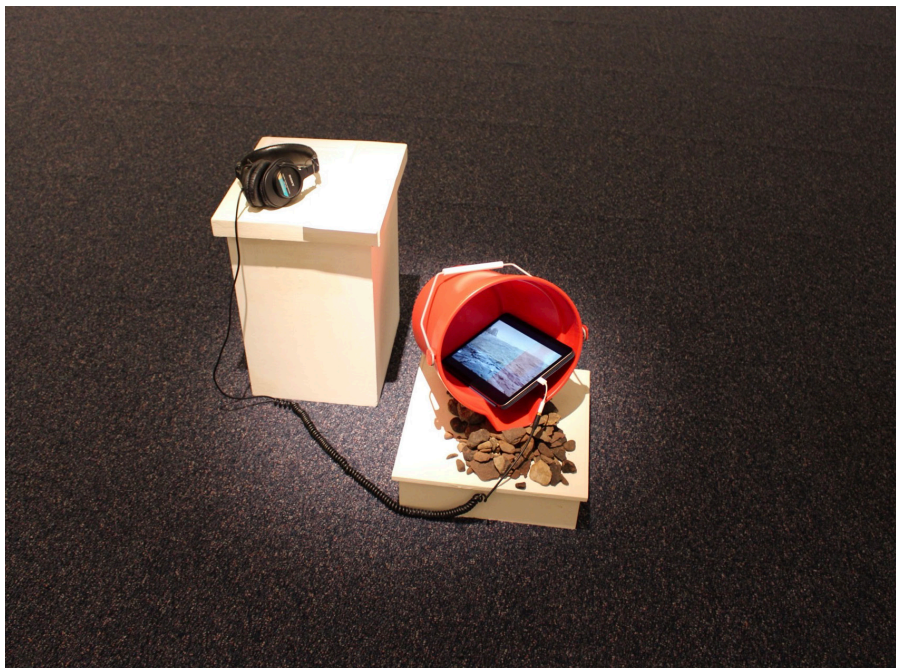
Modern day, Gatsby, Apr. 4, 5:00 pm
Welte Auditorium

Pub-Style Trivia, Apr. 5, 8:30 pm
Student Center

Mindfulness Practice Sessions, Apr. 10, 1:00 - 2:00 pm



Interactive Buoy pendulum in reference to Earth's rotation Photo by Jayden Klaus



Audiovisual installation of the Arctic Environment Photo by Jayden Klaus

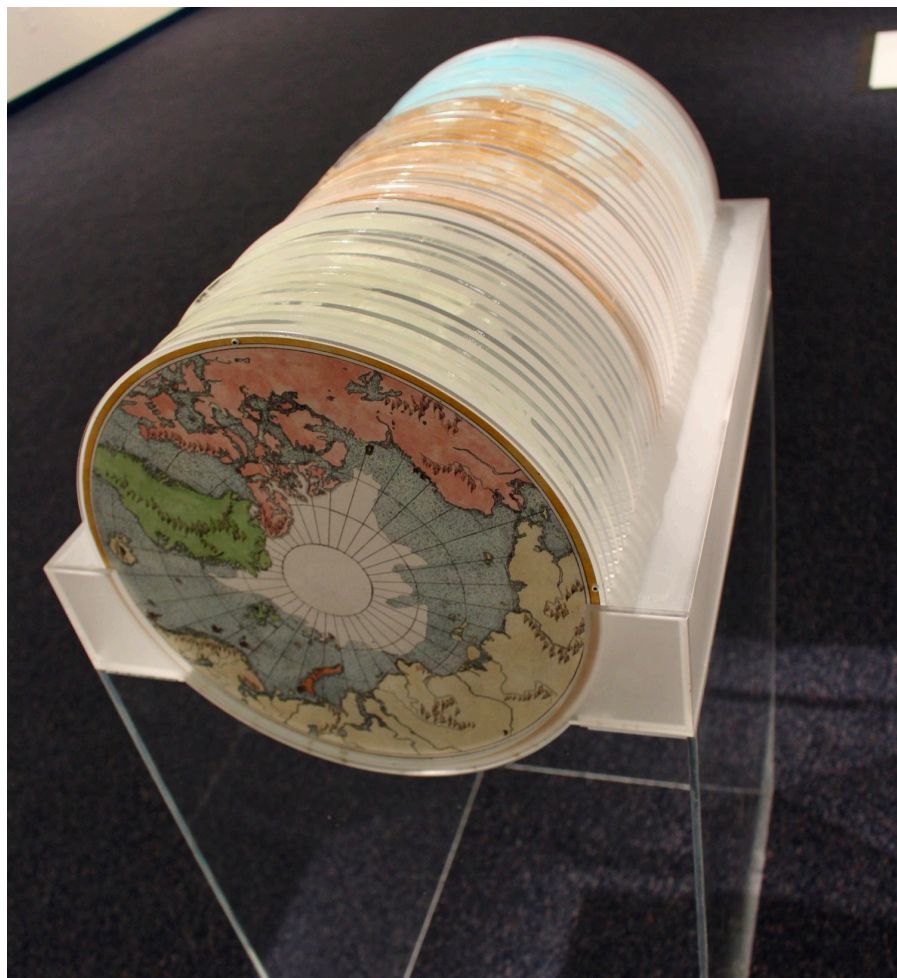


Photo by Jayden Klaus



Oil paintings of candles by windswept sea

Photo by Jayden Klaus

Highlighting Arctic Climate Change Through Art

By Jayden Klaus
Lifestyle Editor

Central's second art exhibition of the 2025 spring semester explores the effects of climate change on the Arctic.

Hosted in the Chen Art Gallery in Maloney Hall, the exhibition, *Emerging Dialogues in the Midnight Sun*, was guest curated by Associate Professor Julie Forgues from the Department of Visual Arts of Moncton University in New Brunswick, Canada and organized by Professor Ted Efremoff of the Art & Design Department at Central.

The exhibition features the work of 22 international artists including both Forgues and Efremoff along

with Adam Fung, Alma Noor, Amy Hoagland, Anna Munster, Christina Weisner, Colin Lyons, Dorota Borowa, Eric Dickson, Frank Horvat, Jann Rosen-Queralt, Jennifer Garza-Cuen, Julian Forrest, Karen Wirth, Kathy Sirico, Marielle Guille, Mark Ijzerman, Maya Kramer, Michele Barker, Phil Irish and Sébastien Robert, according to a Central press release.

All of the participating artists took part in an expedition to the Svalbard Archipelago in Norway during the summer of 2023. The interpretations of their experiences there and how climate change has shaped the environment served as the basis for all of the works, according to the

press release.

The artwork covers a variety of different mediums including photography, oil paintings, mixed media collages, watercolors, recorded audio, videos and interactive pieces. Each piece comes with a short description from the artist explaining their inspirations and how their art portrays the environment of the Arctic and how it has been affected by humanity.

The exhibition will be open to the public from March 10 to April 11. There will be a reception with a curator and artist talk in Chen Art Gallery tonight from 5:30-8 p.m.



Overview of exhibition in the Chen Art Gallery

Photo by Jayden Klaus

Belle Lanpher Wins NEC Player of the Year



Belle Lanpher against FDU on Feb. 6, 2025, at Detrick Gymnasium

Photo by Steve McLaughlin

By **Marcus Saunders**
Sports Editor

Central Connecticut State University women's basketball guard Belle Lanpher was named the Northeast Conference Player of the Year on Monday, March. 10. Lanpher, who on the same day was also named to the All-NEC First Team and All-Defensive Team, is the first women's basketball player in CCSU history to win the award.

Despite missing the first 10 games of the season, Lanpher set the school record for most points by a women's basketball player in a season with 430. In the games she's played this season, Lanpher averaged 22.6 points, 5.7 rebounds, 3.5 assists and 1.4 steals per game, while shooting an efficient 40.7 percent from 3-point range. She was rarely benched and averaged 37.9 minutes per game.

Lanpher helped lead the Blue Devils to a third-place finish in the NEC regular season with a 10-6 record, securing homecourt advantage

for CCSU in the first round of the conference tournament for the first time since 2015.

The highlight of her season came in a 62-55 win against the Wagner Seahawks on Saturday, Jan. 11, at the Spiro Sports Center. She scored a season-high 37 points, grabbed nine rebounds and shot 5 of 10 from beyond the arc, helping the Blue Devils win their third game in a row.

Lanpher will look to win her first NEC Tournament game on Monday, March. 10, against the Chicago State Cougars at Detrick Gymnasium. The Blue Devils split the season series 1-1 against the Cougars. Lanpher averaged 24 points, 7.5 rebounds and seven assists per game in the matchups.



Senior guard Jordan Jones was named NEC Player of the Year on Tuesday, March 4.

Photo by Steve McLaughlin

Awards

After averaging 13.7 points, 5.7 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game this season, Haid was named to the All-NEC Second Team. Smith Jr. was named to the All-Rookie Team after averaging 7.1 points and three rebounds per game this season. He also led the conference in 3-point shooting percentage, going 45.2% from deep.

The Blue Devils will look to prove why they deserved their awards in the opening game of the NEC Tournament against the Le Moyne Dolphins on Wednesday, March. 5 at Detrick Gymnasium. They will try to contain red-shirt junior Dwayne Koroma, who leads the conference with a field goal percentage of 70.6%.

Men's Basketball Falls to Saint Francis in NEC Championship Game



Head Coach Patrick Sellers speaking to his team during a timeout.

Photo by Tyus Phengkaen

**By Ari Kinder and
Marcus Saunders**
Staff Writer and

The Central Connecticut State University men's basketball team fell just short in a grueling Northeast Conference championship game, losing to Saint Francis (Pa.) 46-43 on Tuesday night, March 11.

The Environment leading up to tip off was infectious. All the spectators were ready and eager to watch how the game was going to be played out.

"It was great," senior guard Joe Ostrowsky said. "The community, the fans, they all showed up for us and did a great job. [We] Definitely felt it. [We] Just couldn't get it done."

The Blue Devils struggled offensively throughout the contest and were unable to find their rhythm in a game marked by low scoring and lots of missed opportunities. Only shooting 30% from the field for the entire game head Coach Patrick Sellers

summed it up bluntly. "Tonight, we just didn't have our A game or our B game," he said.

Both teams got off to a sluggish start, with CCSU and SFU tied at 20 at halftime. Despite holding the Red Flash to just 20 first-half points, the Blue Devils couldn't capitalize offensively. The Blue Devils were off to a cold start but played solid defense, ending the game with a team total of 6 steals. They were still in the game at the half.

Sellers said that he thought the team's anxiety around the championship game played a role in the loss.

"Part of it I thought was nerves, and it was to be expected at the beginning of the game," he said. "But it just kind of bled in throughout the game, and we never got into a comfortable rhythm. We got some clean stops on defense in transition, we just didn't get into a rhythm."

The Blue Devils didn't shy away from the challenge.

When halftime came, they went to the drawing board.

Haid, who ended the game with 14 points and 5 rebounds, had a positive outlook on how the game was going.

"When we realized we only had 20 points at halftime, it was just like, 'Let's go. We've got to pick it up,'" junior guard Devin Haid said. "We kept them at 20 points. That's what we wanted to do—keep them under 30. So, it was just like, 'We've got to go. It's

See *NEC Championship* on Page 8

NEC Championship

time to turn it up a notch.”

But the second half played out much like the first, with CCSU struggling to generate offense. SFU took the lead late, and with nine seconds remaining, the Blue Devils had a final chance to tie or take the lead. Instead, they turned the ball over, sealing the game. The Blue Devils, who had been hot from 3-point range in their last two games, shot only 17% from deep against the Red Flash.

“We’re not a great shooting team from 3. . . But we could score,” Sellers said. “We could really score because of not double driving and the ball going from side to side. And we usually do a really good job of that. And tonight, it stuck on one side of the floor, and we had a number of double drives. That really hurt our offense.”

For some Blue Devils, the loss marks the end of the season. For others, it marks the end of their college careers. Guards Ostrowsky, Jordan

Jones, Davonte Sweatman, Jay Rodgers and Jaelen McGlone, along with forwards Jayden Brown and Abdul Momoh, all played their final game in a CCSU jersey.

Sellers reflected on their impact on the program and how far along they’ve come.

“I can’t say enough about those guys,” he said. “They came here with four other freshmen—eight in total. Those four stuck it out and had tremendous success. Back-to-back 20-win seasons, the first time in school history, a 14-game winning streak. That group accomplished a lot.”

As CCSU looks ahead, Sellers made it clear that the departing players will always be part of the program’s legacy.



CCSU SCHEDULE

Softball

April 4 – @ FDU

April 4 – @ FDU

April 6 – @ FDU

April 9 – @ Army West Point

April 9 – @ Army West Point

April 12 – @ Mercyhurst

April 12 – @ Mercyhurst

April 13 – @ Mercyhurst

Baseball

April 4 – @ Delaware State

April 5 – @ Delaware State

April 6 – @ Delaware State

April 8 – @ Fairfield

April 9 – vs. Northeastern

April 11 – @ Maryland Eastern Shore

April 12 – @ Maryland Eastern Shore

April 13 – @ Maryland Eastern Shore

April 15 – @ UAlbany

Men’s Track

April 5 – UMASS Invitational

April 11 – Conn College Silfen Distance Events

April 12 – SCSU Invitational

Women’s Track

April 5 – UMASS Invitational

April 11 – Conn College Silfen Distance Events

April 12 – SCSU Invitational

Women’s Lacrosse

April 5 – vs. Delaware State

April 9 – @ LIU

April 12 – vs. Wagner