

# The Recorder

October 3, 2024

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## CCSU Students Make their Vote Count

By Sabiha Dodd-Brown  
Contributor

Some of Central Connecticut State University's faculty and students said they thought increased voting registrations in America

was "great," but believe more needs to be done to make the process more accessible.

Jerold Duquette, a professor of Political Science at Central from Longmeadow, Massachusetts said "I would prefer

that we not pretend there isn't a problem so that we can pass these voting laws right."

Voter registration is breaking records nationally as election day approaches, particularly among young people, many of

whom are first-time voters.

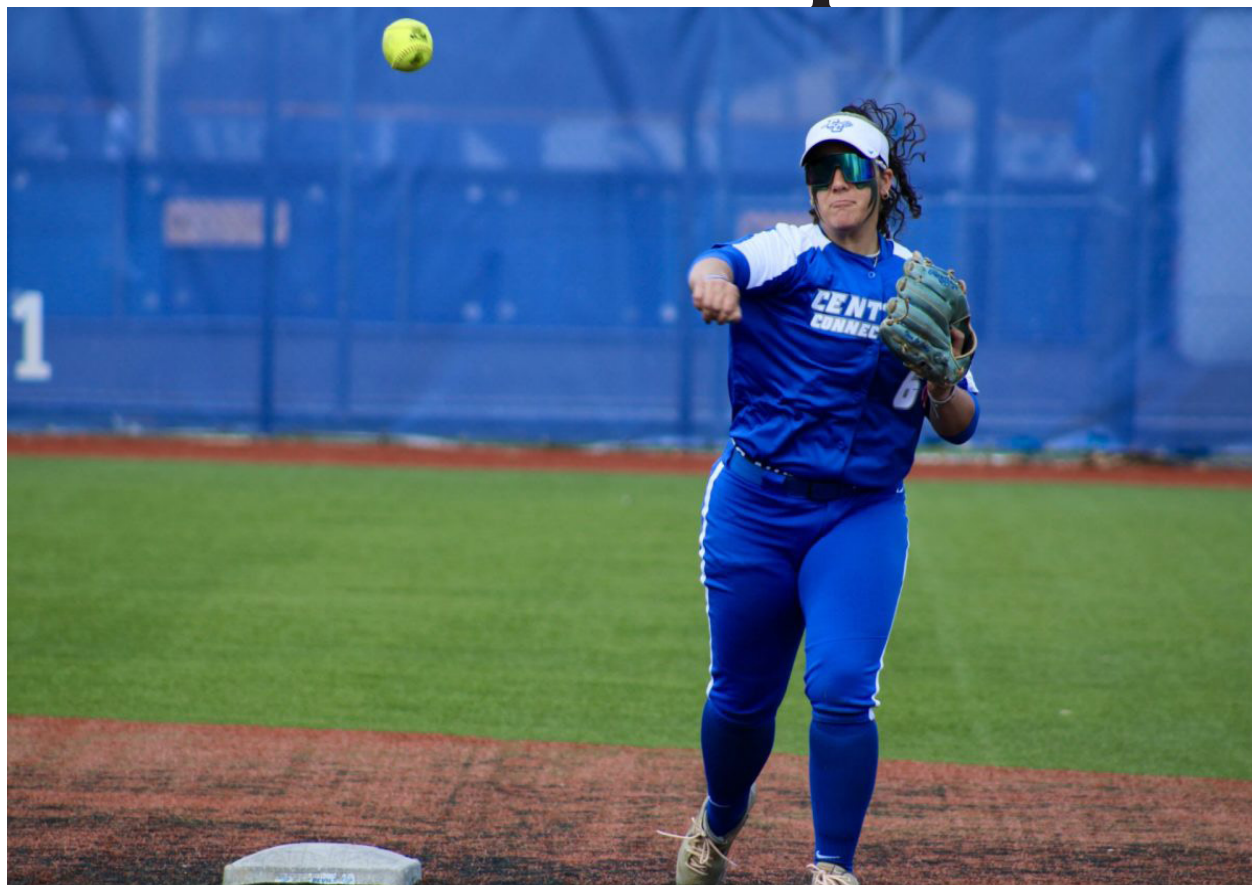
Voters under 35 made up 81% of registrations on Tuesday, Sept. 17, with the biggest spike among 18-year-olds, according to Vote.org. On this year's National Voter Reg-

istration Day, 11% of those registered were 18, which is 53% higher than on the same day four years ago.

Logan Palardy, Central's SGA president from Rockfall,

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## Diversity and Inclusivity in Central Sports



CCSU Softball Player, KC Machado

Photo by Ian Yale

By Ian Yale  
Sports Editor

Born and raised in a Cuban neighborhood of Miami, Florida, Central Connecticut State University softball player Kassandra Machado was immersed in the game of baseball from an early age. Baseball, the national sport of her parents' native Cuba, was, and still is, an integral part of her life.

"I grew up with baseball," Machado said. "I started with baseball, rather than softball. It's just the culture."

For many athletes of Latin-American descent, baseball and softball are the clear

leaders in their childhood and adolescent years. A study done by researchers at the University of Florida in 2017 showed baseball and softball to not only be the most popular sports among Latin-American athletes, but also the sports in which they feel the most welcome.

The study, led by Trevor Bopp, Robert Turick, Joshua D. Vadeboncoeur and Thomas Aicher, aimed to quantify perceived welcomeness among athletes of different races and ethnicities.

The research group devised a formula to turn perceived welcomeness into a single

number, with the higher numbers meaning a higher perceived welcomeness by a racial group in their specific sport.

Hispanic and Latino athletes generally reported feeling less welcome in their sports than white athletes. The only sports in which Hispanic and Latino athletes measured closely to white athletes were baseball and softball, as well as soccer.

Soccer was also the only sport in which Hispanic/Latino athletes were quantified as the most welcome.

African-Americans had a similar lack of welcomeness in

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New Britain City Hall

Photo by Madison Musco

## Former CT Mayor's Shocking Racist Remarks

By Eary Banushi  
Staff Writer

Former Republican Mayor Timothy Stewart stepped down as chair of the city School Building Committee as pressure mounted against him from both council Democrats and some residents who were outraged at a racist comment he made on Facebook.

Before the Common Council meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 25, a resolution proposed by council Democrats which demanded the removal of the former mayor from the School Building Committee was withdrawn after he had agreed to resign voluntarily.

During the public participation portion of the meeting, several residents spoke out against Timothy Stewart, who is the father of Mayor Erin E.

Stewart. One of them was Aimee Pozorski, an English professor at Central Connecticut State University, who said she was disappointed in Mayor Stewart for not speaking out against her father's comment.

"I think it is important now, more than ever, to speak against racism when we see it," Pozorski said. "I'm extremely disappointed that our own city's leader could not find it in herself to denounce racism so close to her home."

According to NBC Connecticut, Timothy Stewart responded to a Facebook post about the Trump campaign's allegations that Haitian immigrants were eating house pets in Ohio. After the original poster wrote, "So far they are

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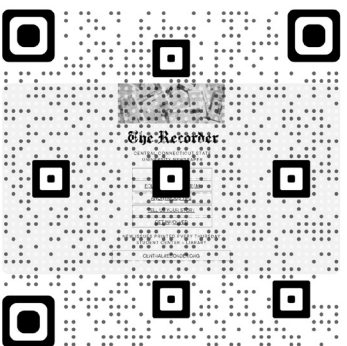
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Photo by Glen Carrie via Unsplash.com

## Vote

Connecticut said, "It's a very popular issue right now for young people to feel like they don't have a say, probably because of the age of people in Congress at the moment. So, I think younger people exercising that right to vote is great."

Jason Jakubowski, a Political Science professor from West Hartford, Connecticut said, "Usually, the older you get, particularly senior citizens, tend to vote in very high numbers. I think what you

realize is that when younger people vote, the outcome is absolutely different."

Younger people were not the only group growing in larger numbers.

According to CBS News, new data indicated a surge in voter registrations among key voting groups for the 2024 election.

In this data, it was found that the number of young women of color registering to vote was at an all-time high ever since Vice President Kamala Harris entered the 2024 race

against Donald J. Trump.

According to data from TargetSmart, the voter registration rate for young Black women in 13 key battleground states increased by 175%—nearly triple the rate from the last presidential election four years ago. The registration rate for Black women in general, experienced similar growth, increasing by 98%, while the overall Black voter rate also rose by 85%.

Diana Ramirez, a sophomore social work student said, "I feel nervous, and I hope I'm

making the right decision for the outcomes of the future. But I do have a lot of hope for the candidate I am voting for. It's a new experience but I'm excited for it."

Voter registration is not as easily accessible in all states as it is in Connecticut. Many southern states have made it very hard for people to register to vote.

"While it may be true that overall, since 2000's, voting has gotten easier, it's gotten a little bit harder in some states since 2013," Duquette said.

According to NPR, since the 2020 election, at least six states have passed legislation cracking down on voter registration drives. Many groups view the laws enacted in Florida, Idaho, Kansas, Missouri, Montana, and Tennessee as an existential threat to their work. Several have shut down operations rather than risk financial penalties or prison time resulting from these laws.

"Instead of leaving it up to the individual states, it should be the federal government ensuring that all citizens in all 50 states have equal access to register to vote, and then ultimately can vote," Jakubowski said.

## Former Mayor

leaving the dogs alone," Stewart replied, "Need to bring in some Asians for that" with a laughing emoji.

Another resident who spoke at the meeting, Bill Shortell, called Timothy Stewart a "blight" on New Britain and said that the rise of woke has allowed people to push back against racist jokes and comments.

"Until very recently, there was a perfect division in our country between people who

thought ethnic slurs were funny... and thought that's how you make friends, even with the other ethnicity, by insulting them and they were supposed to laugh at it," Shortell said. "With the growth of what's known as 'woke,' we've been pushing that back. Woke means awake, conscious of the words that you say and the things that you do, the impact that it has on all the people around you. Tim Stewart was an enemy of woke."

Shortell added that he believed the reason Timothy Stewart was comfortable enough to make the comment

publicly on social media was because he felt protected by Mayor Stewart.

"Those remarks would have gone unnoticed in a bar, his buddies would have probably chuckled, but it's almost official suicide that drove him to put it on Facebook," Shortell said. "I can't imagine what made him think that, except that he thought he'd be continually protected by his daughter."

Mayor Stewart declined to speak with reporters after the Common Council meeting and the mayor's press secretary could not be reached for

comment.

Alderwoman Sharon Beloin-Saavedra, a Democrat endorsed by the Republican Party, said that while she condemned the racist comments made by the former mayor, she felt that Republicans were being unfairly targeted.

"I will say that it doesn't matter what political affiliation you are with, people make bad choices and use bad and poor language, misguided language at times," Beloin-Saavedra said. "I don't accept the commentary about 'It's a Republican thing,' it's not a Republican thing, Se

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Tips or ledes that should be investigated?  
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# First Time Voters: Excited or Apathetic?



Luke Collura

Photo by Deanna Prescott



Marina Tonner

Photo by Jahshua Hardy-Everett



Dominick Lombardi

Photo by Ben Daddio

By **Chike Onyiuke**  
Contributor

With the 2024 Presidential Election just under a month away, some first-time voters from around Connecticut said they are excited to be voting, either for Vice President Kamala Harris, or former President Donald J. Trump.

Sam Hardesty, 21, from West Hartford, is a geography major and psychology minor at Central Connecticut State University and a registered Democrat.

"I registered pretty much as soon as I turned 18 and I've voted in local elections every year since," he said. "I've voted in the Presidential pri-

maries, so I'm super excited to participate in our democracy in that way."

Sarha Antonio, 20, a student at CCSU and New Britain resident, said she would vote for Harris because of her stance on issues such as abortion rights, immigration and the possibility of Harris making history.

"I would vote for Kamala Harris since she is pro-choice and would be the first woman president," Antonio, a Democrat, said. "She's also a person of color, and that matters a lot to me. And she's better than Trump when it comes to immigration policy. She's a lot more lenient with what she

thinks about it compared to what Trump thinks about it."

Dominick Lombardi, 21, a Fairfield University student from Orange, said he will be voting for Trump because of the many factors he has for the United States.

"As a young student and a young American, my future revolves around financial independence," Lombardi said. "He (Trump) believes that the government should get off your back and out of your pocket, and that for everyone new regulation that's imposed on the economy, ten old ones should be taken off eliminating taxes on tips."

Marina Tonner, a student at

CCSU, and a Democrat said she is voting for Harris because of her views on LGBTQ and women's rights.

"LGBTQ+ rights matter to me because I am a part of the community," Tonner said. "I have a lot of friends in the community, so I believe that LGBTQ+ rights are protected. Abortion rights are [also] very important to me because I am a woman."

Luke Collura, 20, said that although he doesn't like either candidate, he is still going to exercise his right to vote.

"I think the right to vote is sacred and it's a privilege more than a right," Collura, an Independent, said. "I am

committed to voting for the people who still can't vote in this country and for my relatives and ancestors who were not able to exercise this right in a democratic society."

Collura expressed his opinion on voting for a candidate. "The candidates that are running for this year are just not strong, in my opinion," Collura said.

*Eary Banushi, Benjamin Daddio, Jahshua Hardy-Everett, Elijah Hernandez and Deanna Prescott contributed to this story.*

*Continued from page 2*  
it's people making bad comments."

Beloin-Saavedra added that she believed Democrats were engaging in selective outrage, using the example of a 2014 incident when, according to the Associated Press, a former Democratic leader of the Common Council was involved in a drunken outburst against Mayor Stewart and made homophobic comments at a local bar. Despite the incident, the individual remained on the council as an alderman.

"For those of you who are celebrating tonight, you should have been celebrating

when that gentleman should have been removed from the council for his outrageous behavior," Beloin-Saavedra said. "I condemn it all. I do not engage in selective outrage, neither should you."

Alderman Candyce Scott, a Democrat, said that comments, such as the one made by Timothy Stewart, were unacceptable from elected or appointed individuals, and that she believed it was time to have a conversation about racism.

"I'm glad that he stepped down, but I think that this is a great time for us to start having conversations about

how this is happening because this is happening over and over again, nationwide and locally," Scott said. "This kind of divisive speech towards any group should never be acceptable from an elected or appointed official. If we don't stand for what is right here, then we're just as guilty as the people who are displaying these actions towards any race, any ethnic group, any religion and any gender."

Timothy Stewart could not be reached for comment.

*Chike Onyiuke contributed to this story.*

**How do you feel about the 2024 election?**

**Student voices matter!**

**Reach out on Instagram**

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## Opinion Editor's Column: Exploring Viewpoints and Keeping an Open Mind

By Deanna Prescott, *Opinion Editor*

As journalists, we serve to inform the public, and once the public is informed, they are left to form opinions. From pop culture to recent events on CCSU's campus, the opinion column is open for students to voice what matters to them.

The beauty of the written word is that it is open to interpretation by the reader, and the opinion column is a place for news to be enriched with voices of different perspectives. You do not have to be a journalist to write an opinion piece because the editors welcome anyone to guest-write in the column. This semester, we want to hear more student voices in order to foster an engaging news outlet. Our Instagram, @centralrecorder, is available for anyone to message their thoughts regarding current events at Central, or in New Britain as a whole.

I personally enjoy reading opinion pieces as a refreshing change-of-pace from news stories. While objective news stories are very important, it's also valuable for us to open each other's minds to different ideas and points of view. A strong opinion piece leaves the reader walking away inspired to keep exploring new viewpoints or to advocate for the subject at hand. Opinions question authority and promote the exchange of ideas. For instance, The New York Times opinion column features headlines such as, "Can TikTok Be Reformed? This Billionaire Wants to Try," or "What We Can Learn From an Orphan in Sudan." The fascinating subjects are endless.

I encourage readers to be curious about the communities around them and to form new conversations that spark curiosity; that is the goal this semester as I take on the role of opinion editor. I look forward to seeing what our writers create and hearing what readers walk away with after picking up The Recorder.

## OCTOBER Campus Events

### Don't Just Vote, Oct. 9, 11:00 am Constitution Room, Memorial Hall

• Panel discussion with elected officials about federal, state and local government. Community Engagement Fair to follow

### Blue Devil's Pep Rally, Oct. 10 Time & Location to be determined

• Show your school spirit - expect food, games and giveaways!

### Re-Present Photographic Practice Oct. 17, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm CCSU Applied Innovation Hub

• A symposium exploring photography technologies from the 1800s.

### Anime Family Feud Oct. 3, Devil's Den @ 10

# CDC's Policy Shift Impact on CCSU Campus



Photo by Jayden Klaus

By Jayden Klaus  
*Lifestyle Editor*

Masking on the Central Connecticut State University campus has decreased as some students say they are not as worried about COVID-19 now.

With the onset of cold and flu season, threats of an increase in COVID infections can be expected. Around the campus, most students can be seen without masks as they go to class. There has been a steady decline in the amount of people wearing masks as CCSU's COVID policy has changed over the years in accordance with the Center for Disease Control's guidelines.

According to CCSU's Division of Student Affairs, the current COVID policy is in accordance with the CDC's updated recommendations. Students testing positive for Covid are no longer placed in isolation, but instead are recommended to stay home until fever-free for 24 hours without medication or show improvement in their symptoms for 24 hours.

CCSU Director of Health Services Dr. Amber Cheema said that CCSU is currently

treating COVID like an upper respiratory illness similar to the flu and is not enforcing isolation. Cheema said that currently students can choose whether or not to mask.

"If a person has Covid, the recommendation is to mask to help prevent your friends and close contacts from getting the spread of the virus but there's no one policing that policy," Cheema said. "It is a decision that is left for every individual to make on their own."

Julianna Matos, a freshman majoring in biology, said she no longer masks because she thinks that people know how to take precautions and distance themselves to avoid getting sick.

"Now I'm in a more open environment too so there's like more space to move around," Matos said.

Christopher Gabianelli, a senior majoring history, said he is still worried about how Covid can affect immunocompromised people, like the elderly, but thinks that healthy people will be fine for the most part. He said he doesn't feel he needs to mask except in certain circumstances.

"I think I can handle getting infected, and if I go near anyone that I think can't then I will mask up," Gabianelli said. "I mask up when I go see my grandmother."

Paula Shameti, a junior majoring in finance, said she does not see Covid as much of a threat to her but it is still something that people can catch. She said she does not mask regularly unless she is sick because vaccines have built immunity but she thinks it is good to respect other people's spaces if you are sick.

"If people are sick, I've seen people wear it," Shameti said. "I think that's really important."

Cheema said that she recommends that students still take precautions in high-contact areas by washing their hands and using alcohol-based sanitizer. She said that if students feel they get sick easily, she recommends they use medical-grade masks to protect against respiratory illnesses including COVID.

"Mask wearing is still on the list of preventative measures or reducing your risk of getting COVID," Cheema said.



## Art in Clay: Exhibition Showcases 177 Unique Pottery Pieces

By Jayden Klaus, *Lifestyle Editor*  
Photos by Omar Gonzalez-Solano

Central Connecticut State University hosted a striking pottery art gallery at the Chen Art Gallery in Maloney Hall from Sept. 5 to Oct 4.

The exhibition, *Transformed By Fire: Feats of Clay*, was created by retired physician Thomas J. Zaccheo M.D. The 177 presented pieces that make up the exhibition are composed of multiple art series including metal and ceramic birds, cloth ceramics, iron ceramics, Raku ceramics, and more.

Zaccheo said he started making art as a means to relax while working as a physician. He said he took an art class 50 years ago that gave him the inspiration to create.

Zaccheo's work involves mixed

media, fiber clay and the "lost cloth" technique in his words where cloth/weaving/crochet are used to make ceramic pieces, according to a CCSU press release about the gallery. The exhibition was organized by the Chen Art Gallery Director Professor Priya Green with gallery staff Courtney Silvia and Kathleen Gauthier and students Olivia Benson and Brayton Price from Spring 2024 ART490 Curatorship, according to the press release.

All of the pieces in the exhibition were made available for people to purchase with the proceeds going to CCSU's Ceramics/Sculpture Department.



# Jean's One-Pan Fluffiest Brownies



- One box of Devil's Food cake mix
- One box of Jell-O chocolate pudding mix
- 2 eggs
- 1 1/4 cup of water
- 1/2 cup of oil (canola or vegetable is best)
- 12 ounce bag of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 9 x 13 inch disposable aluminum pan

1. Preheat oven to 350°
2. Mix together cake mix, jell-o mix, eggs, water and oil directly in the aluminum pan.
3. Add chocolate chips and gently stir in.
4. Bake for 45 - 55 minutes.



Send your favorite  
recipe to the editor!  
[editor@centralrecorder.org](mailto:editor@centralrecorder.org)

# Women's Soccer Overtakes FDU to Win NEC Home Opener



By Ian Yale  
Sports Editor

The Blue Devil Women's Soccer team overcame a late 1-0 deficit to beat Fairleigh Dickinson 2-1 on Thursday night in CCSU's Conference home opener. The win was Central's first of the year following a brutal non-conference slate that included losses to Texas A&M and Army.

After dropping their NEC opener at Long Island University, the Blue Devils forged forward to down the Knights on a rainy night in New Britain.

FDU netted the first goal of the game well into the second half, sneaking it past keeper Taylor DeFlorio in the 69th minute. Despite the blemish, DeFlorio put up another heroic effort in the net, as she stopped four shots and allowed just one goal in 13 attempts from the Knights.

Central responded right away, as midfielder Aoife Horgan answered in the 71st minute with a goal of her own,

her first of the season. She was assisted by forward Toni Domingos, who made the most of limited minutes in the match.

Horgan, who was limited in the non-conference schedule, provided the spark that the Blue Devils were desperately looking for.

With time winding down in a 1-1 deadlock, midfielder Emma Radonicic made a play, assisting forward Riley Powers on an 87th minute goal to put the Blue Devils ahead for good.

After scoring just one goal over seven non-conference bouts, the Blue Devil attack has found its stride with three goals in two NEC games.

With Horgan, the reigning NEC Midfielder of the Year, back to full strength and a revitalized attacking unit, Central will look to ride the wave as they travel to Mercyhurst on Sunday for a match against the Division 1 and NEC newcomer Lakers.

## Diversity

comparison to whites, as their only scores that exceeded the whites' scores were in basketball and football.

CCSU softball alum Paige Stringer, from Monroe, Washington, said she doesn't believe in ethnic differences, especially in sports.

"It's not about who you are. It's about how you play," Stringer said. "Your background doesn't matter. All that matters is how you play on the field. Leaving peoples' bias outside of the field is the best thing you could do. There's a lot of stereotypes that go on around the world with everything, not even just sports. We should learn who people are, not just what they are. We're

all different, it doesn't really matter."

Former CCSU and current Regis College softball coach Carolyn Biel, a former high school and college athlete from Wallingford, said that equity in sports has come a long way, in both gender and racial equity, but there is still a long way to go before sports are truly equal for all.

"Women's sports are getting a lot more opportunities," Biel said. "It's really just a matter of getting the sports more recognition on a media basis, and I think it's a step in the right direction, but it's definitely not equitable."

Biel said that when she was a high school athlete, it was easy to tell which areas had more money dedicated to ath-

letics, and that these areas in Connecticut are almost always predominantly white.

"When we would travel and go to Wilbur Cross [High School], Career [High School] or Hillhouse [High School], their locker rooms weren't as nice, their resources weren't as good and their school system clearly wasn't as good as Sheehan High School in Wallingford or North Haven High School," Biel said. "I learned at a very young age that it's not equitable, and there are certain schools that have less than other schools."

Biel called for a change in state and federal legislature to further assist school districts that have less to offer than others.

"It's not even just the sports.

It's the resources in general that more inner-city schools don't have," Biel said. "That has to do with your government, so I say get out there and vote."

The study from the research corroborated Biel's sentiment.

"Differences in socioeconomic status, race, and social structures such as schools and recreational sites can limit access and marginalize participation opportunities for minority youth," the group wrote. "Consequently, particular sports may not be considered 'racially neutral' resulting in participation differences accordingly with those traditionally labeled 'Black' or 'White.' Thus, some sports may 'seem more appropriate for one racial group versus

another."

With the overarching theme of the study being welcome-ness, Stringer had her own definition of what welcome-ness means to her.

"It's just open arms to whoever shows up to the field that day," Stringer said. "I had no idea what this recruiting class looked like. I didn't know any of their names, who they are, where they came from, but we all showed up and we all figured out how we're going to play with them. It's easy because once you become friends with someone, nothing else really matters. It's just showing up and hanging out with your friends. Nothing else really matters."



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# Football Falls to UMass in Tight Contest at Amherst



CCSU Football

Photo by Ian Yale

By **Andrew O'Sullivan**  
Contributor

The Blue Devils football team fell to the Minutemen at UMass on Saturday, Sep. 21st, 35-31, as their record dropped to 3-2 for the 2024 season.

Quarterback Brady Olson threw for 157 yards from 12-26 attempts, 2 touchdowns and a late-game pick in his return to Amherst after transferring from UMass to Central in the offseason.

CCSU's rushing attack was the main source of offensive efficiency, as the Blue Devils had 90 yards on the ground, with Elijah Howard's 46 and

Jamir Robertson's 23 yards leading the way. Howard and QB Ricky Ortega both rushed for a touchdown.

In the air, receivers Michael Plaskon and Paul Marsh Jr. were the two main contributors, with Plaskon catching 3 passes for 65 yards and Marsh Jr. grabbing 2 for 31. Marsh and Howard both scored passing touchdowns.

Plaskon was also efficient returning punts, getting 21 yards on 2 attempts, while Jadon Turner was able to carve up the UMass secondary on kickoffs, amassing 61 yards in two tries.

On the other side of the ball,

the defense held strong for a good portion of the game. Malachi Wright and Kimal Clark both achieved double-digit tackles, with Jack Stoll and Deon McLean holding steady at 7 in the game. Stoll delivered the only sack of the game from either squad as he took down UMass QB Taisun Phommachanh, while McLean hauled in an interception midway into the 2nd quarter that lined CCSU up for a game-tying TD.

Jack Barnum kicked a 25-yard field goal and made every extra point, while punter Aidan Clark continued his excellent form by punting 6

times for 61 yards, averaging 42.5 yards per punt, slotting him solidly in the Top 10 of FCS punting yards so far this season.

The game started off with a UMass touchdown in the first quarter to lead 7-0 as time expired, but couldn't gain any more points into the 2nd as they missed a long field goal.

The Minutemen scored another touchdown after a CCSU punt to go up 14-0, but Central finally got on the board after an air-raid set of plays for a touchdown. After UMass got the ball back, UMass threw an interception to defensive back Deon Mc-

Lean that put CCSU in prime position to capitalize, which they did with Elijah Howard, tying the game 14-14.

UMass battled back in four minutes to score another touchdown with less than a minute left in the half, but CCSU worked off a fantastic kick return to score another clutch Howard touchdown right before the half ended.

To start the 2nd half, Central enacted a trick play on the kickoff that gave possession back, which led to a passing touchdown to swing momentum back to Central. UMass's next possession led to a punt, but CCSU couldn't capitalize as Olson threw a pick in deep coverage for a turnover.

UMass and CCSU traded punts on their next possessions before UMass finally got a TD to tie the game before the 3rd quarter ended. Jack Barnum made a field goal a minute into the 4th quarter, and UMass scored another touchdown on their next drive to take the lead.

CCSU was forced to punt, giving the ball back to UMass, but the Minutemen couldn't lock in a victory as they were stopped on 4th down in the endzone, giving the ball back to CCSU deep in their territory with 2 minutes remaining with a chance to win the game on a long & quick drive, however 2 incompletions and an interception by Olson iced the game for UMass, marking their first win of the season.

The Blue Devils are back in action on Oct. 5th at the Yale Bowl to face the Bulldogs.

## CCSU SCOREBOARD

**Sept. 20**  
Volleyball loss 3-0 vs. Brown  
Volleyball loss 3-0 at New Hampshire

**Sept. 21**  
Volleyball loss 3-0 at UConn  
Men's Soccer loss 2-1 at Binghamton  
Football loss 35-31 at UMass Amherst  
Cross Country- Ted Owen Invitational  
• Men- 2nd Place  
• Women- 2nd Place

**Sept. 22**  
Women's Soccer loss 2-1 at LIU

**Sept. 24**  
Volleyball loss 3-0 at Bryant

**Sept. 26**  
Women's Soccer win 2-1 vs. Fairleigh Dickinson

**Sept. 29**  
Men's Soccer loss 4-1 at Howard  
Women's Soccer win 2-1 at Mercyhurst

