

As Crime Patterns Shift, CCSU Reassesses How Campus Violence Is Defined and Addressed

By Michelle Velez
Contributor

At Central Connecticut State University, campus safety officials say they are intensively working to clarify how incidents such as sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner harm are defined, reported and responded to under the Jeanne Clery Act and state statutes.

“Dating or intimate partner violence, also known as domestic violence, includes acts of violence or threats of violence between individuals in current or former relationships,” said Sean S. Grant, chief of police and director of public safety at CCSU. “That can include boyfriend or girlfriend

altercations. It is not limited to physical abuse. It can also include emotional abuse or threats.”

Grant said stalking remains one of the most misunderstood categories among students. “Stalking involves unwanted or obsessive contact that causes reasonable fear or disrupts daily life,” he said. “It could be repeated texting, following or sending unwanted gifts.”

According to CCSU’s latest Clery report, the university recorded four rapes on campus in 2024, all of which occurred in student

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CCSU’s Police Department located on 1500 East St, New Britain;
NBC Connecticut

Blue Devils Aim for Back-to-Back NEC Titles on Senior Day

By Mekhai Ouelette
Staff Writer



Brady Olson evading a tackler in an NEC matchup against Stonehill; Steve McLaughlin

This Saturday, Central Connecticut State University will cap off its regular season at Arute Field in a high-stakes showdown against Mercyhurst. It’s not just Senior Day; it’s a chance for the Blue Devils to claim the Northeast Conference championship. For the senior class, this game could define their CCSU legacy.

The Blue Devils enter the game with momentum and confidence after a hard-fought season. On Nov. 15 Central fell to Duquesne

38-33 in a thrilling game that showed their offensive firepower. Senior quarterback Brady Olson threw for 423 yards and four touchdowns, proving he could lead the offense under pressure. Senior running back Elijah Howard rushed for 108 yards and a touchdown. Senior tight end Peter Cleary scored a 25-yard touchdown in the second quarter.

Saturday’s game will honor the senior class, many of whom have been crucial to CCSU’s success this season

and throughout their time here:

Brady Olson (QB)—The team’s leader for the past two seasons, orchestrating the offense and making plays when it counts.

Elijah Howard (RB)—2024 NEC Offensive Player of the Year and Walter Payton Award finalist. His rushing ability gives CCSU a balanced attack.

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About

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housing. That number declined from three rapes in 2023 and eight in 2022, creating a three-year downward trend. Fondling reports have remained steady, with three cases reported each year from 2022 through 2024, including one case annually in student housing. No incidents of incest or statutory rape were reported in that period.

The report also shows broader shifts in campus crime patterns. Motor vehicle theft increased significantly, rising from one incident in 2023 to six in 2024. Aggravated assault appeared twice in 2024 and twice in 2022. Robbery was reported once in both 2023 and 2024. Burglary and arson were not reported in any of the three years.

Grant said the distinctions among Clery categories such as

rape, fondling, incest and statutory rape are essential because each classification represents specific behaviors and legal thresholds. These distinctions determine not only how cases are recorded but also how campus police and the Title IX office respond. Lisa M. Leggett, sexual assault and violence prevention specialist in CCSU's Office of Victim Advocacy, said the numbers do not tell the whole story. "Many survivors choose to seek confidential support through the Office of Victim Advocacy rather than file a formal report," she said. Students can receive academic support, housing accommodations and assistance with civil protective orders without beginning a formal investigation.

Jodi M. Latina, associate vice president of communications and media at CCSU, said the uni-

versity monitors these incidents closely and works across departments to strengthen transparency and campus safety. She said the annual report is paired with student outreach so that individuals understand their rights, reporting options and available resources.

The Clery report outlines how incidents are classified based on factors such as the degree of the offense, the age of the parties involved, the capacity to consent, levels of incapacitation due to alcohol or drugs and whether coercion or force was used. These variables determine how an incident is categorized and whether it is processed under misdemeanor or felony statutes.

Across Connecticut's state universities, the most recent reports show similarly low but not non-existent numbers of sexual violence,

dating violence and stalking. While figures vary among institutions, officials across the system note that reported cases often reflect both evolving awareness and changes in student willingness to come forward. That context matters at CCSU, where rape reports have decreased while intimate partner violence and stalking remain persistent concerns.

Campus officials say prevention efforts including The Clothesline Project, Denim Day and interactive bystander intervention workshops are helping raise awareness, encourage reporting and connect students with advocacy services earlier. As CCSU continues refining its definitions, reporting procedures and response systems, officials say their primary goals remain safety, prevention and ensuring that students feel supported and heard.

Contact the Police Department

Around the Clock

Emergency (Police, Fire, Medical)

911

Do not rely on email for emergencies or urgent matters.

Routine Police Service Requests (Campus Dispatch Center)

860.832.2375

Do not rely on email for emergencies or urgent matters.

Weekday Numbers

Administrative Division - Responsible for investigative activities (Lieutenant Richard Homestead)

860.832.2388

homestead@ccsu.edu

Crime Prevention & Community Outreach (Lieutenant Richard Homestead)

860.832.2388

homestead@ccsu.edu

Criminal Investigations (Sergeant Densil Samuda)

860.832.2383

samudadem@ccsu.edu

Operations Division - Responsible for patrol activities (Lieutenant Brendan Moon)

860.832.2390

bmoon@ccsu.edu

If need be, feel free to reach out to these contacts: CCSU Website

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

Commuter Column

Get your car ready for winter. Essential Maintenance Before the Cold Sets In

By Nicolina Coronis
Staff Writer

Connecticut winter is basically a yearly guessing game; one day it's 55 degrees and sunny, the next you're scraping ice with your student ID. Preparing your car now can keep you safe, warm, and on time for class when the weather finally decides to get serious.

Cold weather means more than just uncomfortable walks to class. It tests the longevity of your vehicle and your wallet. Here are ten tips to make sure your car is ready to tackle the weather.

1. Check your battery:

Many auto repair shops or AutoZones will test the car battery for free. If you have an older battery testing it to make sure it's in good shape can save you from a day of

being stranded in the student center because your car won't start.

2. Switch those wipers:

Winter wipers and more flexible and won't freeze to your windshield or leave streaks.

3. Windshield fluid:

Winter formula windshield fluid won't freeze.

4. Snow tires:

Make sure your tires provide enough traction to grip the roads in slippery situations.

5. Keep that tank half full:

Keeping your tank at least half full at all times helps prevent gas line freeze.

6. Gather the essentials:

In rough weather, you never want to be stranded. Make sure you have the proper tools in your car, such as ice scrapers, gloves, a portable charger, and flashlights.

7. Check those brake pads:

The amount of time you press on your brakes increases in the winter, so it is important to have good brake pads to avoid sliding.

8. Check your heater now:

Make sure your car heater is operating properly before it gets too cold.

9. Check your antifreeze coolant:

This should be a mix in your car and can be checked in a repair shop.

10. Warm up your car ahead of time:

If you have an older vehicle, it is important to let the engine warm up before taking

off. It also makes the morning experience more comfortable.

These tips can be addressed promptly at any repair shop or car service store. Preventative winter maintenance can be the difference between your car lasting all winter long or breaking down at the most inconvenient times. If you are curious about these tips, the AutoZone website offers details on how to keep your car safe all winter long.

Amazon's Guide to Black Friday Deals for Students.

By Nicolina Coronis
Staff Writer

\$329.99 Sale: \$159.99

\$85.00 Sale: \$63.75

With finals approaching and budgets running low, Black Friday gives students a rare opportunity to grab the things they need without paying full price. Whether you're hunting for cheaper tech, stocking up on dorm essentials, or just trying to get ahead on holiday shopping, let's see what Amazon has to offer this year.

Essentials:

- Crest Pro-Health Advanced Antibacterial Protection Toothpaste is 20% off. Original price: \$14.99 Sale: \$11.00
- Quaker instant oatmeal boxes are 20% off. Original price: \$19.28 Sale: \$15.42
- Frito-Lay's ultimate snack care packages are 29% off. Original price: \$28.00 Sale: \$19.75
- SHPAVVER Shavers are 40% off. Original price: \$56.99 Sale: \$33.99

- Rdruko Packable Puffer Jackets are 14% off. Original price: \$43.96 Sale: \$37.99
- TrailBlitz Snow Boots are 13% off. Original price: \$54.99 Sale: \$47.84.

This year, it seems like Tech deals and essentials are where students can get the most for their money on Amazon. In the end, Black Friday is simply about shopping smart, staying within your budget and taking advantage of the deals that actually make student life easier and that actually save money.

Tech Deals:

- JBL headphones are up to 50% off. Original price: \$149.95 Sale: \$79.95
- Lenovo 15.6" Laptop Computer is 75% off and selling fast. Original price: \$1,999 Sale: \$499
- Apple Watch Series 10 is 22% off. Original price: \$529.00 Sale: 409.99
- Samsung Galaxy Tab S6 is 52% off. Original price:

Clothing:

- Nautica quarter zips are 34% off. Original price: \$59.50 Sale: \$39.23
- Nike Air Monarch IV shoes are 25% off. Original price:



This Weeks Campus Events

Devils Den: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Trivia! Nov. 20, 10 p.m. Semesters Cafe, Student Center

Fall 2025 Showcase, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Welte Auditorium

Dancentral Bake Sale, Nov. 22, 7 p.m. Welte Auditorium

Central Rock Gym Sunday Outings, Nov. 23, 4 p.m. Central Rock Gym

Entertainment Column

“Now You See Me: Now You Don’t” Movie Review: Franchise Makes its Return 9 Years Later

By Noah Gavin
Staff Writer

Now You See Me: Now You Don’t, the long-awaited third installment in the Now You See Me franchise, has magically appeared in theaters on November 14, produced by Summit Entertainment.

As part of the Now You See Me franchise’s charm is smoke and mirrors and reveals, this review is mostly spoiler-free, just of the major plot points after the beginning of the film and plot twists.

I don’t just say “magically appeared” as a pun; the last iteration we saw of this movie franchise was almost 10 years ago, way back in 2016.

The Now You See Me franchise is often viewed as forgettable, whimsical “hangout” flicks good for watching flashy visual effects, witty quips and maybe a few low-IQ evil lackeys get outsmarted and pummeled by our protagonists.

If you aren’t familiar with the film series, allow me to catch you up.

Now You See Me follows four magicians, J Daniel Atlas (Jesse Eisenberg), Merritt McKinney (Woody Harrelson), Jack Wilder (Dave Franco) and Henley Reeves (Isla Fisher), who go by “The Four Horsemen.”

This group doesn’t always get along because of egos, but they put on magic shows that turn out to be ruses to fool corrupt billionaires to allow the horsemen into their bank accounts one way or another, and they empty them and redistribute the funds among their audience in what they see as justice for the wealthy’s ill-gotten gains.

The first two films follow

these original horsemen only, but this new third movie introduces us to three new magicians who are fans of the horsemen’s work and aim to replicate it.

As the original horsemen are on another off-again moment in their careers, our three young new magicians, Bosco (Dominic Sessa), Charlie (Justice Smith), and June (Ariana Greenblatt), craft their own horseman-style show using projections of the original crew and imitations.

Following the show, we see them approached by the real Atlas in the apartment they are squatting in, and he tells them that he needs to find them and recruit them to steal a heart-shaped diamond from a corrupt South African mining matriarch, Veronika Vanderberg (Rosamund Pike).

Now, don’t feel bad if that sounds like a lot to you, because it is. My one complaint about the movie is that the large number of characters and plot points we are introduced to do make the film feel a little overstuffed, especially to fit into a little less than two hours.

But besides that, I would like to dispute a few of the initial critiques I have seen about this movie’s plot. This film is directed by Ruben Fleischer, who you might know as the director of *Zombieland* (2009), in which we also see Eisenberg and Harrelson play costarring main roles.

This is the first Now You See Me film that Fleischer has directed, but it worked wonderfully for me. Like *Zombieland*, *Now You See Me: Now You Don’t* does have a bit of a wacky plot that does not always seem to know where it’s going, but it’s the kind of movie that you aren’t there to be sucked into the plot

or be struck by totally unpredictable plot twists. You are just there to enjoy the engaging scenes and banter of the actors.

While *Now You See Me: Now You Don’t* does have a convoluted and slightly unoriginal narrative that you may not recall in a few days or feel compelled to go back and rewatch, it does an amazing job dazzling the audience with special camera work, visual effects and well-choreographed fight scenes that kept my attention glued to the screen for all two hours of the film, as we see the horsemen combine magic and quick thinking to trick their enemies and escape from jams.

I particularly enjoyed a moment in the movie where they are brawling with police in a house filled with trick mirrors, upside-down rooms and many other magic tropes. The horsemen use these rooms’ tricks to remain one step ahead the whole time, and it’s incredibly satisfying.

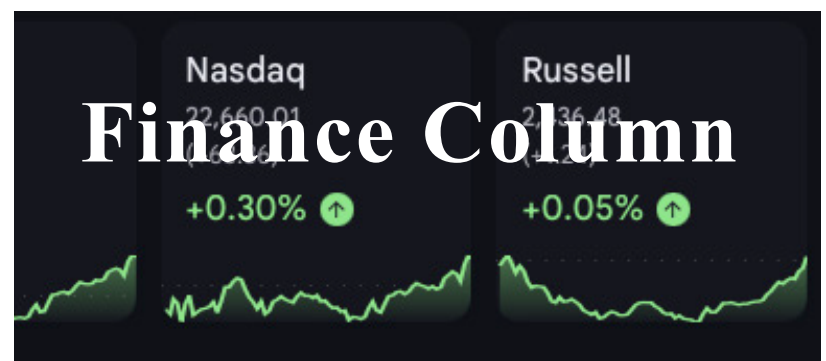
The charming acting and clear chemistry of the cast also help push the movie along. In another disputable plot point, the original horsemen are supposed to be estranged from one another at this point in the series but come together quickly to save one another and the world. Personally, I do not take this as a demerit and find it refreshing and enjoyable to watch them work together with such ease.

In short, the overly nonsensical plotting is easily obscured by slick magical moves by a charming cast, and that makes *Now You See Me: Now You Don’t* worth a watch while it’s out in theaters. A lesson that just sitting back and enjoying the movie is sometimes better than scrutinizing the plot.

Following opening weekend,

this film has the best average critic score on Rotten Tomatoes of all three films at 60%,

showing that the direction Fleischer took with this film has paid its dividends.



When Indexing Becomes Stock Picking

By Nicolas Dest
Staff Writer

The S&P 500 Index, made up of the 500 largest publicly traded companies in the U.S., used to represent the backbone of America’s economy. Nowadays, the largest seven stocks — Nvidia, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Alphabet (Google), Broadcom and Meta (Facebook) — represent roughly a third of the entire index. What once felt like a bet on the United States is now a bet on AI, big tech and the continued dominance of a handful of giants.

This isn’t a mistake; it’s how the index has been designed since its inception in 1957. Each company is weighted based on its valuation, giving larger companies more influence over the index’s daily moves.

As a result, one bad earnings report from Nvidia can negatively impact “the market” as a whole, as opposed to a singular sector. And that influence is hard to overstate. If these seven companies were their own stock market, they’d be the second largest in the world, behind only the United States itself.

This leaves investors from all backgrounds, preferences and investment goals overexposed to the volatility of AI, and at the mercy of data center expansion.

However, this exposure

extends far beyond individual investors. Pension funds, retirement accounts and institutional investors are all susceptible to the same risk, whether they realize it or not.

Michael Kantrowitz, chief investment strategist at Piper Sandler, a U.S. investment-banking firm, recently put it, “You think you’re buying an index, but you’re really just exposed to seven or 10 stocks. If the AI story takes a dip, it doesn’t necessarily hit all stocks, but it could really hit those index funds.”

It’s clear that investors of all magnitudes need to reevaluate their portfolios to mitigate this growing concentration risk.

Strict School Phone Bans Put Students at Risk

By Liam McCusker
Contributor

Smartphones have undoubtedly become a major distraction in the classroom. Teachers have a hard time keeping students engaged during the school day because they would rather scroll through social media or play games. It is understandable why Connecticut's Gov. Ned Lamont and Commissioner of Education Charlene Russell-Tucker are advocating for stricter rules to prevent kids from using their phones in class.

However, as a concerned resident of Connecticut who recently graduated high school and witnessed this issue firsthand, I urge our state leaders to think about the problems that could arise from this situation if we take this too far.

In our state, some school districts are beginning to confiscate and secure students' phones until the end of the day as part of a policy that goes beyond simply limiting phone usage. This may seem like a straightforward resolution to the problem. However, it is an extremely strict approach that could endanger students and undermine the trust that schools need to have with students and families in order to provide successful instruction.

In fact, phones are not just a distraction. They are also lifelines.

Students need to have immediate access to their phones in the event of an emergency at school, such as a lockdown, an active shooter or even an unexpected illness. Additionally, parents should be reassured that they can get in touch with their kids in an emergency. Think about how

devastated a parent would be if they were frantically trying to get in touch with their child in an emergency and found out that the school had taken their child's phone away for "safety."

Furthermore, it is important to recognize the emotional and psychological benefits that communication gives our children. A simple text to a parent before an important exam or on a difficult day can offer the kind of support that schools are not always able to provide. Eliminating an important source of relief in a world where students' mental health is already fragile seems irresponsible.

Another issue is the cooperation from students. Young people, particularly those in high school, will likely oppose giving up their phones entirely for the school day. If children feel that they

are being controlled rather than supported, school will become a place where they argue instead of learn. If we want to help our students focus, we have to work with them, not against them.

It is important to understand that not every student gets lost in their cellphones. Many children come to school ready to learn, so it is unreasonable to punish everyone for the actions of a small group of people. We need to focus on addressing individual behaviors while creating an environment that encourages students who are committed to their academics.

Instead of taking phones away, let's explore other options. In addition to giving clear guidelines in regard to when and where phones may be used during the school day, teachers should be supported in implementing no-phone-usage policies in their

classrooms. Beyond that, there are devices that allow students to carry their phones with them but keep them secured unless they absolutely need to use them. These types of solutions ensure both safety and discipline.

It is clear that Gov. Lamont and Commissioner Russell-Tucker are worried about our students' performance in school, and their concerns about distraction are valid. But good policies do not always result from good intentions. Let's be truthful and open with parents, teachers and, most importantly, students before we take drastic actions. It is important to consider ways to minimize distractions while also protecting our children's physical, emotional and mental well-being. Smartphones may contribute to the issue, but if we use them properly, they can also help solve it.

Student Highlights of the Week

Q: What are you doing during Thanksgiving break?

By Jameson Lynch
Social Media Editor



Colby Commune

"This year for thanksgiving break I plan to go see family members from out of state and celebrate one of my family members 50th Wedding anniversary"



Joey Conroy

"Over thanksgiving break I'm going to be studying for my finals and working on my senior project"



Keith Miarecki

"Over the break I'm going to be hanging out with a lot of family and doing a lot of iRacing"



Eileen McCarthy

"I'm looking forward to thanksgiving I'm enjoying 5 days off, six days actually and we are going to go to family members and a lot of people are going to gather and a lot of turkey and a lot of food, good family and good times"

NEC Continued From Page 1

Peter Cleary (TE)—A reliable target, coming off a monster game against Duquesne with 111 yards and a touchdown.

Jack Stoll (LB)—The defensive anchor with 75 total tackles this season.

Malachi Wright (LB)—Adding 63 tackles and five sacks, a key disruptor on defense.

Gavin Taylor (LB)—A pass rush force with 6.5 sacks this season.

The experience will be valuable against Mercyhurst in what is easily the biggest game of the season.

A victory on Saturday means more than a conference title; it guarantees a spot in the Football Championship Subdivision Playoffs, where the Blue Devils will have a chance to compete

on a national stage once again. Winning the NEC title would be a fitting finish for this senior class, giving them back-to-back conference championships and playoff appearances. For the younger players, it gives them either their first or another playoff appearance under their belts.

Mercyhurst won't make it easy, as they have nothing to lose heading into this one at 5-6. The offense is

led by senior running back Brian Trobel, who rushed for 815 yards and 10 touchdowns, and the defense is led by junior linebacker Jeff Leavell with 71 total tackles.

This isn't just a football game; it's a celebration of CCSU's senior class and the culmination of a season full of hard work. Fans can expect a high-energy matchup with playoff implications and conference championship stakes.

Kickoff is Nov. 22 at noon, and the Blue Devils' seniors will be looking to leave everything on the field for themselves, their teammates, their coaches and the Central community.



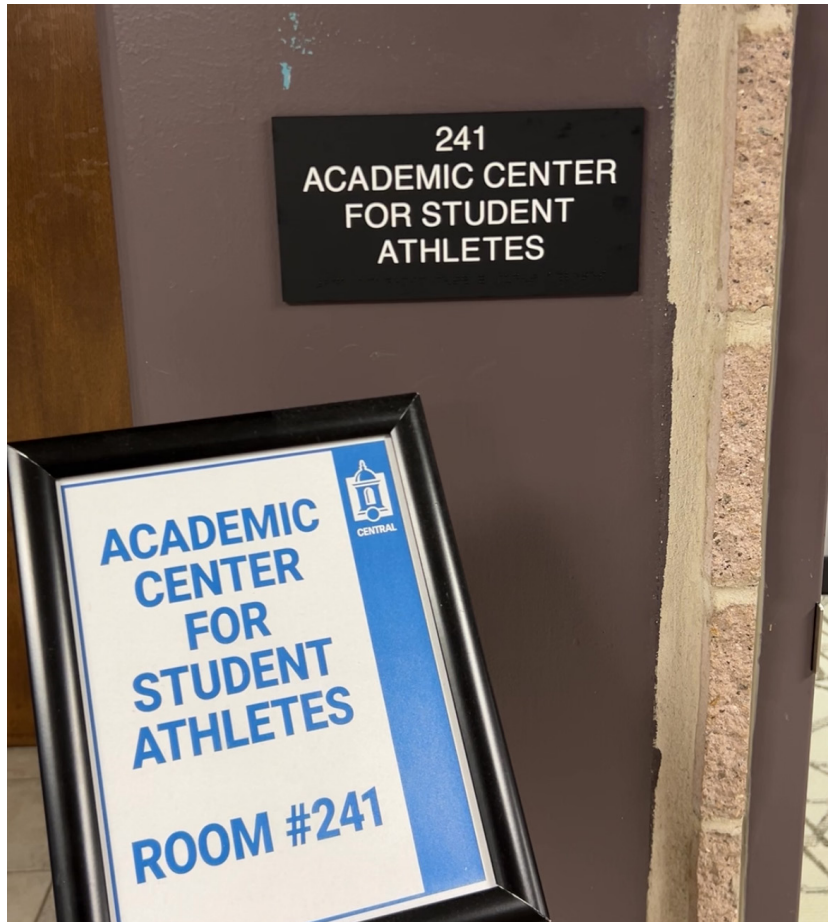
CCSU quarterback Brady Olson (12) dropping back for a pass against Stonehill; **Steve McLaughlin**



CCSU linebacker Jack Stoll (1) making a diving tackle against AIC; **Steve McLaughlin**

More Than Study Hall: The Academic Center Driving Athlete Success

By Kyle Zarnoch
Staff Writer



The Academic Center for Student Athletes is located in Copernicus Hall 241 **Kyle Zarnoch/The Recorder**

When most people think of Division I athletics, they think of competition, long practices, crowded gyms, game-winning shots and tough road trips.

What often goes unseen is the academic pressure that comes with being a student-athlete. At Central Connecticut State University, more than 400 athletes are managing demanding schedules that include early lifts, late-night travel and hours of practice. Somewhere in the middle, they also must find time to stay on track in the classroom.

That balance is where the Academic Center for Student-Athletes steps in. Led by director Inez Vera, the center exists to support athletes academically, emotionally and personally to ensure they remain eligible, prepared and steady while navigating the challenges of college athletics.

“When you think of Division I athletes, everyone thinks about the sport they play,” Vera said. “But the NCAA has certain academic guidelines they must meet.

We provide the academic support. Just like they have coaches and trainers, we’re the academic part.”

Her team, which includes two full-time advisers, academic mentors and graduate assistants, oversees all 16 Division I programs on campus.

Every incoming freshman athlete is required to complete six hours of weekly study hall and meet one-on-one with an academic mentor or adviser.

Vera said those early months are critical.

“For first-year students, it’s really about the transition,” she said. “They’re learning time management, how to handle their schedule and how to be accountable. A lot of them have freedom for the first time. No one’s waking them up, no one’s making sure they’re going to class. We help them develop those habits.”

Study hall hours, she added, aren’t just about producing homework. They’re designed to create structure in a life where time is scarce.

“When you’re competing, practicing, conditioning and traveling, when are you studying?” Vera said. “Study hall helps them manage their time, especially in-season. Fall and spring look very different depending on the sport, so our support adjusts.”

The center’s resources go beyond desks, tutors and computers. Vera’s team intentionally builds relationships with athletes, something she believes is essential to their success.

“Before we even talk about academics, we ask, ‘How are you?’” she said. “We want our students to feel supported as people first. That’s how you build trust.”

Even though the Academic Center carries an academic title, Vera emphasizes that human connection is just as important. Advisers regularly check in on athletes, especially during heavy travel months or tough stretches of competition. They also help students navigate campus life, mental health struggles, new majors, social challenges and the adjustment to college freedom.

One of her advisers uses a “BMP” (Business, Mental and Personal) check-in to gauge how students are doing on a weekly basis.

“At first students think, ‘Why is she asking this?’” Vera said. “But by the middle of the semester, you can see they look forward to someone checking in. And if the numbers are low, that starts a conversation. ‘What’s going on? How can we help?’”

That support has a real impact on the athletes who use the center every week.

Cross country and track and field runner Cameron McLaughlin said the Academic Center is a crucial space for him and his teammates.

“I think it just relieves a lot of stress on the athletes,” McLaughlin said. “We know we can come here and have a spot where we

can do our homework in a quiet place and maintain our grades.”

For McLaughlin, the reassurance of having an adviser consistently monitoring his progress helps keep him grounded.

“You work with your academic adviser to make sure you’re still eligible,” he said. “You don’t really have to worry about certain credits or making sure your grades and attendance are where they need to be. You talk about it weekly, so you always know where you stand.”

He meets with his adviser once a week, like every athlete assigned to the center.

“There’s a couple advisers here and they each [are assigned to] different sports,” he said. “You set up a time at the beginning of the year and then meet once a week to talk.”

Vanessa Frangiadakis, a freshman on the women’s soccer team, who uses the center several times a week, said time and travel make academic life especially difficult for those in season.

“I find this place super helpful,” she said. “The staff is very helpful with trying to manage my schedule. When it’s hard, especially on travel days, sometimes we’re missing classes. They’re super helpful with keeping in touch with professors and making sure we’re getting the work done.”

What makes the biggest difference, she said, is accountability.

“Being here six hours a week kinda holds you accountable,” she said. “When you have limited time between travels, practices and games, it’s hard to find the time to do everything, especially when you’re tired late at night. This place encourages you to get your work done.”

Accountability is one of Vera’s biggest goals.

“You said the word,” she said. “It’s accountability. Some stu-

dents weren’t challenged in high school. Some were high achievers but never had to manage so much at once. College introduces freedom, and sometimes students have to learn the hard way. That’s okay. We remind them we’re not here to judge them. We need honesty so we can support them.”

That support changes as athletes progress through their college careers. Freshman year focuses heavily on routine, study skills and time management.

Sophomore year can bring new challenges: major changes, frustration with playing time or a desire for a different environment.

Junior and senior athletes shift toward internships, career planning and preparing for life after sports.

Every stage requires something different, and the Academic Center works to meet athletes where they are.

“We’re building them for life,” Vera said. “We want them ready for careers, ready for internships, ready to be successful beyond their sport.”

And that is ultimately the heart of the center’s mission. Vera sees every graduation year not just as a list of names, but as a culmination of years of conversations, coaching, oversight and growth.

“Students look at academics as something separate from athletics, but we’re showing them it’s connected,” she said. “The same discipline they show in practice should show up in the classroom.”

In the end, the center is much more than a place to do homework. It is a community of support, one that most fans will never see, but every athlete relies on.

“We want our athletes to feel seen, supported and cared for,” Vera said. “At the end of the day, we’re helping them win long after their last game.”



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Central's Rally Stalls at Home Against UMass Lowell

By Andrew O'Sullivan
Staff Writer

After dropping their opening home game earlier in the week, the Central Connecticut Women's Basketball team lost to the UMass Lowell River Hawks on Nov. 15, 70-54.

The River Hawks improved to 2-1 on the year following a close win against Saint Anselm University earlier in the month, while Central is still searching for their first win of the season after two tough road games and a loss to Sacred Heart at home.

UMass Lowell took advantage early, as the River Hawks were lights out from beyond the arc in the first quarter, with Central standouts Kiyah Lewis and Lucia Noin being the biggest contributors offensively.

The Blue Devils took an 11-10 lead at the end of the first quarter following some deliberation from the officials regarding the time, and the home team extended their lead into the second quarter thanks to another Lewis midrange bomb.

UMass Lowell would fight back, however, as multiple shots from three would give them a 29-20 lead into the half, with Central mishandling the ball late in the quarter, lessening their grip on the lead. At halftime, the only players for Central who had scored were Noin and Lewis,



Lucia Noin (12) attacking the basket and drawing a foul early in the 3rd quarter **Jameson Lynch/The Recorder**

and the team looked to recuperate for the second half of play.

To start the third, the River Hawks would score within 20 seconds to extend their lead to 11, with most of Central's points in the quarter coming off fouls. Five minutes in, Na-Kyah Williams would hit a deep three, which seemed to invigorate the Blue Devil offense, as Williams would hit from behind the arc two more times with Lewis contributing as well, which cut the lead down to only six points with a quarter to play.

A Lewis and-one would further cut the lead down to just three points, but the close game

would lead to more physical play as CCSU would foul the River Hawks six times in the next seven minutes, all while scoring no points of their own.

Lewis would bring the lead to 10 with another and-one, and more free throws brought it to eight, but consistent shot-making by UMass Lowell would eventually put the game away, with the dagger coming from the free throw line with 46 seconds left, as CCSU would drop to 0-4 by 16 points.

Head Coach Kristin Caruso had a lot to say following the loss and remained constructive towards her team and pointed out many posi-

tive aspects of how they played.

"Even when you look at my upperclassmen, we're a really inexperienced team," she said. "We're not focused on the wins and losses right now, but we gotta be focused on growing. We're still working on chemistry, we're still working on a lot of things just besides Xs and Os. I think we're going to get there, but it might take a year."

She admitted that a big issue was that the team never played four complete quarters and that consistency needed to be ironed out.

Central's next two games are away games against St. John's

and Pittsburgh, two basketball powerhouses in the Northeast that the Blue Devils will look to upset.

Caruso talked about the opportunities that her team missed out on.

"We have to make shots. I think we had a lot of shots today and we didn't make them. We have work to do and I think everyone knows that."

CCSU women's hoops will return to the Detrick Gymnasium on Dec. 7 to take on Vermont.



CCSU SCHEDULE



Men's Basketball

November 21 – @ Rutgers at 6:30 PM

November 24 – vs. Sacred Heart at 7 PM

Women's Basketball

November 24 – @ St. John's at 6 PM

Football

November 22 – vs. Mercyhurst at Noon