President Dean announces return to yellow mode

By Josh Morrill
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

On March 1, 2021, University of New Hampshire President James Dean announced in an email to students and faculty that the university would be returning to yellow mode, a distinction that would allow for full student-focused operation on campus.

"Because we continue to see a decline in the number of positive COVID cases as a result of your vigilance and commitment, the Durham campus will return to yellow mode of operation effective immediately," Dean said.

Dean also mentioned that students or faculty members who were working remotely before the transition to orange mode on Feb. 11 can continue to do so.

Since Feb. 24, there has been an average of just under 11 positive cases per day; a number that has decreased by over 16 cases per day from the prior seven-day stretch (Feb. 17-23). The most detrimental trend to the university's yellow mode operations came from Feb. 9 to Feb. 15 when there was an average of over 57 cases per day. At one point during that span, more than 650 UNH community members were in quarantine either on or off-campus.

This transition comes just one week after Dean released an email to the UNH community stating that UNH would be returning to in-person instruction while still maintaining all other orange mode restrictions. Despite the decrease in COVID-19 cases on campus, Dean emphasized that students and faculty need to maintain vigilant behavior when performing social distancing and wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).

"Thank you for helping us to get here, but let me be clear," Dean said. "We’re not out of the woods yet. We know that small indoor gatherings are just as likely to spread the virus as the so-called super spreader events unless public health guidelines (physical distancing, face coverings and keeping gatherings small) are followed. Limiting unnecessary travel and keeping your social circle small really do make a difference."

In a Feb. 10 video, Senior Vice Provost of Student Life Kenneth Holmes stated that one positive case had over 19 close contacts, and that there was an increasing number of close contacts per case throughout the first few weeks of the spring semester.

On Feb. 24, The New Hampshire reported that the university is working with landlords in Durham and the surrounding towns, hoping to get students to adhere to the public health and safety guidelines set forth by UNH and the town of Durham. This is in conjunction with UNH student life’s meetings with students in off-campus housing about these guidelines.

Before the change to orange mode, UNH was planning to open up more opportunities to students. This included the potential to acquire a ticket to attend a men’s hockey home game versus Northeastern University on Feb. 12, where they were allowing 500 students in the Whittemore Center for the contest. These opportunities will no longer be realized, at least for the foreseeable future even though the university has transitioned back to yellow mode.

“We know these are challenging times,” Dean said. “We continue to look for ways to provide access to in-person opportunities, but for now, no spectators are permitted at any athletics game, inside or out. The first home football game Friday, March 5, will be broadcast live on NBC Sports Boston and streamed online starting at 7 p.m. We know this is disappointing for many of you, but there are opportunities to engage safely; the university’s main calendar lists a variety of other choices.”

UNH students to open ghost kitchen delivery and takeout service

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

Fry’d, a new ghost kitchen-style restaurant, will open on Friday, March 5. The ghost kitchen will open at 10 p.m., operating out of Wildcat Pizza on 3 Madbury Road.

Ghost kitchens have a brand and a name, but don’t operate in one concrete location—they work using kitchens of existing restaurants. These concepts are often set up for takeout and delivery, as is the plan with Fry’d.

This late-night cravings cure “Fry’d was put together by seven New Hampshire University students. Fry’d is a new take on campus comfort food with fresh new options to offer to the UNH community, including some of everyone’s favorite classics like baskets of fries and macaroni and cheese with twists, like gluten-free and vegan options.”

Chief Executive Officer Darren Gibaldo, senior finance major, assembled his team of his close friends: Ethan Landon, senior and chief marketing officer, Christopher Sheehan, junior and chief technology officer, Keane Reagan, junior and chief accounting officer, Patrick Duggan, senior and chief financial officer, Joseph Heimbreg, junior and kitchen manager, and Nelson Davis, senior and EHS.

Landon said the group has done a great job of separating their personal and business relationships, and that they all bring a different skillset to the table. “We’ve all grown together and taught each other a lot,” he said.

On the marketing side, Landon said they’ve focused on creating a digital presence, primarily through Instagram and TikTok. They mean to push content that “is not only funny, but relatable to the average college student.”

Their business plan was constructed to operate safely in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, with ordering available online and by phone for contactless pickup and delivery. Gibaldo said they turned the pandemic into a positive, seeing their niche business plan as a path to success.

Gibaldo noted that Durham’s late night food scene is very “pizza heavy” and in general lacks inclusive options for those with dietary restrictions. He is gluten-free, and said he would often feel left out without options late-night with his friends.

With Fry’d, they want to present and market as an inclusive location where everyone is welcome, comfortable, and free to enjoy the food, according to Gibaldo.

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Weather according to weather.com

The next issue of TNH will be published on
Thursday, March 25, 2021
But you can find new content daily at
TNHdigital.com

Nick Fitzgerald reflects on his time as SBP

After a year as UNH’s student body president, Fitzgerald hopes that his work creates a foundation for the future.

UNH senior starts AI health app

After countless hours of development, UNH senior Ryan Lefebvre launched LogSmarter™, an artificial intelligence nutrition coaching app.

UNH winter sports “players of the year”

Jayden Martinez, Amanda Torres, Jackson Pierson and Emily Rickwood highlight the Wildcats’ winter seasons.

Tom Alsip’s UNH directional debut

Tom Alsip, the new assistant professor for the University of New Hampshire Theatre Department directs his first production in Durham.

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A New Hampshire House of Representatives bill would completely revamp current New Hampshire election laws, and place new limitations on who, how, and when people can vote in the state. 

New Hampshire House Bill 86 (HB86-FN) seeks to eliminate same-day voter registration and things of this nature. This law would eliminate these provisions of the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, which aimed to make voter registration easier and more accessible nationwide. According to the Town of Durham’s unofficial results from the 2020 election, there were 1,322 same-day voter registrations, the lowest in many years. However, the New Hampshire House, Senate, and Executive Council flipped from blue to red. New Hampshire has long been known as a swing state. Independent voters are the largest voting bloc in the state, making up around 42% of the electorate. This law would force these voters to choose a side before primary election day. 

Reps. Norm Silber (R-Durham) and Max Abramson (R-Sea Brook) co-sponsored the bill. “I’m actually a proponent of students voting, but don’t have a way to make other states send absentee ballots to our out-of-state college students,” said Rep. Abramson in an email to The New Hampshire. “Contrary to what the Democrats/media have claimed, there has been evidence and probable cause of voter fraud in every election,” he continued. Rep. Silber said he sponsored the bill because of his background and interest in election integrity. He said the goal and purpose of the bill is to have a secure and integruous election system, where every “valid vote” counts. “I’ve seen the problems with voter fraud, and I thought that the New Hampshire voter registration laws and election laws were among the strongest that I’ve ever seen, with same-day registration and things of that sort. So I thought that they deserved a good clean-up,” he said. Silber discussed the federal “motor voter” act, formally known as the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) of 1993, which aimed to make voting easier and more accessible nationwide. One section of this act states that if a state offers same-day registration at polling places, they are exempt from its requirements. HB86 would eliminate these provisions, causing New Hampshire to fall under the act’s regulations.

Silber said he has lived in a state under the NVRA, and saw no problems with the policy. “My view is that New Hampshire elections, which deal with New Hampshire matters and issues should be determined by people who are in fact true permanent residents of New Hampshire - whether you’re talking about college students or transient construction workers or whoever - they need to vote absentee, where they are from,” Silber said. He said requesting an absentee ballot is very easy to do, and that is what he did in college. People have spoken out against eliminating same-day voter registration and other measures proposed by the bill. Kathy Sullivan, the former chairwoman of the N.H. Democratic Party, wrote a letter criticizing HB86 and other bills in the Union Leader. “Repub- lican legislators are proposing several changes to New Hamp- shire’s election laws. These do nothing positive for the voters, and will jeopardize the First In The Nation presidential primary,” she wrote. “There are other bills with similar proposals and new restrictions on voting. One requires anyone voting by ab- sentee ballot to include a copy of a photo identification with the returned ballot, a burden for disabled, elderly or low-income voters. There are theusual efforts to deprive college students of their constitutional right to vote. Another would increase the amount of money that can be given to political committees, increasing the in- fluence of special interests and the wealthy over elections and legislation,” she continued. HB86 was returned in committee on Feb. 18, meaning it will be worked on in committee through the summer. State judges have previously struck down measures seeking to change voting laws in the state. For example, Senate Bill SB3 was dismissed in 2020 by a superior court judge on the grounds that it was unconstitutional and discriminatory. The Secretary of State’s of- fice did respond to request for comment.
Petition circulates for RA hazard pay

By Ben Domaine

University of New Hampshire (UNH) Resident Assistants (RAs) are requesting hazard pay from the university through a petition that has circulated among the student body.

The petition, which has amassed nearly 480 signatures at the time of writing, notes concerns of the increased workload for RAs when UNH transitioned to its orange mode of operation.

“In orange mode, we are expected even more than before to be constantly enforcing the university’s COVID-19 policies, which have drastically increased over the past year,” according to the petition.

In orange mode, on-campus students could not enter any on-campus residence hall or apartment.

RAs say they have faced additional workload, as now they must enforce room capacity, visitor policies, as well as navigate their social programming with COVID-19 restrictions in mind.

Multiple RAs have come forward to express their concerns, all of which requested to remain anonymous out of fear of retaliation from UNH.

“This job was originally advertised to be about 20 hours a week. This obviously depends on the building and size of staff. However, this year, it feels we can’t catch a break,” said one RA. “There’s barely any work-life balance, or any separation between that. We’re constantly dealing with COVID scares within the halls.”

Another RA noted that their job description has changed throughout COVID-19, without receiving extra compensation or benefits.

“Our job description has changed, and there’s a lot more to worry about,” said the RA. “It feels like we’re getting compensated less for twice the amount of work.”

Comparing the RA job description in previous years with the COVID-19 supplement illustrates a dramatic increase in responsibility for RAs.

Under normal circumstances, RAs are responsible for developing community within their respective dorms, while maintaining an extensive knowledge on UNH’s resources. However, under COVID-19, the job description has increased by approximately a page. RAs are now tasked with knowing and implementing “all COVID-19 health and safety policies and procedures,” laid out in their job description.

In addition, RAs are expected to enforce protocol for addressing COVID-19 concerns. RAs are expected to police large gatherings, potentially putting themselves at risk from contracting COVID-19 by breaking up these groups.

Despite all of this, RAs are paid the same rate as they would during a normal year: a single room and a core meal plan.

In order to thank RAs for their hard work, the Department of Residential Life sent RAs a letter and a sticker over the January term. Though well-received, those are people who are impacted at a larger rate as well,” said Bosquet-Fleurival.

“Let’s not do a one-up one-down situation.”

Another RA, fired back at Bosquet-Fleurival, “I don’t think we’re trying to say we necessarily deserve it more or less than other people. It’s more so the point that we deserve it,” said the RA. “If the university can’t be open and equitable to all of its employees, does it deserve to be open?”

RAs have claimed information rarely disseminates, from vaccines to the transition to orange mode in February.

“Even when we were going into orange mode, no one would give us any information at all. All they would tell us is there’s something big going on. We didn’t know if we were being sent home or something else,” said one RA.

Even with RA concerns in mind, Adelmann was unable to promise hazard pay to staff.

“Our department is in such a hole financially, it’s a really high number, $14.6 million and we’ve gone through almost all of our reserves to cover that. “

Though discussions for hazard pay are still ongoing, RAs are asking residents to continue to be diligent in following COVID-19 protocols.

“I’d ask the student body to please be kinder to the RAs. We’re not cops, we’re not out to get you, we’re just humans trying to keep you and ourselves safe in this community,” said one RA.

RAs who were not named in the recorded meeting sent to The New Hampshire have had their names omitted in fear of retribution from UNH.
Fitzgerald reflects on year as Senate elections begin

The Student Senate at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) began a new chapter in the fall of 2020 following allegations of general misconduct by the Senate members as well as providing a “hostile climate toward women Senators.” With ample leadership experience, political science and history dual-major Nicholas Fitzgerald, a junior at the time, believed that he could lead the organization towards its original purpose: to make decisions that serve the students best.

The political science and history dual-major, along with Tyler Silverwood, decided to run for the student body president and student body vice president positions respectively. Although the dynamic duo ran unopposed, Fitzgerald and Silverwood laid out four compelling goals that they hoped to achieve during their time of service, securing them the positions. These four goals were prioritizing public health, providing transparency for all, merging the gaps between student governments, and increasing the initiatives for diversity, equity and inclusion on campus.

Since his period of leadership is coming to an end, Fitzgerald hopes that his “foundational” efforts will be continued following the current reelection. Looking back, Fitzgerald said that he definitely wished that he could get more done. However, the senior stated, “I have realized that a lot of the work I’ve been doing has just been foundational. So, a lot of what I hope the next student body president and vice president do is kind of take that foundation and continue enhancing it.”

During his year of service as the student body president, Fitzgerald stated that the biggest goal to achieve out of the four was transparency. Fitzgerald said that he and Silverwood spent a majority of their time creating weekly newsletters, making sure that administrations were being as transparent as possible by constantly encouraging them to send out emails or alert both Fitzgerald and Silverwood so that they could create a social media post to increase students’ level of awareness.

When asked about his close relationship to the matter of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives on campus, Fitzgerald replied, “To me, this is something that it’s not going away [and] people can’t pretend it doesn’t exist. UNH is a campus that is vastly majority white, and there is a tendency to not talk about it nor put an effort that’s needed into it. I disagree with that sentiment and I believe the best way going forward is to have a more inclusive campus.”

Fitzgerald believes that being inclusive would allow more ideas, perspectives and personalizations that will create a better culture and learning environment at UNH. During his time as the student body president, Fitzgerald was known as the master of time-management. From the way he juggles his classes and his affiliation with a few student organizations such as the Academic Affairs Committee, Fitzgerald despises caffeine. When asked about his ability to handle more than one matter at a time, he said that planning is key. “I’ve done a great job prior to the semester by getting everything I needed done,” he clarified. With most of his class requirements out of the way, Fitzgerald has managed to schedule his classes only from Monday through Wednesday. “I definitely have Thursdays and Fridays, which is where I dedicated these days solely to the student government and my senior thesis,” he added.

Throughout his ups and downs as a student body president, Fitzgerald’s fondest memory was his first time being at the meeting of administrators. He was glad to have recognized everybody that was present. “It felt like my voice was actually taken into account. Anything I said, actually impacted the way the committee moved,” said Fitzgerald regarding his contribution to the search for a new Memorial Union Building (MUB) director.

Though Fitzgerald claimed that he has only laid out “foundational” initiatives, he has also accomplished much during his time of service. After Fitzgerald was introduced to Knack, a tutoring program for specific classes, he decided to push the centralized mobile friendly platform through the Academic Affairs Committee. Currently, Fitzgerald and the committee are in the process of getting a pilot program to be offered next semester, “to see if it is something UNH is really going to find useful.”

Aside from that, the Discovery Review Committee has also submitted a proposal to increase the initiatives of diversity, equity and inclusion. That way, they’ll be some educational pieces that help educate [the students] on diversity, equity and inclusion, that’s going through the faculty senate right now,” he explained.

In terms of his contribution toward the Health and Wellness Committee, Fitzgerald said that he has been advocating and pushing for the return of the MUB Pub, a social space where students could consume alcohol in a safe environment. “We are making leeway on that and the administration is considering implementing that in the near future, which is exciting,” he commented. Goodbyes aren’t always easy. However, Fitzgerald is proud of his achievements in establishing a gateway for the future student body president to continue. His advice, “Even if you are building the next step and you’ll have to pass the torch to someone else, that’s okay. Just make sure that you do your best in the small one-year time span that you have and have faith that the person after you will continue the legacy and help create a better student government and a better university.”

He added, “There’s a tendency when you first get into office that you’re going to accomplish great things and solve all the problems. That’s definitely the mindset that I had and looking back at it, I realized that I’m just a small piece of a larger puzzle.”

By Aqeel Hisham
STAFF WRITER

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By Aqeel Hisham/STAFF WRITER
Sununu approval rating at 72% according to UNH poll

By Ben MacKillop
STAFF WRITER

Last week, a university of New Hampshire (UNH) survey center conducted poll showed that New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu is still maintaining one of the highest job approval ratings for governors in the country.

The poll also offered insights into key issues like redistricting, New Hampshire's first-in-the-nation primary, and the status of sports betting in the state.

As a part of the survey center's monthly Granite State Poll, this poll asked 1,861 members of the Granite State Panel – which includes a random sampling of politically-active New Hampshire citizens – various questions about the state of politics in New Hampshire. The headline of this month’s edition focuses on the approval rating of Gov. Chris Sununu, which has maintained being one of the highest in the country throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overall, 72% of those polled approved of Sununu’s job as governor, including 90% of Republicans, 78% of Independents, and 51% of Democrats. This correlates with approval ratings of Sununu’s job in handling the COVID-19 situation which sat at 71% overall. This also follows a trend of Sununu’s high approval ratings that significantly spiked following the start of the pandemic with a high approval rating of 82% in May 2020, and held consistently around 70% for the past year.

UNH Political Science Professor and Director of the UNH Survey Center Andrew Smith spoke about some of the causes for these high approval ratings and possible implications going forward in an interview.

The UNH (TNH), Smith explained that moments of national crisis, such as wars or in this case, pandemic, cause high spikes in job approval for the President and governors due to a “rallying effect.” This can be seen across the country as many governors, both Republicans and Democrats, have been seeing high approval ratings as rewards for their performance in the pandemic.

Due in part to these high approval ratings, and general success of the Republican Party in New Hampshire, many have been floating the idea of Sununu launching a potential campaign for New Hampshire’s Senate seat in 2022; a seat currently held by former governor and current senator, Maggie Hassan. The UNH Survey Center also published results from an approval poll last week looking at head-to-head matchups between Hassan and many potential Republican challengers.

Of these challengers, Sununu currently is leading the way, polling 48% against Hassan. Former Gov. John Sununu, is polling 4% above Hassan. Between these two, Sununu’s current Sen. Kelly Ayotte comes in a second closest trailing Hassan 43%-48%. Also included in the poll, potential Republican newcomers Corey Lewandowski and Don Bolduc, who have each expressed some interest in running for the seat, both trail Hassan by double digits.

It’s worth noting the best time in 2022 for Sununu to chal-

lange Hassan,” said Smith, although being pointed out that current polling data shows more about name recognition for possible candidates and is not clear precisely of who will win an election over 18 months away. While Sununu has not made any formal comment on running for the Senate in 2022, it is very much in the ordinary for New Hampshire governors to move on to the Senate following multiple successful terms as Governor. Both of Hassan’s recent predecessor senators, Jeanne Shaheen and Hassan are former multiple-term governors.

The Granite State Poll also showcases public opinion surrounding the redistricting process, specifically asking voters if they would support the implementation of an independent commission for redistricting. On this question, 39% overall support the initiative while only 15% oppose, the rest either having no opinion or not knowing about the issue. Of Democrats, 57% is important compared to 35% of Independents and only 20% of Republicans. This issue could potentially become more contentious as the redistricting process moves forward later in the year with state Republicans holding control of the legisla-
tive branch tasked with the redistricting process.

On another note, the poll sees a decrease in public opin-

ion surrounding the importance of New Hampshire in the nation’s primary. Overall, 63% of those surveyed felt it was important for New Hampshire to maintain first in the nation status with 33% thinking it is not important. This is a sharp decline from 2008, when 81% of people felt it was important and only 18% did not, marking a 33-point net drop. This is especially seen among liberals and Democrats, with only 57% of liberals currently believing it is important versus 91% of liberals in 2008.

Smith said, “Many Demo-
crats are listening to the national narrative that New Hampshire is too white and too wealthy to have the first-in-the-nation primary and that New Hampshire does not represent the diversity of the United States or the Democrat party.”

He also explained that many New Hampshire Democrats, both moderates and progressives, are dissatisfied with the past few primary seasons. In 2008, 2016, and 2020, there was not a single candidate who won New Hampshire (Hillary Clinton in 2008 and Bernie Sanders in 2016 and 2020) who would go on to win the nomination.

On a less political note, 44% of those surveyed said they approve of legalized sports betting in the state with only 16% disagreeing, showing a very good public perception now in the second year of sports betting in New Hampshire. In addition, 34% of respondents showed support for ending the limit on physical sports betting locations with 25% in opposition. While 43% of both Republicans and Independents showed support for this initiative, only 20% of Democrats were in favor. Smith explained that this disparity could be caused by the perspective of many Democrats seeing taxation of sports betting as a non-solution to the lack of income. Instead, many Democrats are in favor of some form of broad tax, instead of a tax on income. Many also view gambling and its subsequent tax revenue as a regressive tax that takes from poorer people as opposed to the wealthier who do not indulge in gambling.

The UNH Survey Center publishes new reports, including its monthly Granite State Polls and surveys on many other important political issues.

Durham residents explore local walking trails

By Jared Gedson
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Two adventure-seeking Durham residents came up with a creative solution to explore the Seacoast during the pandemic.

Many Americans are in the unique position of restricted travel due to the coronavirus (COVID-19), since there are so many uncertainty's when traveling to another state. People wonder if you have to quarantine when you reach a new state, or what their restrictions are. Unfortunately, COVID-19 has created a mess for travel within and outside of the United States.

Durham residents Jennifer Daubney Pavlik and her family have also been affected by the COVID-19 travel restrictions. Daubney Pavlik and her oldest daughter, Happy, were planning to travel to Tucson, Ariz. to study immigration and border issues. Their family was also going to celebrate their oldest daughter, Zoe with a vacation to Croatia or Scandinavia for her accomplishment of graduating high school and receiving a scholarship for college. Sadly, both of these trips have been canceled because of COVID-19.

However, Daubney Pavlik and her husband are trying to make the best out of the situation, and are planning to walk every trail in Durham. The journey will begin when the weather starts to clear up and then when they figure out the longest possible distance.

Daubney Pavlik’s first real walking trip took place along the New Hampshire and Maine shoreline. She and her husband walked from Portsmouth all the way to Old Orchard Beach, Maine while stopping at inns along the way. The walk was around 80 miles, there and back.

Daubney Pavlik and her husband have lived in Durham, New Hampshire for 17 years and have found 19 different maps that outline all the different trails. Since there are so many different combinations of completing all these trails, it is hard to put on number on how many trails they are planning to walk.

“I would say we’ve been walkers during most of our adult lives. We didn’t really grow up walking or hiking but have been doing it since we met and moved to northern New England,” she said.

Daubney Pavlik and her husband enjoy hiking and have hiked plenty of trails throughout the year, but having this new goal gives them renewed motivation. “It has also helped us get out of the rut of doing the same paths over and over, and inspired us to go to new places we didn’t even know about,” she said.

Although this journey seems intense, they are certainly prepared. “We’ve hiked around 80 miles on the seacoast of New Hampshire and Maine, these are our most significant hikes. For instance, they have hiked the Franconia Ridge loop in New Hampshire, which is their favorite hike they have done so far. They have also hiked in some national parks around and outside the country. Jennifer said the hike on a bike trail when we completed was a very steep and muddy mountain on an island in the Pacific Ocean.”

The trail that she and her husband are most looking forward to walking in Durham is called Sweet Trail. “We walk sections of it often, especially in the area near the Longmarsh Preserve, but we’ve never done the whole thing. We’re also looking forward to trying out the new bridge that will connect Foss Farm with the Factory neighborhood,” said Jennifer.

You can follow Daubney Pavlik’s journey on her blog.
UNH student creates nutrition app like no other – LogSmarter™

By Caitlin Staffanson
ARTS EDITOR

What began as late nights and early mornings in dorm rooms and one-bedroom apartments over the span of two years ultimately turned into a dream at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) senior computer science major Ryan Lefebvre. That dream turned into reality. Lefebvre created LogSmarter™, an AI nutrition coach app that uses machine learning to help people reach and sustain their health goals.

The idea for LogSmarter™ was formed in December 2019 when Lefebvre was recovering from a back injury caused by lifting.

“Due to the injury, I was unable to train effectively for five months and lost nearly 30 lbs, including a significant amount of muscle,” said Lefebvre. “The injury was caused by poor training methodologies that led to overtraining and due to a lack of proper nutrition, my loss in muscle over that time period was exacerbated. I wanted to gain my muscle back as fast as possible and decided to take an evidence-based approach with my nutrition and training. I began curating my sources of health and fitness information based on credibility rather than popularity. Slowly but surely, I implemented evidence-based practices and progressed faster than ever before.”

Lefebvre was tracking his training and nutrition data but struggled to find a program that matched his goals. Through his experience he came up with the idea for LogSmarter™ and he began working towards the end of his sophomore year.

An “alpha version” of LogSmarter™ has been live since August 2019 and is actively being used by over 1700 customers globally.

After downloading the app, the user inputs their demographic information and what goal they are working towards - gaining muscle or losing fat. After that, the app’s proprietary machine learning algorithm will generate a goal calorie intake that fits specific individual needs. As the user progresses towards their goal, their metabolism will change. Based on daily records of the user’s calorie intake and body weight, LogSmarter’s algorithm will update the user’s goal calorie intake appropriately to make sure they are optimizing their nutrition. The algorithm also provides feedback to make sure the user is following the latest evidence-based nutrition recommendations.

LogSmarter™’s mission is to simplify getting fit by optimizing people’s nutrition and allowing them to reach their goals while saving time, effort and money.

“LogSmarter™ is superior to existing solutions because it provides our customers with both simplicity and autonomy, powered by innovative research-backed tracking methodologies and customized recommendations utilizing machine learning techniques,” said Lefebvre. “Our intuitive user interface creates personalized tracking systems for our customers with valuable insights on their data within seconds.”

Lefebvre started this project on his own but realized he could not keep up with doing all the work on his own. He now has a team of four other people working alongside him to help in the expansion of the company.

LogSmarter™ is available on iOS and as a web app. It can be found on the website’s homepage where there are also links to the company’s socials and apps. LogSmarter™ offers a 21-day free trial to customers and after the trial period expires it is $8.99/month. The team is in the developing stages of an Android app.

Looking forward, Lefebvre and the LogSmarter™ team are working on a suite of web services and they plan to launch a SaaS product that would allow other companies to use their algorithm in their apps.

“For as long as I can remember, I have been drawn towards technology and I am passionate about developing software that people want to use,” said Lefebvre.

By Corey Kurylo
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

President Joe Biden announced Tuesday, March 2, that the administration is striving to vaccinate grade K-12 teachers with their first coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccines by the end of this month and also declared that national vaccination levels are moving vastly ahead of schedule. The U.S. is on track to administer the first vaccine shot to every American adult by the end of June, and is well ahead of the previously stated goal.

As pressure mounts to reopen schools and businesses across the country, COVID-19 continues to present lingering issues as positive case results have averaged roughly 65,000 nationwide over the last seven days. Though this number is alarming and includes over 7,000 additional deaths amid the week-long stretch, the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (CDC) confirmed over a 73% decrease in positive cases over the past seven weeks.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott announced March 2 that Texas had dropped the state-wide mask mandate and will re-enter full-scale operations. Though for the reopening of schools and businesses. Texas is now the sixteenth state that does not require facial protection, a safeguard continuously preached by Dr. Anthony Fauci, chief medical advisor to the President. The state recorded over 8,000 new positive cases this past Monday.

The pandemic has created numerous issues outside of the hospitalizations, deaths, and the financial and small business crisis that has stricken the nation. Studies, including research by Healthline, have indicated that young adults, especially college students, have been negatively affected by isolation and are struggling with anxiety and depression connected to quarantine requirements. Students entering their first year of college have also had a non-traditional college experience. Currently, the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) strict social distancing guidelines have had a profound impact on the essential social aspect of attending college and interacting with young adults and professionals. Face-to-face learning offers students both definitive study and research abilities and access to in-person assistance from professors and teacher assistants than remote-based learning.

UNH President James Dean announced, “resuming in-person classes Wednesday gives us two days to ensure technology is working and provides flexibility for thoughtful transition to minimize any negative impact on learning. Some classes are easier to transition than others.”

Stratford County contains the UNH campus, and most of the Seacoast has experienced over 7,000 cumulative positive cases and nearly 100 deaths on account of the outbreak. UNH reported 385 positive cases during the week of Feb. 8 through Feb. 1, causing the university to switch to remote learning. Cases have decreased over the past two weeks, and the college has switched back to its face-to-face class operations.

Faculty and students of UNH look forward to the university operating at full-scale levels as soon as possible, though it is the responsibility of every community member to play their part in practicing social distancing and follow the state-mandated use of mask protection in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Dean also addressed last week that students “should continue to stay vigilant and again, thank you for your commitment to our public health guidelines and efforts to slow the spread.”

Any student or faculty member experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or emotional distress should Health & Wellness, or email covid@unh.edu or call the UNH COVID-19 hotline (603) 862-2020 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. with concerns.
Farinas takes flight: local artist shares his inspiration

By Aubrey Benoit
STAFF WRITER

Ryan Farinas, 22, and his band "BLANCO" performed at The Big Bean in Durham two Saturdays ago. Farinas takes on the role of lead singer, Shane Jozitis on drums, Kai Dimuzio on bass, Matt Oriente on saxophone and Thomas Williams on guitar. Filling up the capacity of 70 people in a COVID-safe environment, his show was a hit to say the least. Hitting almost 50,000 streams on Spotify alone for his single "I Wanna Die in Hawaii" illuminates the talent Farinas exudes as a young and emerging artist.

The Durham star took this semester off to focus on his musical career and save money. His passion has deepened in the past year, but that doesn’t mean he fell in love with music just now. His mother, Bettina, meant he fell in love with music, it made them worry for their son. Mr. Mendelsen was always encouraging Farinas to never stop chasing his dreams. "Thoughts are just thoughts. It doesn’t mean the actions you take are going to end up like that," Farinas added.

A unique thing about Farinas’ band is where the name originated from. “BLANCO” comes from Farina’s white, 2 year-old pit bull, Blanco. “My dog, shout out to him. He’s our mascot. He’s the GOAT, shout out to him,” Farinas said. BLANCO will release an album titled “The Tie Dye Tape” in late April or early May. They’re currently mastering the music and marketing to produce their best content possible. As time goes on, Farinas just wants to produce genuine music and enjoy what he’s doing. In the meantime, he suggests everyone, ensuing music or not, to “just laugh at (yourselves).”

Follow Ryan Farinas on Instagram for more updates on his music: @ryan_farinas, or his band: @blancomusic_official. Also check out his Spotify to listen to his top hit, “Smilin.’”

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Tom Alsip’s UNH directorial debut

By Allison Musitano

STAFF WRITER

Directing a musical pro-
duction. Starting a job some-
where new. Being an educator dur-
ing the pandemic. All of these
things can be daunting, yet
many are learning to take the
opportunity and enjoy the
experience. As luck would
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this outlet to Tom Alsip for his
time, who is UNH’s new assistant
professor for the UNH University’s
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Alsip is a director with an
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Departments’ mainstage shows
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takes on a new challenge.

Tom Alsip’s UNH directorial
debut in “Pony,” Chapter 1: Snake Oil.”

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In “Kansas (Remembers Me

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In an age where social
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the university.

“This may be one of the
most difficult times in recent
history to be an educator as
well as a thespian, yet Direc-
tor Tom Alsip has managed to
approach his first year at UNH
with much-needed flexibility,
open-mindedness, as well as a
positive outlook toward his stu-
dents in the theatre department
and his cast. No doubt this is
a promising start to his career
here at the university.

Tickets for “I Love You,
You’re Perfect, Now Change”
are available through the UNH
ticket office, airing from March
3 - March 7 at 7 p.m. with a
Sunday matinee.

Special thanks to Assistant
Professor and Director Tom
Alsip for his time.

Orville Peck reclaims the cowboy in debut album

By Isabelle Curtis

STAFF WRITER

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The song also has a layer
that Peck builds throughout the
album: “Dead of Night.” The track
balances the “dark” at the beginning of

However, my favorite track
currently is the album’s final
song “Nothing Fades of the
Light.” It’s the culmination of
the lonely cowboy character
that Peck builds throughout the
album, and it’s moving at the
singer’s yearning for coman-
ionship with his acceptance of
his isolation: “Some men only
take alone/Only ride in the
night/Some drown in the
warmth of home/But noth-
ing fades like the light.” It’s
a relatable feeling that rings
differently during the age of

Furthermore, by having
“light fade” in the last song
listeners are naturally back to
the “dark” at the beginning of
the album: “Dead of Night.”

“Pony” is a haunting,
beautiful song that
predominates a
culture and genre that has long
been stereotyped as conserva-
tive. I can’t wait to hear more
and, with songs like “No Glory
in the West” on Peck’s 2020
“Show Pony EP”, I have no
doubt it will meet my expecta-
tions.
Opinion: You are more important than your grades

By Shawn Latulippe
DESIGN EDITOR

Sometimes it seems there will be no end to this pandemic. Yet, we have normalized it now and expected everyone to go on with their lives and not think too much about it. But not thinking about something doesn’t mean it’s not there. It’s there. And it might be affecting you more than you think. When I got COVID-19 back in March of last year, I was sick for three or four weeks. I was weak and lethargic for a couple months after too. I barely got all my work in for the end of that semester and felt like a failure. But the reality was that I had been sick and had lasting brain fog that made it hard to complete my school work at the high standard that I had always strived for. And yet I felt angry at myself. Sometimes I still do when I get overwhelmed from school work and find myself breaking down in tears.

I always thought senior year was going to be great. I knew I would have stress from a capstone project and internship that I needed to graduate, but I never anticipated just how hard it all would really be. And I’m not alone. Many of my friends talk about problems they have such as extra stress, depression and anxiety related to the pandemic and our inability to socialize like we used to. It’s not that I’ve never been stressed before. There have been plenty of semesters with stress-filled finals, midterms, essays and projects. But back then there was a balance. That balance included being able to see friends and go out on the weekends. It involved breaks where we could all go somewhere and get our minds off school for a week. But that’s gone now.

Unfortunately, this pandemic has dragged on far longer than any one of us may have hoped. I keep feeling like my productivity has gone down during the pandemic, and my school work seems harder to do than before. I have no doubt all of us are feeling this. Whether you have school stress or work stress, it’s more difficult than before. It’s also hard to stare at a computer screen all day. And I miss the days I would go to Union Court to eat with my friends while doing homework. It’s also hard to constantly have to quarantine. I’ve had to quarantine four times now for coming in contact with a person who had COVID-19. It all takes a toll. And that toll is on our mental health.

By writing this I just want to say to everyone that I see you and I understand what you are going through. And your struggle is as valid as everyone else’s. Though life lately feels a lot harder than it should, one day this pandemic will end and we will be back to our old ways. But until then, rest, relax and give yourself a break. Let your teachers know you are struggling and get help if you need to, or reach out to a friend to vent. I know that always helps me. But sometimes doing all of that still doesn’t take away the struggles we face. I’ve been meditating more than ever before and sometimes it works, but sometimes my brain just won’t let go of the stress it’s holding onto. No matter how hard I try. But I remind myself that it always gets better. So keep your head up. Stop beating yourself up over a bad grade or unproductive work week. You are more important than any task you have to do. To any teachers, understand that your students might not be lazy if their work isn’t the standard that it used to be. We are all in this together, and it’s time we remember our empathy for each other is more important than any grade ever will be.

How do you practice self-care?

TWEET YOUR OPINION
@thenewhampshire
WE WANT TO HEAR IT
As we begin to see warmer weather and wider smiles, it’s important to acknowledge the accomplishment of getting through another harsh Northeast winter; one in a year with an ever-changing landscape and never-ending obstacles.

“I’m proud of you.”

The last year has been one with trials and tribulations. Many of our lives have been littered with financial struggles, sickness and death.

For teens and young adults, COVID-19 has elicited a new pandemic, one driven by loneliness and the inability to communicate.

The technology that we have grown up with and treated as allies, does have great qualities. We can communicate with anyone we want to with a couple pushes of a button, and we have so many more resources than our parents did. However, these technological advances, coupled with COVID-19 quarantining, have proven to create adverse effects that can be detrimental to our mental health.

According to the CDC, suicide is the second leading cause of death among people aged 10-24. The percentage of this age group that has considered suicide has risen by nearly 15% since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in early March 2020. Isolation and the inability to communicate has contributed to the spike in these numbers not just with younger people, but older as well. As many freshmen start to wrap up their first year in Durham with the main theme being isolation, some might be asking themselves, “why would I come back?” Or “how could this experience be someone that knew who they were or what they were going. Kind of like a leaf floating in the wind on its way to nowhere.

When the pandemic started I thought other people wanted me to be, left me with nothing but loneliness and confusion.

Just two and a half years ago I was an incoming freshman with severe social anxiety, stressing over how I could start a conversation with new people, let alone with strangers.

I had several acquaintances, but no friends. I proceeded to cry for much of the day my dad dropped me off at my dorm, I went for a walk around campus for about an hour and proceeded to cry for much of the day.

Within the first few months, I had several acquaintances, but no friends that I truly bonded with or could share my accomplishments or grievances with.

When it came time to introduce myself, I didn’t know what to say because I had never thought about what made me unique or what truly brought me joy.

My first year in Durham taught me so much about life. It taught me how to be alone, how to wrestle with my own inner thoughts of self-doubt, but also how to celebrate and have a healthy relationship with myself.

Everyday I would punish myself to no end about not talking to the guest speaker that came to my class, or putting myself out there with people I’d play basketball with at the gym.

After months of this, I realized that it was all a blessing. All the time I missed as a child wandering around not knowing who I was, was made up in these eight months. Even though I was alone, it gave me time to realize what I wanted in a friend, what relationships meant to me and to not let others dictate my happiness. I know that I can get through any bad patch by myself and I don’t have to rely on anyone to be content in my personal situation.

This realization gave me the liberty and mental freedom to meet people and make friends, ones that I actually respect and have my best interest at heart, as I do others.

The reason I tell you my story is because it’s not special. It’s not out of the norm.

There are most certainly people questioning their self worth, if people like them or if they are enough because of an isolated year with little opportunity to communicate and create relationships.

So, if you feel like you’re alone now, try to embrace it. Use it as time to develop your internal dialogue to mirror a more positive outlook. You are enough. You are strong, and you will be okay. Self acceptance and development is a never-ending process.

It’s “do they like me?” Rather it’s “do I like me?” If the answer is no, that’s okay. You have plenty of time to get there... one step at a time.

Josh Morrill
Executive Editor
UNH opens season with split against NJIT and UAlbany

By Dan Marshman

ALBANY, N.Y. – The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s volleyball team (1-1) played their first two games of the season this weekend. The Wildcats faced off against the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) (0-3) on Saturday at University Gym in Albany, N.Y.

The Wildcats won the first set 25-14 after seeing how UNH head coach Christopher Feliciano is confident in the group. Feliciano stepped up and helped lead the team's determination to get the win postgame noting that it was a “great key performance;” we’re really happy with a win. “We’re happy with the most of the possession and looked the better side in the first half. Despite

...
No. 3 UNH upset on home court by No. 6 UMass Lowell

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – No. 3 University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s basketball (10-9, 9-6) had to face No. 6 UMass Lowell (10-11, 7-8) in their fourth straight game to round out their 2020-21 campaign. The Wildcats hosted the River Hawks in the quarterfinals of the America East Tournament and saw their season come to an end at the hands of the conference’s top player, senior Oliudah Noel.

Noel dropped 28 points on the ‘Cats in 10-of-16 shooting from the field, he also added seven rebounds. This was Noel’s first weekend back after missing the previous five games before the tournament due to a foot injury. He has cost the senior a shot at the conference Player of the Year.

Each side kept the game tight within the first 10 minutes of action. UML began to create separation in the latter portion of the first half after a handful of missed shots from the Wildcats.

The River Hawks manufactured double-digit leads at multiple points throughout the half but never truly pulled away. A handful of shots from junior Jayden Martinez and redshirt freshman guard Nick Johnson pulled the Wildcats within seven by halftime.

UNH was just getting started, however. The visitors came out of the locker room and punched the Wildcats in the mouth with a 19-5 run to build up a 21-point lead – their largest of the afternoon. A three-pointer from Noel was the finishing touch on that run from UML.

UNH slowly began to claw their way back into the game with their season on the line. The team saw contributions from a handful of players including Martinez and Johnson. A three-pointer from junior Nick Guadarrama finally got the deficit back to single-digits with under four minutes remaining.

With as little as 44 seconds remaining the Wildcats had pulled within three points of UML, but it was too little too late for the home team. A three-ball and a pair of free throws from the River Hawks put them ahead 72-64 which stood as the final score.

The cold stretch to start the second half was too much to overcome for UNH head coach Bill Herrion and his club. They did, however, see three players eclipse double-digits. Guadarrama led the way with 16, followed by Johnson and Martinez who each put up 14 points.

As the season came to a close for the Wildcat program on the team’s experience in such an unusual season.

“I’m proud of our guys for persevering through this season,” said Herrion. “We didn’t know if we’d get through a season with the pandemic, so I think our guys deserve a lot of credit for hinging in there.”

As for the future of the program Herrion believes there’s a ‘lot of positives.’ Given the jump that Martinez and Guadarrama made from a season ago, and the emergence of Johnson and redshirt first-year guard Blondeau Tchoukuiengo, Herron is certainly justified in his thinking.

Looking ahead to the offseason, there will be plenty of opportunity for the team to grow that they didn’t have during this past summer.

“Not having a spring and not having a summer I think held some of us back physically,” said Herrion. “This spring is going to be huge for our players to give that weight room and on the court with their development.”

No. 3 UNH upset on home court by No. 6 UMass Lowell.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL TALBOT

Wildcats’ comeback falls short in AE quarterfinals

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

ALBANY, N.Y. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (9-10, 5-7) had the opportunity to punch their ticket to the America East Tournament by a double-digit lead into the locker room at halftime. University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (9-10, 5-7) had the opportunity to punch their ticket to the America East Tournament by a double-digit lead into the locker room at halftime. University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (9-10, 5-7) had the opportunity to punch their ticket to the America East Tournament by a double-digit lead into the locker room at halftime.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL TALBOT

SPORTS WRITER

ALBANY, N.Y. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (9-10, 5-7) had the opportunity to punch their ticket to the America East Tournament by a double-digit lead into the locker room at halftime. University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball (9-10, 5-7) had the opportunity to punch their ticket to the America East Tournament by a double-digit lead into the locker room at halftime.

The Wildcats hosted the River Hawks in the quarterfinals of the America East Tournament and saw their season come to an end at the hands of the conference’s top player, senior Oliudah Noel.

Noel dropped 28 points on the ‘Cats in 10-of-16 shooting from the field, he also added seven rebounds. This was Noel’s first weekend back after missing the previous five games before the tournament due to a foot injury. He has cost the senior a shot at the conference Player of the Year.

Each side kept the game tight within the first 10 minutes of action. UML began to create separation in the latter portion of the first half after a handful of missed shots from the Wildcats.

The River Hawks manufactured double-digit leads at multiple points throughout the half but never truly pulled away. A handful of shots from junior Jayden Martinez and redshirt freshman guard Nick Johnson pulled the Wildcats within seven by halftime.

UNH was just getting started, however. The visitors came out of the locker room and punched the Wildcats in the mouth with a 19-5 run to build up a 21-point lead – their largest of the afternoon. A three-pointer from Noel was the finishing touch on that run from UML.

UNH slowly began to claw their way back into the game with their season on the line. The team saw contributions from a handful of players including Martinez and Johnson. A three-pointer from junior Nick Guadarrama finally got the deficit back to single-digits with under four minutes remaining.

With as little as 44 seconds remaining the Wildcats had pulled within three points of UML, but it was too little too late for the home team. A three-ball and a pair of free throws from the River Hawks put them ahead 72-64 which stood as the final score.

The cold stretch to start the second half was too much to overcome for UNH head coach Bill Herrion and his club. They did, however, see three players eclipse double-digits. Guadarrama led the way with 16, followed by Johnson and Martinez who each put up 14 points.

As the season came to a close for the Wildcat program on the team’s experience in such an unusual season.

“I’m proud of our guys for persevering through this season,” said Herrion. “We didn’t know if we’d get through a season with the pandemic, so I think our guys deserve a lot of credit for hinging in there.”

As for the future of the program Herrion believes there’s a ‘lot of positives.’ Given the jump that Martinez and Guadarrama made from a season ago, and the emergence of Johnson and redshirt first-year guard Blondeau Tchoukuiengo, Herron is certainly justified in his thinking.

Looking ahead to the offseason, there will be plenty of opportunity for the team to grow that they didn’t have during this past summer.

“Not having a spring and not having a summer I think held some of us back physically,” said Herrion. “This spring is going to be huge for our players to give that weight room and on the court with their development.”

Redshirt first-year guard Nick Johnson driving to the hoop amongst UMass Lowell players.
Wildcats receive six America East Accolades

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

Five different Wildcats were honored by the America East (AE) in their end-of-season accolades, including six different honors.

Two awards are highlighted by junior forward Jayden Martinez earning a spot on the AE All-Conference First Team, and redshirt first-year guard Nick Johnson being named the Rookie of the Year throughout the conference. Also garnering recognition was junior Nick Guadarrama named to the AE All-Conference Second Team. Johnson along with his fellow redshirt first-year guard Dan Marshman staved off the Huskies attack.

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s hockey team put the Huskies in charge 5-0. Following early in the second period giving the Wildcats the lead at 12:55 mark followed by two power play opportunities for the Huskies at 14:10 and 15:04. The Wildcats were able to hold the lead to put the Huskies in charge 5-0.

Three Wildcats named as All-Conference Selections

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS WRITER

The America East Conference (AE) announced their All-Conference accolades for the 2020-21 basketball season. The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball had multiple players named as All-Conference selections.

Senior guard Amanda Torres was named to the AE All-Conference Second Team as well as the AE All-Defensive Team. This selection marks Torres’ second year in a row on the AE All-Defensive Team. Junior forward Ivy Gogolin was named to the AE All-Conference Third Team and received honors for the AE All-Academic Team. Roundouting the awards for the Wildcats was first-year guard Adara Groman, who made the AE All-Rookie Team.

It shouldn’t come as a surprise that Torres garnered two end-of-season awards. The captain, who is the lone senior on the team, had a tremendous season. She averaged 12.2 points per game, which ranked seventh among America East players and her 2.6 assists per game ranked eighth in the conference. Torres’ impact can be felt on both ends of the court; the senior ranked second in the conference in steals with 2.2 per game.

Head coach Kelsey Hogan has run out of ways to praise her senior captain. Still, it gave her another shot when discussing Torres’ season goals earlier this year. Hogan said she and Torres sat down before the season began and laid out what she wanted to accomplish.

“Talking about being on the All-Conference Defensive Team. We talked about becoming the All-Conference player that we see. So that’s a big push too. We talked about accolades for her just because of her hard work and thinking that she definitely is deserving of all that because of that hard work she’s put in,” explained Hogan.

Coach Hogan has said repeatedly that the team goes as Torres goes. Luckily for Hogan and her team, the veteran Wildcat isn’t going anywhere as Torres has decided to play a fifth year at UNH this season. She was behind only Torres in points per game for the Wildcats. The junior averaged 11.6 points and 5.7 rebounds. Those numbers were good enough for eighth and 14th in the conference respectively for her. Hogan in business administration and finance, excelled in the class with a 3.0 GPA, earning her spot on the All-Academic Team. This year is Gogolin’s first selection to the AE All-Conference Team. She made the AE Commissioner’s Honor Roll in 2019 and 2020.

The standout first-year for UNH this season was Groman. Her selection to the AE All-Rookie team affirms her place as a critical piece in Coach Hogan’s plans to revamp the program. Groman ranked first in minutes per game among all rookies in the conference and averaged 6.7 points per game. Groman’s shooting will make her a valuable offensive weapon for the Wildcats for years to come.

Wildcats’ season ends at the hands of Northeastern

By Dan Marshman
SPORTS WRITER

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s hockey team (7-14-1) was eliminated on Sunday by Northeastern (18-1-1) in the quarterfinals of the Hockey East Tournament. The Wildcats defeated Holy Cross (4-15-1) in the first round of the tournament before their matchup against the Huskies. In the first period against the Huskies, the Wildcats held the defensive end while trying to stave off the Huskies attack.

Northeastern was able to garner a 15-5 shot advantage in the first period showing their ability on the offensive end. Northeastern junior forward Katy Knoll put a goal through junior goalie Ava Boutillier’s legs to give the Huskies a 1-0 lead at the 5:55 mark. The struggles for the Wild- cats on the special teams continued as they failed to convert two power play opportunities in the first period.

“Obviously we’ve got to be better and convert more. If we even converted a third of the opportunities we have on the power play, we’d be scoring a lot more goals,” said Witt.

The first period ended with the Huskies leading 1-0 on the Wildcats.

The Huskies scored twice early in the second period giving them a three-goal lead. The first came from Huskies forward Katie Cipra. The second came at 7:57 off the stick of senior forward Veronika Petey.

Northeastern senior Sky- lar Fontaine scored a power play goal for the Huskies at the 12:55 mark followed by a goal from sophomore Kate Holmes 22 seconds later to put the Huskies in charge 5-0. They extended their lead to six on an unassisted goal from junior forward Mia Brown with less than 30 seconds remaining in the period. The Huskies doubled up the ‘Cats in shots in the second period with 18. Huskies junior forward Alina Mueller scored the only goal of the third period for either team about midway through the frame. The Huskies never looked back holding UNH to only seven shots in the third period.

The game ended by a final score of 7-0, ending the Wildcats 2021 campaign. The Cats finished the season with a record of 7-14-1. Witt said this was a building block season for the team in terms of their development. She expects the young core to continue to grow.
By Cameron Beall

SPORTS EDITOR

Player of the Year: Jayden Martinez

After his third season in the program, Jayden Martinez has now made a leap in points and rebounds per game, along with shooting his field goal percentage in each year he’s been in the system. This season he averaged 13.6 points and 8.5 rebounds per game while racking up a team-high five double-doubles on the season. The junior was named to the America East (AE) All-Conference First Team. From his point-guard eclipsing his career-high in points twice this season. Most recently he set a personal best with 24 points against Binghamton on Jan. 31. After that game head coach Bill Herrion noted how Martinez has become a "star" for the Wildcats late in the season. Herrion praised the conference-leader in total rebounds after that performance. He also noted how the emergence of Martinez made his job a bit tougher trying to manage rotations alongside AE All-Conference Second Team nominee junior Nick Guadarrama.

"Martinez has made an unusual season with the schedule changing every week and not knowing who will be able to suit up in any game whether from injury or COVID-19 protocols; however, there was one thing that never changed from week-to-week. Junior forward Jayden Martinez played in every game for the Wildcats this season and was one of the best players on the ice night-in and night-out. Through 21 games Pierson was able to tally a total of 23 points averaging 1.09 points per game. He posted 15 assists and was able to score over 10 goals this year tying his career high from the 2018-19 season. A season ago he once again eclipsed the 20-point plateau but did it in 26 games only scoring two goals.

Head coach Mike Souza had nothing but good things to say about Pierson after he helped lift the team in a comeback, shootout victory over Merrimack College.

"He’s a humble guy. There’s a reason he’s putting up the points he’s putting up in all situations for us," he said. "He’s a top player in our conference for sure." Pierson has also been named as one of the 19 semi-finalists for the 99th annual Walter Brown Award. This award is given to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

Rookie of the Year: Luke Reid

After losing defensemen Max Gillard to the Florida Panthers the UNH defense was looking for someone to step-up on the powerplay and in Luke Reid they found just that. This is where first-year defensemen Luke Reid steps into picture and fills the hole left by Gillard. Reid played in 19 games in 2020-21 tallying six points on the season. Reid’s first collegiate goal came against UConn on Jan. 15. His other five points were assists, two of which came against Merrimack on Feb. 19. The Nashville Predators prospect had a pretty solid first year and ranked 11th on the team in total points, while also being a dependable defensemen with 19 blocks. However, there is always room for improvement. Reid’s side was outscored by six this season, but he continued and still has a lot of time to grow into his potential after his first year at UNH.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

By Brackett Lyons

SPORTS WRITER

Player of the Year: Amanda Torres

It will come as no surprise that Amanda Torres is The New Hampshire’s player of the year for the University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s basketball. The senior point guard had her best season to date and was named to the America East All-Conference Second Team. Torres has also earned a spot on the All-Defensive Team for the second year in a row. The veteran averaged 12.1 points in 20 appearances along with 2.6 assists and 2.3 rebounds. Torres was second on the team in few three-point attempts, with a minimum of 10 attempts, making 79% of her shots from the stripe. What Torres brings to the team doesn’t just show up on the stat sheet, as the team’s lone senior Torres had to find her voice as a leader on the court. Head coach Kelsey Hogan has previously said that she relied on Torres to be her voice on the court. Torres had herself that leadership doesn’t come naturally to her, and she had to work at it a lot this season.

“I definitely am very soft spoken. I don’t really talk a lot,” explained Torres. “But that has definitely been the biggest change for me being a captain this year is not just leading by example but actually talking and using my voice in practice and in games.”

Virtually everyone could see Torres rallying her teammates on the court as the Wildcats came painfully close to coming back from a 14-point deficit in the conference semifinals of the America East Tournament. Torres played all 40 minutes in UNH’s lone playoff game.

Rookie of the Year: Adara Groman

Unsung hero of the team has been one of the 19 semi-finalists for the 99th annual Walter Brown Award. This award is given to the best American-born college hockey player in New England.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

By Shaun Petipas

SPORTS EDITOR

Player of the Year: Jackson Pierson

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s hockey team has had a bit of an unusual season with the schedule changing every week and not knowing who will be able to suit up in any game whether from injury or COVID-19 protocols; however, there was one thing that never changed from week-to-week. Junior forward Jackson Pierson played in every game for the Wildcats this season and was one of the best players on the ice night-in and night-out.

Through 21 games Pierson was able to tally a total of 23 points averaging 1.09 points per game. He posted 15 assists and was able to score over 10 goals this year tying his career high from the 2018-19 season. A season ago he once again eclipsed the 20-point plateau but did it in 26 games only scoring two goals.

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Rookie of the Year: Adara Groman

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PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS

WOMEN’S HOCKEY

By Nicole Kelly

SPORTS WRITER

Player of the Year: Emily Rickwood

Junior Emily Rickwood was the anchor on defense for the Wildcats and showed up in the stat sheet. She led UNH in points in 2020-21 and scored two goals in their matchup against Holy Cross in the Hockey East Tournament. Her competitive nature along with the chemistry between her and her teammates allowed Kelly to thrive. She had a nose for the net all season with a team-high five goals.

Keller has played with Rickwood before along with redshirt junior Paige Byrne and junior Lauren Martin. Their mindset from their time on the Canadian junior’s team and Esso Cup win has allowed them to elevate their game on the next level. Keller also led the team in assists and goals proving she’ll be a cornerstone for the ‘Cats moving forward.
UNH to welcome UAlbany into Wildcat Stadium

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

DURHAM, N.H. – University of New Hampshire (UNH) football last took the field 15 months ago when they took down Maine in the final game of 2019 to take back the Brice-Cowell Musket. Today, the Wildcats prepare to kick-off their six-game season under the lights of Wildcat Stadium on Friday night. The team will welcome UAlbany into Durham for week one of the 2021 slate. This will also be the first time since fall of 2018 that head coach Sean McDonnell will be under the headset for the Wildcats; McDonnell missed all of 2019 while on medical leave.

During his mid-week press conference, McDonnell explained how he hasn’t had much time to let the nervous energy of his first game back sink in yet. He said he’s been more focused on trying to get players back on the practice field and following protocols.

He went on to explain how different preparations have been for this season compared to their normal routine of spring and summer camp before the fall season.

“We’re in school right now. Usually from that first week of August to the first week of September you’ve got football-101. You eat, drink and sleep football,” said McDonnell. “The great thing about that is that you get to see the kids and you get to bond with the kids. McDonnell noted his concern due to the lack of live action this year compared to a normal camp for his team.

“I got the phone with Chip [Kelly] this morning, and we were talking about how there’s a little angst in my stomach because we haven’t had the two or three scrimmage games leading into this,” he said. As for the roster, the head coach explained that he thinks his running backs are going to be the lead unit on the offensive side of the ball. McDonnell thinks it could be easier for sophomore Dylan Laube and senior Carlos Washington Jr. this year without Evan Gray in the mix. He noted that sometimes it can be tough to get each guy their touches with a three-man backfield.

The wide receiving corps is also a unit that the team has confidence in ahead of their season. The group headlined by junior Brian Espanet and sophomore Charles Briscoe III is finally getting back healthy. McDonnell is particularly excited about some of the other players on the depth chart. He thinks that position is “solid” with some of the lesser-known names supplementing his top-two wideouts.

“Sean Coyne has come back from his year off. He’s had a terrific fall and spring,” McDonnell explained. The team also thinks their defense can still be a strength just as it was in 2019. McDonnell explained how he thinks his team will go as far as their front four on defense can take them. He also expressed confidence in his linebackers and safeties.

UAlbany is a team that McDonnell thinks could present a lot of problems on the offensive side of the ball with redshirt sophomore quarter-back Jeff Undercuffler and senior running back Karl Mofor. He raved about Undercuffler’s ability to push the ball downfield and even went as far as to compare Mofor to Le’Veon Bell.

UNH lost to the Great Danes in 2019 by a final of 24-17. In that game Undercuffler threw for 199 yards and one touchdown, while completing 16-of-27 passes. Mofor gashed the Wildcats for 107 yards and two scores on 20 attempts.

Sophomore quarterback Max Browsner threw for 142 yards and threw two interceptions in the loss. The two sides will kick-off from Wildcat Stadium at 7 p.m. on Friday. The Wildcats will welcome Delaware into Durham on March 20 following a bye week after their opening game.

O’Driscoll notches game-winner on opening day

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

The defending America East champion University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s soccer team (1-0) won their opening game this past weekend as they defeated UMass Lowell (0-1, 0-1) by a final of 2-1 in overtime.

The first half of the game was a stalemate as neither side was able to gain a real edge. UNH posted three shots on goal and UMass Lowell had two but neither team found the back of the net and the game sat at 0-0.

The first goal of the game didn’t come until the 66th minute and it was UNH who broke the seal. Senior back Victor Menudier got loose on a breakaway with a smooth pass from sophomore midfielder Rory O’Driscoll. Menudier sped past the River Hawks defense and ripped a shot by the goal tender, giving UNH the one-goal lead. This was the first goal for Menudier as a Wildcat.

UNH maintained this lead for most of the game and kept the River Hawks on their heels until 1:07 remained and the River Hawks tied it at 1-1. Senior midfielder Daniel Orrego snuck by the UNH defense and found some room to put it in the back of the net, pushing the game into overtime.

After controlling most of the game, UNH wasn’t about to let this one slip away. In the 95th minute senior Jacob Gould sent a beautiful pass through the defense and found the foot of O’Driscoll who was able to one-time the ball into the net for the game-winner. This was O’Driscoll’s second game-winning goal of his career.

UNH outshot UMass Lowell 18-6 with eight being on net for the ‘Cats compared to four by the River Hawks. Meanwhile, graduate student goalkeeper Alejandro Robles earned himself the win in this game totaling three saves. UNH coach Marc Hubbard now moves to 5-1 in season openers.

UNH will look to defend their home turf for the first time in 2021 when they host the Northeastern Huskies on Saturday afternoon. The Wildcats did this effectively last season, holding a strong 9-0-1 record in Durham, and could see another season like that starting with this game against the Huskies. These two teams haven’t faced one another since 2018, so the rosters might look a little different for both sides. UNH currently holds the advantage in the matchup history, ahead 4-1 and will try to improve that on March 6.