**UNH Nursing Program receives national recognition**

By Isabelle Curtis

**STAFF WRITER**

The University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Nursing department has received a No. 63 ranking for its master’s programs from U.S. News and World Report. This achievement makes UNH’s master’s nursing program the highest-ranked in northern New England.

“We were pleased to see that the work we do puts us among peers that we are proud to be a part of,” said Gene Harkless, associate professor and chair of the department of nursing. “It documents what we’ve known all along that we have a very strong nursing program, and this was a way to show it to others.”

The demand for health care workers in New Hampshire, especially in rural and underserved communities, is not a new issue. According to a December 2018 survey, over 2,000 health care worker vacancies existed in hospitals and community mental health centers across New Hampshire. This situation has only worsened due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Harkless, in a previous interview with The New Hampshire, credited part of the worker shortage to changes in the care available—such as the rise of at-home care—and the high level of medical skills required for many treatments. Another problem is the care demands of New Hampshire’s rapidly aging population. It is estimated that by 2030 almost one-third of the state’s inhabitants will be over 65.

UNH’s nursing program has endeavored to meet these health care demands through the creation of new graduate programs, such as nurse practitioner programs that focus on psychiatric mental health and adult gerontology acute care. The adult gerontology acute care program will welcome its first group of students in August.

In addition, UNH has a direct entry master’s in nursing (DEMN) program that “offers an accelerated clinical nurse leader track for those without a prior nursing degree.”

Harkless says that DEMN “has contributed significantly to helping workforce needs” as it allows individuals to gain nurse certification and enter the workforce without having to complete a second baccalaureate.

UNH and the state of New Hampshire are also working to address health care shortfalls through the development of the College of Health and Human Services’ Health Sciences Simulation Center (HSSC). The structure will include offices, classrooms, common meeting spaces, and “fully equipped simulation labs that mimic hospital, clinic, primary care and other health care settings,” according to a UNH press release.

The center hopes to encourage interdisciplinary cooperation for students majoring in health and human services— including nursing, occupational therapy, athletic training, and health sciences—who will work with each other during simulations.

HSSC’s additional space will also allow the nursing program to expand with the goal to graduate about 130 nursing students per year.

Construction on the HSSC is set to be completed in August. Aside from the nursing department’s programs, Harkless expressed pride in the nursing faculty and students who “have helped grow and innovate this program” and the work they have accomplished during the COVID-19 pandemic.

She credits Patricia Pacilli, nursing clinical associate professor, for room and board that they weren’t using or risk living in a group setting during a pandemic. The member said that it was irresponsible for SAE’s Financi

**Nursing Program continued on page 3**

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**Fraternity members allege malpractice during quarantine**

By Brackett Lyons

**STAFF WRITER**

Durham, NH – Fraternity members at the University of New Hampshire (UNH) faced financial pressure to honor their leases – and a higher risk of infection in crowded residence halls – this past school year. Long stretches of quarantine where no members could leave the house pushed some within the houses into desperation.

In order to develop immunity among themselves and escape continuous quarantine, members chose to intentionally spread the coronavirus (COVID-19) among themselves.

Over 2,400 students are active members of Greek life at UNH. They belong to the eight sororities and 13 fraternities officially recognized by the university. Their numbers account for 17% of the UNH student population. Most of those students live in houses just off the UNH campus. They live in rooms that hold anywhere from one to four students. Many houses have shared bathrooms, dining areas and common spaces. These students all faced the question of whether they should risk living in a group setting during the COVID-19 pandemic or remain home.

Many members had already signed their leases before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the United States last spring. According to a UNH junior and a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon (SAE), and two other UNH fraternity members, no opt-out was offered by fraternity landlords, and prices remained at their pre-pandemic levels despite the risks of group living. A member who wished to remain anonymous confirmed that he paid $450 a week to live in the SAE house.

With no opt-outs, members had to choose between paying for room and board that they weren’t using or risk living in a group setting during a pandemic. The member said that it was irresponsible for SAE’s Financi

**SAE COVID continued on page 3**

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**Mask ordinance in review**

**UNH COVID-19 update**

**NH recovers from its drought**

**Safe summer op-ed**

**Men’s soccer loses to Kentucky**

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**Photos courtesy of The University of New Hampshire.**

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**Photos courtesy of UNH Sigma Alpha Epsilon.**

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campus after an extended win February marked the intro additional safety restrictions. take hybrid classes and follow regularly, use Wildcat Pass, students continued to test COVID-19 at UNH: Spring semester in review campus. With 402 people in off-campus students could instruction would end and that had 266 active cases and would turned for the spring semester, than 106. When students re dorms,” said the SAE member. said one member of SAE who “We live in a group setting,” the leases.
SAE COVID-19: Spring semester in review

By Katie Hoppler NEWS EDITOR

Spring 2021 was the third semester coronavirus (COVID-19) was present in the streets of Durham. This spring students continued to test regularly, use Wildcat Pass, take hybrid classes and follow additional safety restrictions. COVID-19 took up a lot of TNH’s reporting this spring and below is a compilation of that work.

February marked the intro-duction of the term “COVID fatigue.” Students returned to campus after an extended win-ter break and brought universi-ty high COVID-19 rates with them. The university reached a peak positivity rate of 1.66% with 428 students in isolation and 629 in quarantine. University quarantine and isolation facilities started to experience capacity issues which lead to UNH Department of Housing and Residential Life (housing) to convert a student dorm in The Minis to additional quar-anitie space. These record high positive rates put the university to ‘orange mode,’ moving all classes online and placing further restrictions on campus. After one week the university allowed for classes to resume, keeping other re-strictions in place. March marked the official one-year anniversary of the pandemic. The university returned to normal operations which is the level of operations UNH remained at for the rest of the semester. University Resident Assistants (RAs) started a petition to request hazard pay, saying that they were not compensated for the additional labor and risk required during a pandemic. After the petition gained popu-larity circulating around campus, housing announced that due to lack of funding they would not be able to offer this additional compensation to RAs. The uni-versity announced the detection of the most contagious U.K. variant on campus in addition to plans for the university to be fully open for the fall 2021 semester.

On April 1 every resident of New Hampshire aged 16 and older was eligible to register for the COVID-19 vaccine. The following week, the university hosted two vaccine clinics for both in-state students and faculty. Gov. Chris Sununu initially did not allow out-of-state students to receive a vaccine shot in N.H. This rule sparked frustration within the student body, university and town of-icials. UNH Student Body President and Vice President Nicholas Fitzgerald and Tyler Harkless said, “This is really going to have an impact on the university is [vaccinated],” Harkless said. “This is really going to have an impact on the university and we’re happy to do it.”

“The lack of communication between the fraternity corpora-tion and UNH kind of left us out to dry, and it put us in a very tough situation to make sure no one was safe,” said one SAE member about the scenario that we had no control over,” he said.

He said he returned home in hopes of avoiding contract-ing COVID-19. He hoped to wait out the spread through the house and that it would be safe. He also felt that he should be reimbursed for his time at home due to active COVID-19 cases within the house. Accord-ing to the anonymous member, SAE told him that because the house remained open and cleaning and culinary services were still being provided, that he’d get his financial reim-bursement. SAE’s Financial Services and Housing corporation did not respond to requests for comment or questions about the policies during orange mode or cases within Greek life houses.

COVID-19 at UNH: Spring semester in review

She also stressed the instrumen-tal role of UNH nursing students who have played as nursing assistants and vaccine distribu-tors.

“No [nursing students] were able to provide a really found-ation workforce for vaccine clinics, and we’re going to be immunizing all in red one day in the spring semester. The university is [vaccinated],” Harkless said. “This is really going to have an impact on the university and we’re happy to do it.”

“[Nursing students] were like, I want to just get this over with, be immune for three months and be able to live like normal people,” said another.

The spreading was done by re-laxing social distancing guide-lines, abandoning of masks and in some cases breathing or coughing into another member’s face.

SAE told him that because of quarantine that went on for the rest of the semester. UNH administration did not respond to requests for comment or questions about the policies during orange mode or cases within Greek life houses.
When the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic prompted widespread mask wearing, the federal government left states and towns to decide whether or not it was enforceable. Despite the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s advice to wear a mask in any public place, it took months for ordinances to appear in many communities.

About five months after the nationwide lockdown, Durham, N.H. was one of the first states to pass a mask mandate. As a college town with the impending arrival of thousands of students, town officials were under pressure. Durham’s mask ordinance became effective in August of 2020 – three months before the state.

“Is it easier when everyone knows what’s expected,” said Petra Vopalenska, store manager at Hayden Sports.

As the school year for Durham’s resident university draws to a close and vaccinations are widespread, community members are taking the time to reflect on the COVID-19 experience in Durham. The response has been overwhelmingly positive. Law enforcement officers, university officials and residents were pleased with the rollout. And to the relief of many concerned residents, the student body cooperated.

The Summer after the Lockdown

In March of 2020, the nation fell into lockdown mode due to the soaring COVID-19 cases in the United States. Durham patiently waited to safely open up again.

“We shut down for five weeks until mid-May,” Vopalenska said. “We’ve been open ever since.”

According to Vopalenska, Hayden Sports urged customers to wear masks as soon as they reopened. At that time, there was no ordinance. “Initially there was some resistance,” she said.

Before the mandate, Vopalenska and her coworkers were “infrusted and exhaust-ed” with enforcing mask wearing in the store.

The town of Durham and the University of New Hampshire (UNH) worked on solutions all summer.

The discussion of a town mandate began in July 2020. Sam Flanders, a Durham resident, was cited in the Durham Town Council meeting minutes as being coerced with the impending arrival of UNH students. This triggered an ongoing conversation of a mandate in Durham.

Meanwhile, UNH was brainstorming ways for a safe arrival and departure of the students back into Durham. Also in July 2020, the Faculty Senate thought of having students sign an informed consent agreement “We [want] them to acknowledge that they have a role to play here and if they don’t follow these rules they cannot come to campus,” said Provost Wayne Jones in the meeting.

This contract, later coined as the Wildcat Pledge, stated that students “must fol-low guidelines both on and off campus and comply with all town ordinances” according to UNH’s COVID-19 website.


Employers at local businesses like Hayden Sports noticed a difference in the amount of people wearing masks on the premises. “Once it became [required] town and statewide to wear masks, it was easier to con-trol,” she said.

The First Months of the Mask Mandate

Durham police officer Holly Malasky commented on what it was like to enforce the mask mandate in the fall.

“Very early on, there were a lot of unknowns, so people in Durham were wearing masks anyway,” she said. “The community was overwhelmingly pro-mask mandate and positive for its adoption and the safe return of students.”

Malasky added that Durham used multiple platforms to promote the mask mandate, including signage inside businesses and road signs throughout downtown. Law enforce-ment personally visited local businesses to deliver sign stating the new COVID-19 guide-lines for the town. The Durham Police Department also took advantage of the university’s mass emails by including an ordinance in messages to the student body.

“Educate, remind, reiter-ate,” Malasky said, “that’s our mantra.”

Town Council Chair Kathrie “Kitty” Marple noted that she noticed hardly any resis-tance from residents.

About a month and a half after its installment, the man-date was deemed a success. Durham Police issued 499 warnings and handed out more than 90 masks. They issued no fines or summonses. Chief Renee Kelley of Durham PD reported, “We’ve noticed a lot, as with most places,” he added.

A UNH student commented on their choice to attend outdoor maskless parties. They asked to remain anonymous.

“My friends and I usually just stay isolated from the rest of the crowd if we’re at par-ties,” they said.

This student felt that being tested for COVID-19 twice a week through the university and staying in their circle was being cautious enough for the given circumstances.

“College only lasts so long, and I just turned 21,” the stu-dent added. “I’m still cautious about it. I think a lot of people are. I just don’t want to look back and regret not having had a college social life.”

According to Marple, town residents are mostly appreci-ative to students, though, for wearing their masks as much as they could.

Emily Feliciano, a Durham resident, added that when run-ning errands or taking her kids to playgrounds in other local communities, she sees “way more maskless people” than in Durham.

“I’m happy with the student body, and I will always support them here,” Feliciano said. “Compared to other neighbor- ing towns, I’m thankful to live in Durham.”

Marple said she hoped resi-dents would relax more once students were given to the student body. Marple’s com-ment was given shortly before UNH announced on April 2, 2021 of a vaccine clinic for in-state students.

Now, UNH has conducted vaccination clinics for in-state and out-of-state university and community members. According to UNH, 10,000 people have been vaccinated with at least their first Mod-erine or Pfizer shot through the university.

Looking Ahead - Town Vs. University

With the announcement from Gov. Chris Sununu lifting the statewide mask mandate, communities like Durham remain cautiously optimistic. Safety of the student body and the town’s residents remain a top priority to town and university of-ficials.

Durham Town Administrator Todd Selig commented that the continuation of Durham’s mask ordinance, which remains in effect, will rely on a multi-tude of factors: CDC and state COVID-19 case information, the potential of new COVID-19 variants, and partnership with the university.

“Durham and UNH work very closely together, so we’ll be aligning our on-campus and off-campus efforts into the summer and the fall,” Selig said via email. “I’d anticipate the local mask mandate to follow the May/June time-frame for now, and potentially longer.”

Selig added that resumption of the mandate could occur at the start of the fall 2021 semester.

In Selig’s Durham Friday Updates for April 30, 2021, he officially announced to the community that the Durham ordinance will remain in effect through at least June 5, despite the announcement from Su-nunu on April 16.

Selig wrote, “The lifting of the state-wide mandate by the Governor does not dimin-ish the importance of wearing a face mask. The threat to public health from COVID-19 is real.”

By Alexa Gagne

CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Year in review: Durham’s mask ordinance

When the coronaviru...
By Ben Domaine
STAFF WRITER

Support grows for offshore wind development on Seacoast

With the Biden administration aiming to expand renewable energy projects along the East Coast, research from the University of New Hampshire (UNH) shows high support from coastal residents for offshore wind development.

Recreation, which accounts for nearly $1.5 billion in annual economic impact for New Hampshire, remains an essential economic sector. UNH found widespread support, with nearly 77% of coastal recreation visitors supporting offshore wind development (OWD) along the New Hampshire Seacoast.

“This study takes a closer look at the lingering assumption that offshore wind in the United States might hurt coastal recreation and tourism. When, in fact, we found the opposite,” said Michael Ferguson, assistant professor of recreation management and policy. “Our findings suggest that OWD will likely have minimal impact on coastal recreation and tourism, and in some instances, may even help amplify visitation.”

The study, which surveyed visitors at 18 different zones across the Seacoast, including beaches, marinas, boat launching, yachting clubs and angling locations, provided 50% of respondents with a simulation of the proposed development, while the other 50% did not view it.

Findings indicate that there was support on whether or not the respondent viewed the simulation.

“Most of these coastal recreation visitors frequented the area, so these are people with strong ties to the N.H. Seacoast,” said Ferguson. “And, since OWD has had its hurdles gaining traction and acceptance in the United States, our findings suggest that coastal recreation visitors are open and supportive of it and policymakers, natural resource managers, and the OWD industry should recognize coastal recreation and support it as a critical stakeholder.”

Despite widespread tourist support, Roger Stephenson, Northeast Regional advocacy director for the Climate & Energy program at the Union of Concerned Scientists, noted that OWD and the fishing industry must understand and accommodate each other in order to be successful.

“The devil is in the details, let’s talk about that,” said Stephenson. “There will be people... let’s call this a surf and turf story. The fishing industry just needs to adopt a willing suspension of disbelief. We’ll need wind turbine operators to unhook their fisherman off fisherman. The turf are the people here in the state who will be faced with changes in the grid. There may be new grid related construction.”

Stephenson noted that due to climate change, the Rhode Island lobster industry has been kneecapped by ambivalent action on renewable energy.

“(Rhode Island) doesn’t have a lobster industry anymore, the waters are too warm. The fishermen are adapting to catching different kinds of fish and more squid,” said Stephenson. “They have to adapt, the ocean is changing, it has absorbed 90% of the heat from human-induced climate change.”

Maine, which is responsible for 90% of the nation’s lobster yields, is also feeling the impacts of climate change for the past two decades.

In an interview with The New York Times, Dave Cousins, former president of the Maine Lobstermen’s Association outlined climate change’s impact on the state’s lobster industry.

“Climate change really helped us for the last 20 years,” said Cousins. “Climate change is going to kill us, in probably the next 30.”

A study conducted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) found that the Gulf of Maine is warming 99.9% faster than the rest of the planet’s oceans, and will continue to warm at an accelerated rate for the next 80 years.

Stephenson believes the benefits of offshore wind development far outweigh the potential drawbacks.

“I think ecosystems are being harmed much, much more from the impacts of a changing climate than they would be from the infrastructure that comes with offshore wind,” said Stephenson.

Tom Burack, former commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services and current attorney and consultant with the Ocean Policy Institute, echoed Stephenson’s urgence on OWD development.

“Climate change has really become a top priority for OWD development here in New Hampshire that [and enjoy] the natural resources we have so much to look forward to.”

“From an energy perspective, offshore wind is the greatest feasible reductions we can make a difference,” said Dean.
SCOPE welcomes star Bruins player

By Aubrey Benoit
STAFF WRITER

By 2006, Brad Marchand was drafted to play for New England’s beloved Boston Bruins. Now, the 32-year-old described himself as “simple. Students know him.”

Marchand is still on the search for the second number. He was drafted in ’06 in the third round. At that time, in those years they would give you the year you were drafted as the first number and then the round you were drafted as the second number. I was drafted in ‘06 in the third round so 63,” Marchand said.

The Bruins have won a Stanley Cup, World Championship gold and the World Cup gold. A left winger, a goal scorer and a class player, University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Student Committee on Popular Entertainment (SCOPE) welcomed Marchand to a live Q&A Monday evening.

SCOPE members James Matias and Megan Hurd led the Q&A with inquisitive questions from UNH students that had joined the Zoom link to the interview. Students asked questions that ranged from Marchand’s best advice all the way to playoff season. Even with thousands of questions rolling in, Marchand and Hurd were still able to let students be heard and make sure Marchand was comfortable.

Marchand made it abundantly clear throughout the Q&A that he knows his teammates. He talked about his own line, saying that they work well together and are “a good line. No doubt.” This year there are new players acquired at the deadline Marchand has gone from.

“They’re great. They bring a lot of depth that we needed. They’re all great guys off the ice. We’re lucky to have them,” Marchand said. They appear to fit in very well, despite the pressure of being new players on the team. Hurd added how important it is to have good connections with your teammates on and off the ice and Marchand agreed. “I think that’s a thing our team does a really good job of, and we know that. [Coaches] care more about their character in the room and who they are off the ice than what they bring on the ice— that’s secondary,” Marchand said.

He and his team take a lot of pride in their dynamics off the ice. Their ability to be good people allows the team to be close and build good work ethics that evidently creates a strong dynamic on the ice.

What happens behind the scenes, though? Hurd asked Marchand what his game day rituals are. “I eat fish and sweet potatoes and broccoli on game day. I like to sleep for like 45 minutes to an hour in the afternoon and have a coffee at the same place. Typical stuff. You can’t be consistent all the time. There are too many variables,” Marchand responded.

The 32-year-old described himself as “simple. Students know him.”

Marchand doesn’t go deeper into some of the ways Marchand celebrates any wins, specifically when the Bruins won the World Cup in 2011. “That whole summer was a blur,” Marchand said. The Bruins parted every night in the heart of Boston. However, paparazzi were eager to sneak photos and release them to the media, which was not great publicity for the team. “We were doing what any 21, 22 year old would do if they won a trophy,” Marchand said. If they win again, Marchand believes they will go on a trip instead to avoid bad publicity.

Bouncing from bar to bar in Boston, Marchand told Matias that he’s a classy drinker, typically ordering root beer with Captain Morgan. “Otherwise I’ll go straight up on Captain and Coke… I like Captain though. It goes down easy,” Marchand said. He gets quite a bit of attention when he goes to the bar as well, but his wife, Katrina, doesn’t like the attention he gets when he’s out. The Q&A got more casual, with Marchand and Hurd laughing with Marchand saying, “I remember walking down to breakfast and nobody said a word. You could feel the tension everyone had.” Marchand said. There is a certain pressure March and feels that comes from an entire city of fans counting on him. It helps if he keeps in contact with his closest people and makes sure to turn his phone off at night. Nonetheless, Marchand is an excellent player who exceeds in holding his head high on the ice.

He said that they can do what they want and he doesn’t care if they don’t want to play. He added that they like to do art above all things in their free time and that is something he is going to continuously support.

Even though he’s loved the sport since he was two, there will come a time he retires as a Bruin. “I don’t want to play if I’m not that good anymore and shouldn’t be playing… I wouldn’t be happy,” Marchand said. He does hope that’s not for a long time though.

A student asked what sport Marchand play if he didn’t play hockey. He said it simply: baseball. “Those guys don’t do anything and they make bank,” Marchand said. He also mentioned golf, where he would be able to be in nice weather all day, versus the cold rink he spends most of his days.

The hockey star is talented without a doubt, but there are still times he struggles to stay composite. Playoffs are particularly difficult for Marchand. “You get pulled into a million directions— you don’t see any family. You don’t see any friends,” Marchand said. The pressure he’s ever felt was in Game 7 against Vancouver. “I remember walking down to breakfast and nobody said a word. You could feel the tension everyone had,” Marchand said. There is a certain pressure March and feels that comes from an entire city of fans counting on him. It helps if he keeps in contact with his closest people and makes sure to turn his phone off at night. Nonetheless, Marchand is an excellent player who exceeds in holding his head high on the ice.

The people he stays closest to are his family. However, he’s “elite” and even “filthy”— however, comment saying that he’s a classy drinker, typically ordering root beer with Captain Morgan. “Otherwise I’ll go straight up on Captain and Coke… I like Captain though. It goes down easy,” Marchand said. He gets quite a bit of attention when he goes to the bar as well, but his wife, Katrina, doesn’t like the attention he gets when he’s out. The Q&A got more casual, with Marchand and Hurd laughing with Marchand saying, “I remember walking down to breakfast and nobody said a word. You could feel the tension everyone had.” Marchand said. There is a certain pressure March and feels that comes from an entire city of fans counting on him. It helps if he keeps in contact with his closest people and makes sure to turn his phone off at night. Nonetheless, Marchand is an excellent player who exceeds in holding his head high on the ice.

The people he stays closest to are his family. However, being a celebrity in the center of a city makes it difficult to have a private life with them. As a younger player, he was able to take in and enjoy life as a celebrity. Being an older player with a family like Marchand, it’s very difficult to enjoy overwhelming attention every time he is out in public.

“It takes away from the enjoyment you want to experience with your kids,” Marchand said. He told the story of a time he went to a fair with his children and how they had to leave because he was getting swarmed.

“My kids couldn’t even go on a ride, we couldn’t play a game or throw darts at the balloons,” Marchand said. Even though that kind of lifestyle is overwhelming, Marchand wouldn’t trade it for anything. “I’ll never be upset about that, but it is just unfortunate that I would like to experience a fair with my kids and not have to have bodyguards,” Marchand said.

Matias asked Marchand’s opinion on the infamous Tom Wilson of the Washington Capitals. “I like Tom as a player, I like him because obviously he’s a good player… but we don’t like him because obviously he hit Carlson hard there and hurt him,” Marchand said.

Matias and Hurd started the live portion of the Q&A, where questions were allowed to roll in as the conversation went on. One question asked what the story is behind the number on Marchand’s jersey. “I was drafted in ’06 in the third round. At that time, in those years they would give you the year you were drafted as the first number and then the round you were drafted as the second number, I was drafted in ’06 in the third round so 63,” Marchand said.

Students were also curious about Marchand’s relationship with Tyler Seguin. Marchand said he doesn’t see him and hasn’t seen him in a long time. When you’re on the same team, it’s easy to be close, but after Marchand was drafted for the Bruins, their friendship was much less close. Despite the distance, they will occasionally meet up in Dallas, TX. Marchand reiterated that they had “fun times together.”

Fun with friends is cherished, however, Marchand has even more fun being competitive. His favorite team to play against is Toronto— mostly because the Bruins have played them the most during playoff season in the past few years. It builds rivalry and makes for a fast and competitive game that everyone enjoys.

“I am not qualified for anything outside of hockey,” Marchand said as the Q&A wrapped up. Despite being a hockey star now, Marchand knows one day he will need to retire and have another purpose. Something like real estate catches his eye, but Marchand is still on the search to find a new passion. “You might as well find something you do and you love. That’s a big reason that we got it to go,” Marchand said.

Marchand has proved himself to be an easygoing and dedicated player. SCOPE wrapped up the Q&A and wished Marchand all the best of luck in his game the following day against the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Photo courtesy of the NHL.
SCOPE presents Clockwork DJ

On Tuesday, April 29 the University of New Hampshire’s (UNH) Student Committe on Popular Entertainment (SCOPE) hosted a live Zoom Q&A session with Mac Miller’s trusted DJ, Clockwork DJ. The Q&A was followed by a live DJ set and the event was titled, ‘Stories from the road about Mac Miller.’

Photos courtesy of SCOPE.
Looking forward to a more open, safe summer in N.H.

By Evan Edmonds
STAFF WRITER

New Hampshire is gearing up to reopen this summer after a long year of limitations and low interaction: the statewide mask mandate has been lifted and vaccination numbers continue to rise - Granite Staters are excited to get back to normal.

It’s easy to get carried away in the progress we’ve made as a state and as a country. It’s there - we’re better off than a year ago, which isn’t saying much - but we have to continue to do our jobs and play it safe this summer. Vaccination rates are rising, according to NHPR, to over 30% of the state’s population, but COVID-19 is still here. Mid-April, the bi-weekly positive cases peaked at 434, which was more than “10 times as a high as it was back in October.” Whether that trend is just a coincidence due to nicer weather, or due to a lack of care, or a mix of both, it’s hard to tell.

I’m not a fan of the whole “COVID fatigue” theory - the sense that people are getting tired of social distancing and being responsible because time has passed isn’t a valid enough excuse. If a year of hardship is all it takes to push us back into old habits that put others’ safety at risk, then all our progress we’ve made to this point is going to be undone.

This summer is a chance for us to do more than we’ve been doing, that’s for sure, but let’s not get carried away. Remaining responsible by not having huge gatherings and everyone doing their part to get vaccinated is a critical part of that. Doing our individual part is the best gateway to anything near “normal” and we’re going to need that to be a collective mindset, especially in New Hampshire.

Coming out of the mask mandate and trying to get back to normal has a lot to do with the need to support local businesses. Retailers and restaurants have been left to make their own decisions about maintaining their mask requirements or not and they need the public’s support regardless of their decision.

The least we can do as patrons is to respect their wishes. They’re doing their best to keep all of us and their employees safe and in return they’re working hard to maintain the places we love to visit.

Portsmouth is ready and rearing to go - each warm day in the last few weeks like the calm before the storm. As someone who works in a kitchen in downtown Portsmouth, it’s easy to see that it’s had its busy days as April has gone on - those few particularly nice Saturdays have seen Market Street begin to flood with people once again. The sidewalks are lined with barriers and roped off sections providing any extra seating and support that restaurants can get. In the kitchen, the return to these types of nights is exhilarating - finally the feeling we’ve forgotten - being so busy the shift flies right by! Those Saturdays have been a welcome gift and most of all reassuring for the summer months to come. Although it’s gotten hectic, there’s no comparing it to the impending forecast of people rushing to get back out into Portsmouth once the time comes.

Bow Street restaurants have started to button down the hatchets, reinforce staff and work out the kinks before this summer’s inevitable “post-COVID revolution” that’s sure to feel the closest it’s felt to a normal Portsmouth summer in quite some time.

Those decks are sure to fill up, those streets are going to be packed and Portsmouth is going to be ready for it. That being said, there’s no room for COVID fatigue in this equation. Assuming everyone does their part, we can scrape closer and closer to what we’re used to getting out of our summers.

We want to enjoy a drink on the decks, we want to get our chance to lay out on the beach again, we want to soak in the sun with our friends and family. It’s a collective effort that everyone needs to be a part of. Restaurants, retailers and more want and need the support.

We’re going to be waiting mid-May, into June, July and beyond so don’t be afraid to come out and support local businesses, just do it respectfully and responsibly.

Evan Edmonds / TNH Staff
Opinions expressed in both signed and unsigned letters to the Editor, opinion pieces, cartoons and columns are not necessarily those of The New Hampshire or its staff. If you do not see your side of the argument being presented, we invite you to submit a letter to the editor by sending an email to tnh.editor@unh.edu.

Letters policy

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By Jared Gustafson
SPORTS WRITER

LOWELL, MASS. — The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s and men’s track & field teams traveled to Cushing Field Complex at UMass Lowell this past weekend to compete in the two-day American East Championships.

After the first day was complete the women’s team found themselves in first place with a total of 46 points, nine points ahead of second-place Vermont with 37. The men’s earned second place after the first day was completed with 39 points, only two points behind UMass Lowell.

After women’s side did not see any first-place finishes Saturday but saw plenty in the top-five which got them to 46 points on the day. Some notable mentions were junior Lauren Quinn who placed fourth for the ‘Cats with a throw of 132.8 feet in the javelin. Sophomore Danielle Heine earned a bronze medal in the pole vault with a jump of 11’11.34. First-year Wildcat Mia Taranko earned a fifth-place finish in the long jump with a jump of 18-3 3/4 feet. Junior Lauren Dean took fifth-place in the 3,000-meter steeplechase with a time of 11 minutes, 15.62 seconds. Graduate student Meg Champion led the ‘Cats in the 10,000-meter race with a time of 37:15.79 which was good enough for a second-place finish.

In the preliminaries, UNH earned 11 spots in the finals for the 1,500-meter race, 100-meter hurdles, 400-meter dash, 800-meter dash, 100-meter dash, and the 400-meter hurdles.

On the men’s side, they were led by graduate student Nicolas Sevilla-Connelly who won the 3,000-meter steeplechase. Sevilla-Connelly has dominated this event all season so this is his third first-place finish in the event.

The ‘Cats also saw another great performance by junior Nate Hobbs in the long jump; he earned a second-place finish in the event with a jump of 24’7.14 feet. Both Sevilla-Connelly and Hobbs earned a team-high eight points in their events, helping them to get to their 39 points.

Other highlights came from senior Patrick Brogioli who took fifth-place in the hammer throw with a distance of 168-1 feet. Junior John King Jr. earned a fifth-place finish in the javelin with a throw of 183.9 feet. In the preliminaries, senior James Wilkes and sophomore Aidan O’Hern advanced to the finals in the 1,500. Senior Michael Monahan and first-year Wildcat William Love both advanced to the finals in the 110-meter hurdles. Sophomore Kenney McElroy won the third preliminary heat which advanced him to the finals in the 800.

During Sunday’s meet, both the women’s and men’s teams had worse days than expected. Coming into Sunday the women’s team was in first place with a total of 46 points but after Sunday ended, they fell one spot and finished in second place with 45 points. The men’s team came into the day with a total of 39 points and in second place. After Sunday’s meet was completed, however, the men fell two spots and finished in fourth place in the meet with 96 points.

For the women’s side, this marks the fourth time in the past five years that they have finished second place in the American East Championship. The highlights of the meet for the women’s team came from graduate student Alyssa Colvert who broke her own school record for the third time this season in the discus throw with a throw of 169-2 feet. Colbert ended up finishing in first place in the event and won the gold medal.

The other first-place finish came from the 4x800 relay team that consisted of first-year athlete Lily Doody, junior Nicole Yeomans, sophomore Cayla Barretto and first-year athlete Elizabeth Martell who ran a time of 9:38.19.

Other highlights during Sunday’s meet came from graduate student Bosibori Mosongo who earned a second-place finish in the heptathlon with a total of 4,630 points. First-year athlete Elizabeth Martell dominated to finish in first place in the day as she earned the bronze in the 800.

The highlight of the day for the men’s team came from graduate student Zachary Asl who finished in first place and earned the gold in the shot put with a throw of 55-0.75 feet. Asl totaled 21 points during the weekend’s meet which was a team high. The ‘Cats are scheduled to compete once again on May 14-15 at the New England Championships, which will be held at Central Connecticut State University.
Players to watch ahead of fall football season

By Cameron Beall
SPORTS EDITOR

UNH football only had the opportunity to play one game this spring. In week they hosted UAlbany and lost by a final of 24-20. While coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns may have halted their spring campaign, there are still more than a handful of players for UNH to be excited about before they kick off again on Sept. 4.

Sophomore quarterback Max Brosmer was drawing much of the buzz heading into the fall. He didn’t get a true opportunity to showcase his improvements from his first opportunity to play one game the previous 22 months. In-game experience should be one of the only concerns for Brosmer heading into the fall. He possesses the decision-making of an elite passer, but he’ll need to tighten up his accuracy before he truly takes that next step. Although Brosmer is far from the most athletic player on the field, he remains elusive enough to evade pressure when the pocket collapses. His ability to extend plays will play in the team’s favor with such strong group of skill players around him.

On the defensive side, the player to look out for will be junior defensive end Gunner Gibson. In 2019 Gibson led the defense with 9.5 tackles for loss and tied for second in sacks with four. Gibson was the leader against UAlbany with 1.5 sacks contributing to his 2.5 tackles for loss and seven total tackles. He will continue to head the Wildcat front as senior Brian Carter has confirmed that he will not be returning for the fall season. Gibson will help make up for the seven sacks that Carter and former Wildcat Josh Kania left behind in 2019.

A player to keep an eye out for in the fall is redshirt first-year linebacker Zedane Williams. Williams showed in the lone game this season why he is a prime candidate to break out this fall. The Massachusetts native displayed his explosive-ness against UAlbany when he filled out the stat sheet with a team-leading nine tackles, 2.5 tackles for loss, a pass breakup and a blocked punt right before halftime to swing momentum back in the Wildcats’ favor.

Williams only played in four games in his redshirt season, recording five total tackles and one pass breakup. Fall 2021 looks like it should be the linebacker’s first full season and if that March 5 game was any indication, it seems the UNH defense will remain in good shape with Williams in the lineup.

The Wildcats will be on the road for their Sept. 4 game at Stony Brook before heading home in week two to host Towson. UNH also will play host to James Madison, Dartmouth, Richmond and Maine. They will be on the road to face Lafayette, Pittsburgh, Elon, UAlbany and Rhode Island.

Wildcats reload for fall season

By Brackett Lyons
SPORTS EDITOR

The University of New Hampshire (UNH) women’s soccer team didn’t get a chance to compete in the 2021 post-season. The team earned a spot in the America East Tournament, but due to coronavirus (COVID-19) concerns within the program, they were forced to withdraw. The ‘Cats had a strong season up until their early exit. They had the best start in program history (4-0) and never dropped a game at Wildcat Stadium.

Head coach Steve Welham got the most out of his young squad. The team fielded 11 first-year athletes, many of whom broke into the starting lineup. With most of a season under their belts, the group should be poised for a breakout season in the fall of 2022.

Two rookies, Alivia Kelly and Anna Hewlett took home All-Rookie honors in the America East (AE). Kelly was also named to the AE All-Conference Second Team. Senior captain Francesca Picicci was also named to the AE All-Conference Second Team. Senior captain Francesca Picicci was the other Wildcat picked to the Second Team. She and co-captain Casey Peterson would be valuable assets to Welham should they return for a fifth year.

There’s no question that goalkeeper Cat Sheppard will be back. The junior posted a stellar season between the posts for UNH, keeping a clean sheet in three games and only conceding five goals all season. With the entire defense returning, Sheppard will look to have her best season yet as a Wildcat.

The biggest bolster to the roster will likely come from Whitney Wiley as she returned for a fall season with an injury early this season. Before her year was cut short, the attacking midfielder posted three goals and an assist in four matches. UNH’s attack was noticeably better with Wiley on the field. Hopefully, with the summer to recover, Wiley will be able to roar back into action for the ‘Cats in the fall.

WOMEN’S SOCCER

ZEDANE WILLIAMS
LB-10

2019:
4 Games, 5 Tackles, 1 Pass Breakup
March 5 vs. UAlbany:
9 Tackles, 2.5 TFL, 1 Pass Breakup, 1 Blocked Punt

GUNNER GIBSON
LB-49

2019:
10 Games, 40 Tackles, 9.5 TFL, 4 Sacks
March 5 vs. UAlbany:
7 Tackles, 2.5 TFL, 1.5 Sacks

MAX BROSMER
QB-16

2019:
58.8 Comp %, 1967 Pass Yards, 12 TD, 12 INT
March 5 vs. UAlbany:
57.1 Comp %, 128 Pass Yards, 2 TD, 12 INT

WOMEN’S SOCCER

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNH ATHLETICS
PHOTO COURTESY OF GIL TALBOT
PHOTO COURTESY OF CHINA WONG
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW HAMPSHIRE
UNH loses 2-0 to Kentucky while missing three to COVID-19

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENSBORO, N.C. — No. 11 nationally ranked University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s soccer (8-1-1, 3-3-1) fell to No. 24 Kentucky (12-4-2, 3-3-1) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by a final of 2-0 with goals from senior Bailey Rouse and first-year defender Jalen Bigby. Kentucky will move on to the third round to face No. 4 Wake Forest.

The game started off fast and furious for UNH despite being without three starters who had to be left in Durham due to coronavirus (C0VD-19) protocols. UNH was without top goal scorers Paul Bigby and Victor Menudier and on the defensive end they were without graduate student Sam Henneberg. UNH handled the ball without graduate student Alejandro Robles.

“Just a really hard lesson for the guys to deal with,” Hubbard explained. Looking ahead to the fall season Robles is currently the only player not set to return to the team. The 25-year-old graduate student has accumulated as impressive of a resume as the program could ask for during his two seasons in Durham. The Wildcats eclipsed their highest national ranking in program history this season when they reached No. 10 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll. Hubbard and his group will garner as much national recognition as they ever have after accumulating a .950 winning percentage and the majority of their core coming back in the fall.

No. 24 University of Kentucky defeated No.11 University of New Hampshire in the second round of the NCAA tournament on May 2.

PHOTO COURTESY OF EDDIE JUSTICE

UNH losses 2-0 to Kentucky while missing three to COVID-19

Down and Out

UNH loses 2-0 to Kentucky while missing three to COVID-19

By Shaun Petipas
SPORTS EDITOR

GREENSBORO, N.C. — No. 11 nationally ranked University of New Hampshire (UNH) men’s soccer (8-1-1, 7-0-1) fell to No. 24 Kentucky (12-4-2, 3-3-1) in the second round of the NCAA Tournament by a final of 2-0 with goals from senior Bailey Rouse and first-year defender Jalen Bigby. Kentucky will move on to the third round to face No. 4 Wake Forest.

The game started off fast and furious for UNH despite being without three starters who had to be left in Durham due to coronavirus (C0VD-19) protocols. UNH was without top goal scorers Paul Bigby and Victor Menudier and on the defensive end they were without graduate student Sam Henneberg. UNH handled the ball without graduate student Alejandro Robles.

“Just a really hard lesson for the guys, for everything we’ve been through. Three of our starters getting traced out before we even got down here and then getting a call like that 15 minutes in the game. It’s just a really cruel lesson for the guys to deal with,” Hubbard explained. Looking ahead to the fall season Robles is currently the only player not set to return to the team. The 25-year-old graduate student has accumulated as impressive of a resume as the program could ask for during his two seasons in Durham. The Wildcats eclipsed their highest national ranking in program history this season when they reached No. 10 in the United Soccer Coaches Poll. Hubbard and his group will garner as much national recognition as they ever have after accumulating a .950 winning percentage and the majority of their core coming back in the fall.