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# University announces new transportation options

ALICIA DYE  
news editor

The Office of the President officially announced new and updated transportation options for students on Aug. 18 in an email.

The email detailed the updated South Side Shuttle and Weekend Shuttle programs and informed students about the new bus option titled 'UPass.' The new 'UPass' system will provide students with a discounted rate for Pittsburgh Regional Transit (formerly known as Port Authority).

"UPass provides all students the ability to ride anywhere Pittsburgh Regional Transit (PRT) travels at a discounted fare of \$1.74 per ride (compared to the \$2.75 regular price)," the email said.

Students and faculty who want to use the UPass system need to download the 'Ready2Ride' app and then can sign up using their Duquesne email. After signing up, students and faculty will need to complete the enrollment and payment agreement form.

Freshman Nick Licata is happy Duquesne is offering UPass.

"I think it's good that they left the UPass system as an opt-in system," he said. "Some people have a car on campus, some people prefer to walk everywhere. It's a nice option."

After that, students and faculty will be able to use their UPass at any time throughout the semester and on any PRT bus. Anyone using the UPass system will be billed at the end of the month based on their usage.

"I'm from Buffalo, so Pittsburgh is totally new to me," Licata said. "It really helps us freshmen, especially when so few of us have cars on campus."

see SHUTTLE — page 2

# THE DUQUESNE DUKE

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## DU looks toward future following Title IX's 50th anniversary



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

In April, Duquesne furthered its commitment to the equality outlined in Title IX by announcing that the school will add women's triathlon, women's golf and women's acrobatics and tumbling teams. Women's triathlon is set to begin in fall 2023, while the other two programs will begin in fall 2024.

LUKE HENNE  
editor-in-chief

On June 23, 1972, Title IX of the Civil Rights Act was signed into law by President Richard Nixon. The law, made up of 37 words, laid the foundation for a path toward a more-equal future.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance," the law reads.

This past summer, the law reached its 50th anniversary. Where Title IX has had arguably its most notable impact is in the world of collegiate sports at universities, both public and private, that receive federal financial assistance.

The NCAA lays out that the law requires "that women and men be provided equitable opportunities to participate in sports. Title IX does not require institutions to offer identical sports but an equal opportunity to play."

On April 19, Duquesne University announced that the school will add three new varsity sports in the coming years: women's triathlon (targeted for fall 2023), women's golf

(targeted for fall 2024) and women's acrobatics and tumbling (targeted for fall 2024).

"Duquesne is strongly committed to achieving both the letter and spirit of Title IX in regard to opportunities for student athletes," Harper said during the April announcement. "We are adding additional women's sports to ensure we are balanced with the right proportion of available activities for our campus."

"Besides creating more opportunity, the sport additions will also support an overall enrollment strategy of growing the undergraduate population with highly-qualified students with strong leadership skills."

Joella Baker, who was named head coach of the women's triathlon team on July 26, is eager to get to work, knowing that her position was made possible due largely to the principles of "making sure that women are included" and the "fairness" sought out by Title IX.

"I'm super excited about it. It was several years ago that I had the opportunity to meet with Mike Scerbo (Duquesne's associate athletic director) and talk to him about bringing triathlon on at Duquesne," Baker said. "I ran and swam at Duquesne, so I was a collegiate athlete there,

and I loved my time there."

"I couldn't be more proud. I couldn't be more excited. I've met with so many people from the athletic department already, and they are just so welcoming. They really want to work with me, and they want to see this program grow and be successful. What more could you ask for?"

Jody Fetterhoff, who has served as the women's bowling coach since its inception in 2016-17, has become a model of what a successful women's program can do. She knows that having the opportunity to participate in sports was her only feasible path.

"I wouldn't be sitting here talking to you if it weren't for Title IX. I'm a huge sports person. I played everything growing up," Fetterhoff said. "I have an older brother, so I wanted to do whatever he was doing. For me, [playing sports] was my avenue because I wasn't good at other things. For this to be my career is just an amazing thing...I worked my way up from a GA (graduate assistant) to Division III to now Division I head coach. [Title IX] has opened the doors for me and allowed me to do amazing things."

Despite having led the program to its first NCAA Championship appearance in 2021 and earning

rankings of 12th or better in each of the past three end-of-season NTCA (National Tenpin Coaches Association) rankings, Fetterhoff emphasized that, in all reality, women's sports are still not always getting the equal attention they deserve.

"It's ridiculous that we need a law in place for us to have these things. The brutal reality is that we're nowhere close to having all colleges be compliant with it," Fetterhoff said. "Women's sports just haven't grown enough, and I think it's partly because we don't get the exposure."

"...We put in just as much work as every other athlete, every other coach on campus. We just want to be given the opportunity."

Hanna Everhart, a graduate student who completed her final season as a member of the school's swimming and diving team in February, didn't take her time as an athlete for granted.

"Title IX was the first time women could compete equally in a sport at my level, and it provokes pride, as well as honor," Everhart said. "I'm doing just as well as any other player, and that means a lot to me."

Everhart, who was nominated for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award in July, attributes her success to those before her who had a vision for the future.

see TITLE IX — page 3

# 2 Despite crime, students flock to South Side

ALICIA DYE  
news editor

Ninety-one shots fired calls in the first six months of 2022 in the South Side neighborhood. Sixty-three shots fired in the first six months of 2021, in the same neighborhood. Crime, specifically gun violence, has been on the rise over the years, according to data provided by the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety.

The gun violence in the area has been hurting businesses, causing some to even leave the neighborhood. Fudge Farm, a gourmet fudge, ice cream and chocolate shop, closed its doors in June of this year due to the violence, according to a Facebook post made by the business.

“Due to the uncontrollable shootings and violence as well as other circumstances on E. Carson St. today will be Fudge Farm’s last day there,” the Facebook post said. “We can no longer ask teenage children, or no one for that matter to work for us in this environment.”

Even with businesses and residents being frequently being hurt by the violence, students still flock to South Side on weekends, with no fear of the violence.

“Going out in South Side doesn’t scare me,” pharmacy student Megan McQuigg said. “I could get shot anywhere in the city.”

Oakland, another popular going



ALICIA DYE | NEWS EDITOR

Enclave (formerly known as the Rex Theater) is the newest club in South Side. It’s become a popular spot among students who go out in South Side during weekends.

out spot among students, has had 25 shots-fired calls within the first six months of the year, according to data provided by the Pittsburgh Office of Public Safety. North Shore, where popular bars such as Tequila Cowboy are located, has only had one incident with gun violence in the first six months of 2022.

A majority of the gun violence in the South Side happens on weekends and late at night. Twenty percent of the gun violence for 2022 has hap-

pened on a Saturday night between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. Sixty-nine percent of all gun violence for 2022 has happened between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Zone 3 Commander John Fisher said that Pittsburgh Police is working hard with other departments to help better South Side.

“City of Pittsburgh, Department of Public Safety, which the Bureau of Police fall under, have been working with other city departments and outside law enforcement partners as well as other agencies to reduce crime and

disorder not only in South Side but citywide,” Fisher said.

Some Duquesne students think the police presence helps them feel safer.

“All my friends love going out there,” senior Avery Clark said. “I was iffy at first, but after seeing the amount of police in the area, it made me feel a lot better about the crime in the area.”

Even freshmen say that the crime won’t deter them from going to the South Side.

“There are a bunch of restaurants I want to try down there,” Vivian Mai said. “Any area can be dangerous. I don’t want to miss out on stuff because I’m scared.”

Pittsburgh Police are trying to do more to make students and businesses feel safe in South Side and citywide.

“We are doing directed patrols, park n walks, roving dui patrols, engaging with the community and businesses as partners to address issues that foster negative activity,” Fisher said. “We are also working with other departments and agencies to assist when needed, lighting has been enhanced to brighten dark areas, technology is utilized via public/private camera systems and education for those living and visiting the South Side area as to what behavior is unacceptable.”

City councilman Bruce Kraus did not respond to requests for comment.

## POLICE BRIEFS

Per the Duquesne University Department of Public Safety, there is no information to report for the Daily Crime log for the past week.

see **TRANSPORTATION** —  
page 1

## Shuttle service returns to normal hours

The email also introduced the updated Weekend Shuttle (also known as the Student Government Association Loop Bus system). The Weekend Shuttle will be free to all students and will have three stops that students can travel to on weekends.

“The Duquesne Weekend Shuttle Service is a free shuttle service operated exclusively for Duquesne students that will run to and from campus to stops in the South Side, Oakland and the Waterfront on three separate shuttles running in continuous loops,” the email said.

The weekend shuttle will run to the three stops starting Aug. 26 and will continue throughout the academic year. Every weekend, starting Friday at 6 p.m. the shuttle will run to the three stops until Sunday at 2 a.m.

The shuttle will be unavailable during Thanksgiving, Christmas, Spring

and Easter breaks, according to the email.

To ride the shuttle, all students need to do is show their valid Duquesne ID when boarding.

“I’m really excited for the return of the loop bus,” said senior Emmala Lee. “I used it all the time my freshman year. It being back makes things a lot easier.”

Each bus will depart from the Student Union and will have multiple stops along each route. Stops for the Oakland Shuttle are Forbes Avenue & Bouquet Sreet, and Forbes Avenue & Morewood Street.

The South Side Shuttle stops are East Carson & 15th Street, East Carson & 22nd Street, and Sidney Street & South 27th Street.

The Waterfront Shuttle stops are Friendship Circle, Murray Avenue & Forward, Front of the AMC Waterfront 22 theater and the Target at

the Waterfront.

The last updated system that was revealed was that the South Side Shuttle will now be free to students throughout the semester.

“The shuttle is free to Duquesne students only, with the only requirement that students show an active Duquesne student ID to board,” the email said. “Operating Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., the schedule follows the academic calendar, meaning there is no service on holidays, university breaks, or during the summer.”

There will be multiple stops in South Side where students can board the shuttle, with one stop on campus.

The South Side Shuttle campus pick-up and drop-off spot is in front of the Starbucks at the Student Union. Route stops are 22nd Street & East Carson Street, 20th Street & Wharton Street, 15th Street & Muriel Street, and

10th Street & Muriel Street.

Students are others are just happy that Duquesne is offering more options to them.

“All these options are another comfort to me,” Licata said. “I felt so grateful when they told us about all the things available to us.”



ALICIA DYE | NEWS EDITOR

The South Side shuttle is now free to students. It drops off and picks up students at the Student Union in front of Starbucks from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m on weekdays.

### MORE PICTURES FROM ORIENTATION



COURTESY OF ALAINA BAKER

Students gather on A-Walk for food like pretzels and corn dogs during Orientation Week.



COURTESY OF ALAINA BAKER

Team leaders and new students gather on A-Walk during the first night of Orientation Week.

# Students gather for restriction-free orientation 3

ALICIA DYE  
news editor

Duquesne University navigated its way through its first Orientation Week without any Covid-19 restrictions for the first time since August 2019.

From the mini student expo to epic bingo, all events were held in-person with no Covid restrictions interrupting all the events from happening. Students were not required to wear masks or to social distance at any event.



COURTESY OF ALAINA BAKER

Amandalynne Davis (assistant orientation director) and Zach Mansberry (orientation director) pose for a picture at the end of Orientation Week festivities.

Orientation Director Zach Mansberry wanted to return 2022's orientation to one he has fond memories of, the 2019 orientation — the last orientation event without Covid-19 restrictions.

"When I was a freshman, I had the best experience with orientation," Mansberry said. "I wanted to give that kind of experience to

the class of 2026."

Orientation in 2020 was held almost completely on Zoom, with any in-person events happening with masks and with social distancing being enforced. Orientation in 2021 had less restrictions, but all the indoor events required masks and social distancing was strongly encouraged.

"2020 orientation was not productive. We tried to hold events outside when we could, but it was not always possible," Mansberry said.

cause of Covid. We only had 160 or so team leaders this year."

Assistant Director Amandalynne Davis is part of the class of 2024, who experienced orientation during the height of Covid-19, and knew the impact it had on her experience.

"I missed out on a lot during my orientation," Davis said. "This year, we wanted to really connect with the freshmen and create happy moments for them, especially after the last two years."

Davis and Mansberry wanted to give their all to the estimated 1,500 freshmen that came to Duquesne, and so did all the orientation team leaders. To make sure they gave their all, the team leaders went in with a positive attitude.

"We went in with the attitude of 'Let's do this,' and it worked out in the best way possible. We kept that attitude for all of the orientation events," Mansberry said.

Even with the positive attitude, there were some Covid worries among the orientation staff and among freshmen.

"We were incredibly concerned about the staff getting Covid," Mansberry said. "We're always in close contact with the freshmen, but we let people do what was comfortable to them."

Davis made sure everyone was comfortable with what they were doing and made sure events were spaced out to limit the amount of time everyone was in contact.

"Our main concern was move-in. We staggered things out and tried to comfort everybody, parents, students and, of course, our team," Davis said. "We had an open door policy regarding Covid. If someone asked us to wear a mask, we would. We wanted to make everyone feel as comfortable as possible."

Since Aug. 19, there have only been eight Covid cases reported on campus, according to the university's Covid Health and Safety dashboard. Allegheny County has a seven-day moving average of 344 cases, according

to the Allegheny County Covid dashboard.

Even with high Covid numbers within Allegheny County, orientation was a massive success. There were plenty of events for all the incoming freshmen, including the popular Graffiti Dance.

"The Graffiti Dance is always so popular. Doing it with Covid restrictions was hard," Mansberry said. "Luckily, this year, we could throw out all the Covid handbooks that we followed for the past two years."

Team leader Grace Scanlon loved seeing how much fun the freshmen had throughout the week.

"There were so many different events that they could go to, like the Graffiti Dance, Marvel Trivia Night, Epic Bingo and more," Scanlon said. "It was so nice to see all of the freshmen running around, making new friends and having fun. It made me so happy to see all of that, especially after the last two years."

Davis, who will be the director of orientation next year, encourages anyone who loves orientation to join.

"I joined because I loved my Orientation, and that was during the height of Covid," Davis said. "I really think anyone with any major who loves Orientation should join. It's a really great experience, and you meet a lot of great people."

Scanlon, who is also a resident assistant for freshmen, got to know her own residents better than ever before because of Orientation.

"Connecting with my residents and others in general has been hard because of the pandemic," Scanlon said. "I got to meet and interact with so many different people. Getting to meet my residents and bond with them without Covid barriers was so refreshing."

Davis said that she hopes next year will be even bigger, and that they will hopefully "still be able to have all these events without restrictions."

"We're already starting to plan, and we could not be more excited for it."



COURTESY OF ALAINA BAKER - Orientation leaders give out snow cones on A-Walk last week.



COURTESY OF ALAINA BAKER - Orientation leaders gather in the Union Ballroom for preparation.

## DU members share thoughts on Title IX's magnitude

"I give all my credit to [being given an equal chance]," Everhart said. "Without the opportunity, I couldn't even do the things that I've been doing this past year or the past four. My success, I would give to those people that considered Title IX to ever be established."

Everhart also added that while things have gotten much better, the landscape needs to keep progressing.

"I think funding for female sports can be more touched upon, but I know that Title IX does a great job with that," Everhart said. "There's so much we can do, but how to do it is a topic that needs to be addressed..."

Although Title IX has often become synonymous with equality in sports, another important element of the law is its connections to sexual harassment and discrimination.

This was made possible largely due to the 1980 *Alexander v. Yale* case. The case used Title IX to assert that sexual harassment of female students could be interpreted as sex discrimination, which Title IX has sought to eliminate.

Alicia Simpson, who has been at Duquesne since March 2021 and serves as the university's Title IX coordinator and director of sexual misconduct prevention and response, knows that the law is one that's consistently changing in tandem with a progressing society.

"I think evolving is the word I would use [to describe Title IX], since 1972," Simpson said. "I think for a lot of people, it just started out with equity in sports. Since 2011, it's really kind of grown with every presidential administration change."

"I think now the understanding is not just

equity, but [also] a safe and healthy campus culture that we provide to make sure that we are doing everything that we can to educate, prevent and respond to sexual harassment on campus."

In her short time at the university, Simpson noted that speaking up and speaking out can prove to be valuable for those impacted.

"I think that what we strive to do at Duquesne is, in conjunction with our mission, provide respect and dignity for everybody around us," Simpson said. "With the statistics that we're working with, we like to see a higher number of reports. Is that necessarily a bad thing?"

"We know that most matters aren't reported, and we want people who are impacted by this to access help and resources and support

that they need...It's important that they know that my office is here to help."

She also indicated that fellow students and faculty can be an ally in the fight toward eliminating such discrimination.

"One thing I talk to in a lot of my training with students is being a good bystander," Simpson said. "What that means is intervening in a situation that you perceive as potentially harmful to affect, in a positive way, to make a positive outcome."

"Really looking out for each other and trusting our instincts when something doesn't feel right, getting involved in a way that you're still safe and you're still protected, but making sure that that other person maybe can get away from that situation safely as well."

see *TITLE IX* — page 1

# WSOC splits first two contests of campaign

SPENCER THOMAS  
sports editor

The Duquesne women's soccer team began its 2022 campaign this past week, winning in the season opener over Ohio Thursday before falling at No. 14 Penn State on Sunday.

After a slow start to last Thursday's game, the Dukes found their rhythm and came from behind to defeat the Bobcats 2-1.

A free-flowing first half saw Duquesne play more conservative in the early stages.

Chances for the Bobcats came when strong passing got them possession behind the midfielders. That left Ohio attackers against a helpless defense, and they had plenty of space to work with.

The Bobcats, who were picked to win the Mid-American Conference this fall, opened the scoring in the game's 20th minute. Duquesne lost possession in its own third, leading to an Ohio shot attempt.

The attempt was blocked, but fell comfortably to Bobcat midfielder Carsyn Prigge

that they scored was a result of us dwelling on the ball and losing possession."

Duquesne captain Sarah Wilkinson felt there was a clear adjustment made at the halftime break.

She said that they initially planned to "play more of a low block," but switched to high press after realizing that low block was "not [their] game."

The audible to play more aggressively did not come from Alvine or the coaching staff, but from the players themselves.

"That was between the players and that was between the starting 11," Wilkinson said. "As an 11, we're kind of finding what works for us."

Duquesne found an equalizer shortly after the halftime break. After a corner kick, the Dukes passed the ball around before an outside shot ricocheted into the six-yard box. Wilkinson pounced, poking the ball home for the Dukes' first goal of the season and evening the score in the 49th minute.

"By the time I whipped my head around I saw it was in the back of the net, and I had everyone jumping on me," Wilkinson said.

It was the first-career goal for the fifth-year senior. Alvine added that, "If anyone deserved a goal, it was her."

From that point on, Duquesne had a clear advantage. The Bobcats struggled to advance beyond their half of the field with any intensity. The fierce pressure allowed the Dukes to control the game, even when not in possession. They forced frantic and sloppy passes that could easily be seized and turned into offensive chances.

"The key was recognizing those moments when we can put pressure, those visual cues," Alvine said. "Backward passes, a bad first touch where we can step in."

Opportunities came via strong runs,

particularly from Maya Matesa on the right side.

With all the momentum, Duquesne continued to mount the pressure. Brianna Moore found Matesa with a short, first-touch ball in the middle, and the striker caught it in stride. She breezed behind the Ohio center backs and slotted it past goalkeeper Celeste Sloma in the 62nd minute.

Alvine was particularly complimentary toward Matesa, a freshman.

"Through preseason, she's really stood out as one of the sharpest players," Alvine said. "Just so strong, so fast, she's just a handful to deal with. And you saw when she gets opportunities, she can finish."

Her goal was all Duquesne needed, and they rode relentless pressure to a victory.

"I think it's just a testament to the two and a half weeks we put in," Wilkinson said. "It was a great, great start to the season."

On Sunday, the Dukes fell 3-0 to Penn State, who entered the game as a co-favorite to win the Big Ten Conference and was ranked No. 14 in the NCAA Coaches' Poll.

Goalkeepers Maddy Neundorfer and Savannah Keppy combined to make nine saves in the defeat.

The team managed just a pair of shots on goal and did not record a single corner kick.

Alvine was happy to use the tough competition as an opportunity to foster development, subbing frequently. In total, 31 different players saw action during the game. Seven newcomers saw the field for the first time in their Duquesne careers.

Duquesne returns to action with a non-conference clash at Youngstown State this Thursday night.

The Dukes have not played at the Penguins since Sept. 17, 2017, a game that ended in 1-1 tie.



SPENCER THOMAS | SPORTS EDITOR

Members of the Duquesne women's soccer team gather along the sideline during the final moments of the team's 2-1 season-opening victory over Ohio at Rooney Field last Thursday.

Rarely pressing too far beyond midfield, Duquesne was happy to feast on Ohio's miscues. That started with a takeaway just seconds into the game, with defensive pressure that induced enthusiastic cheers from the bench.

on the left side. Her shot from outside the box careened off the right goalpost and in.

"I thought, in the first half, we created our own problems," said Duquesne Head Coach Al Alvine after the game. "The goal

# Volleyball bests YSU in exhibition contest

BENJAMIN GOTTSCHALK  
staff writer

Friday's scrimmage against Youngstown State prepared the Duquesne women's volleyball team for any challenge the upcoming season might bring. The Dukes defeated the Penguins 4-1 during an exhibition inside the UPMC Cooper Fieldhouse's practice gym.

In the first, Duquesne came out strong and never looked back, winning by a 25-17 mark.

The start of the second set proved more challenging as the Dukes allowed Youngstown State

to score five-straight points. After the significant run by the Penguins' offense gave them a 12-3 edge, Duquesne Head Coach Steve Opperman called a timeout.

"We were talking about [the fact that] when their center was moving across the net, she was always reversing the ball behind, so I think we got better touches, and it put us in a better position defensively as well," Opperman said. "I think those little things translated a little better."

After the timeout, Duquesne trimmed the deficit to four at 14-10, but Youngstown State would pull away and win by a 25-17 score of its own.

The third set was the most evenly matched, with each team trading points until the score was level at 17. Duquesne then scored twice, and Youngstown State tried to answer, but Duquesne's defense stood stout, highlighted by a block from Anna Shoemake, which iced the set and gave Duquesne a 25-23 victory. The Dukes then held a 2-1 set advantage that they would not relinquish.

Opperman said that resiliency helped guide the Dukes' relentless efforts in the exhibition.

"If I had to say it, this is probably the deepest team that I've ever had as far as every position goes," Opperman said. "Today, we actually had people out, kids who couldn't play tonight,

so we had two freshman middles playing the whole time and never getting a break.

"It was fun for us to see. But it's really competitive in the gym, and it carried on to our play tonight."

The fourth set started back and forth until the score was even at nine. Duquesne eventually took control and won the set 25-18.

"Blocking and defense are things that we really worked on [during practice]," Opperman said. "I think we got a ton of balls up that, in the past, kids probably wouldn't have gotten up, and we made better plays on those balls and those touches."

In the contest's extra fifth set, Youngstown State opened on a 9-4 tear, but Duquesne rallied and tied the score at 13. The Dukes would secure the final two points, winning the set 15-13.

Shoemake (2021 Atlantic 10 Conference All-Rookie Team) and Morgan Kelly (2021 A-10 All-Conference Second Team) return this year after earning accolades a season ago. Also returning is Hailey Poling, who led the conference with 1,114 assists during the 2021 season.

"I think [having successful returning players] just gives us an opportunity to build off of the things that they did, but also the experience that they have, the leadership that they show in practice every day," Opperman said. "I think

what they did tonight is important to us and the things that we do moving forward."

Duquesne went 13-16 in 2021, falling to top-seeded Dayton in the semifinal round of the A-10 Championship.

"We are not even looking back on last year," Opperman said. "Last year was last year, and we've moved forward. We talked about it in preseason."

"It stings every time we talk about it, but it's okay. We learned from the past, and it made us better, and I think that today was an indication of that, as well."

Opperman's squad was picked to finish sixth in the conference's 2022 preseason poll.

"We don't really care about the preseason rankings. They are what they are," Opperman said. "From one year to the next, you don't know what teams are going to have back or what they lose, so you're kind of just guessing."

"But we are always right there, either in fourth, fifth or sixth, and we like to prove people wrong."

Duquesne will kick off its regular season this Friday at the Penn State Invitational with a doubleheader against Loyola (Md.) and West Virginia before squaring off with UConn on Saturday.

The Dukes will return home for the Duquesne/Robert Morris Invitational, which begins on Sept. 2 at the fieldhouse.



BRENTARO YAMANE | LAYOUT/MULTIMEDIA EDITOR  
Members of the Duquesne volleyball team gather in a huddle during Friday's exhibition.

# DU football enters season with expectations

**JACK MORGAN**  
staff writer

It is finally that time of year. As one walks past Rooney Field, they'll find the Duquesne football team preparing for the

Mid-American Conference.

It was the first time either Duquesne or any NEC program had accomplished the feat of taking down an FBS program.

In what has become the norm, the Dukes enter the season with high expectations.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Duquesne quarterback Darius Perrantes throws a pass during a 39-34 victory over Bryant at Rooney Field on Oct. 9, 2021. Perrantes helped the team to a 7-1 record in eight games started last season.

2022 season, one that will be highlighted by a challenging schedule.

Last year's team finished 7-3, missing out on the Northeast Conference title and subsequent automatic bid to the FCS Playoffs by one game. Instead, Sacred Heart — one of the two NEC teams to defeat Duquesne — earned that bid.

In the 2021 season opener, Duquesne lost starting quarterback Joe Mischler to a season-ending knee injury before he even completed a pass in a 42-3 loss at TCU.

His backup, Darius Perrantes, came in and provided stellar play to help the Dukes hardly miss a beat. In his first game as the starter, Perrantes led the team to a marquee win over Ohio, an FBS program out of the

The Dukes received three-first place votes, but were picked to finish second in the NEC preseason poll (trailing only Sacred Heart, which received five first-place votes).

The Dukes have finished in the top three of the conference in every season since 2015. Duquesne was awarded the conference's automatic bid to the FCS Playoffs in both 2015 and 2018.

In what will be his 18th year as head coach of the program, Jerry Schmitt can take comfort in the fact that his team will return a few key players.

Last year, Perrantes appeared in nine games and threw for 1,620 yards and 17 touchdowns. He also went 7-1 in his eight starts and ranked third in the conference

with an average of 180 passing yards/game. However, he could still be in competition with Mischler for playing time.

Mischler, a member of the 2020-21 All-NEC First-Team, and Perrantes are separated by an "or" on the team's official depth chart, according to TribLive's Tim Benz.

Another key player returning for the Dukes is running back Billy Lucas, a member of the All-NEC Preseason Team who averaged 5.1 yards per carry in 2021 despite sharing carries with the now-graduated Garrett Owens. Other key losses include wide receivers Cyrus Holder and Davie Henderson, who helped power an offense that averaged 29.5 points/game in 2021.

The Dukes do retain wide receiver Joey Isabella, who is also a member of the All-NEC Preseason Team. Isabella reeled in 12 catches for 75 yards last year, while also getting looks as a kick and punt returner.

On the opposite side of the ball, defensive lineman Maxi Hradecky, linebacker Todd Hill and defensive back Jeremiah Josephs return this year were each named to the All-NEC Preseason Team.

The Dukes' season will get underway on Saturday, when they square off with a historic program in Florida State, a member of the Atlantic Coast Conference. For the second consecutive year, the program will be opening on the road against not only an FBS program, but a Power 5 one at that.

The game will be nationally televised on the ACC Network, and will kickoff from Doak Campbell Stadium in Tallahassee, Fla., at 5 p.m.

The non-conference action continues on Sept. 3, when the Dukes travel to Youngstown State for a date with the Penguins. After the team's Sept. 10 home opener at Rooney Field against Thomas More, another FBS opponent awaits the Dukes: the Mountain West Conference's Hawaii Rainbow Warriors.

After a bye week, Duquesne will open NEC play on Oct. 1 at Stonehill, the confer-

ence's newest member.

In all likelihood, the most-pivotal game will come on Nov. 5, when Sacred Heart comes to Rooney Field for a matchup between the conference's pre-season favorites.



COURTESY OF DUQUESNE ATHLETICS

Head Coach Jerry Schmitt is set to begin his 18th season leading the Duquesne football program.

## Other NEC at FBS Contests in Week 0/Week 1

St. Francis (Pa.) at Akron  
(Sept. 1)

Long Island at Toledo  
(Sept. 1)

Central Connecticut State at  
UConn (Sept. 3)

## College Football AP Top 25 Poll — Preseason

Rank	Team	2021	Bowl	Conf.	First Game
1.	Alabama	13-2	CFP NC	SEC	9/3 - Utah State
2.	Ohio State	11-2	Rose	Big Ten	9/3 - (5) Notre Dame
3.	Georgia	14-1	CFP NC	SEC	9/3 - vs. (11) Oregon
4.	Clemson	10-3	Cheez-It	ACC	9/5 - vs. Georgia Tech
5.	Notre Dame	11-2	Fiesta	FBS Ind.	9/3 - at (2) Ohio State
6.	Texas A&M	8-4	N/A	SEC	9/3 - Sam Houston State
7.	Utah	10-4	Rose	Pac-12	9/3 - at Florida
8.	Michigan	12-2	CFP Semi	Big Ten	9/3 - Colorado State
9.	Oklahoma	11-2	Alamo	Big 12	9/3 - UTEP
10.	Baylor	12-2	Sugar	Big 12	9/3 - Albany

Rank	Team	2021	Bowl	Conf.	First Game
11.	Oregon	10-4	Alamo	Pac-12	9/3 - vs. (3) Georgia
12.	Oklahoma State	12-2	Fiesta	Big 12	9/1 - Central Michigan
13.	NC State	9-3	N/A	ACC	9/3 - at East Carolina
14.	USC	4-8	N/A	Pac-12	9/3 - Rice
15.	Michigan State	11-2	Peach	Big Ten	9/2 - Western Michigan
16.	Miami	7-5	N/A	ACC	9/3 - Bethune-Cookman
17.	Pittsburgh	11-3	Peach	ACC	9/1 - West Virginia
18.	Wisconsin	9-4	Las Vegas	Big Ten	9/3 - Illinois State
19.	Arkansas	9-4	Outback	SEC	9/3 - (23) Cincinnati
20.	Kentucky	10-3	Citrus	SEC	9/3 - Miami (Ohio)

Rank	Team	2021	Bowl	Conf.	First Game
21.	Mississippi	10-3	Sugar	SEC	9/3 - Troy
22.	Wake Forest	11-3	Gator	ACC	9/1 - VMI
23.	Cincinnati	13-1	CFP Semi	American	9/3 - at (19) Arkansas
24.	Houston	12-2	Birmingham	American	9/3 - at UTSA
25.	BYU	10-3	Independence	FBS Ind.	9/3 - at South Florida

# Pittsburgh welcomes 20th Little Italy Days

**CAPRI SCARCELLI**  
a&e editor

The city of Pittsburgh regularly celebrates and recognizes its cultural diversity through various festivities and events, and is not shy to support the love of its Italian-American roots.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR  
Duquesne alumni join every year for Little Italy Day's Bocce Tournament. This year, the league was up against an Irish team.

From Aug. 18-21, families and friends gathered at the 20th rendition of Bloomfield's Little Italy Days, immersing in the rich heritage of Pittsburgh's historically Italian culture — including authentic gnocchi, cannoli, gelato, jewelry, bocce tournaments and more.

Mia Madre Trattoria in Avalon is run by the Hawkins family as a way to keep the Italian tradition alive and well.

"My son, my daughter, my wife, my niece[...]we all work at the restaurant together full time, and [this festival] gives us a little break from our usual schedule to celebrate our heritage," Alex Hawkins said.

Open since 2009, Alex said that the family restaurant has set up a

booth at Little Italy Days each year since its opening.

"We've been around forever, and we'll keep coming too," Alex said.

Elise Hawkins, daughter of Alex Hawkins and owner of Isabella's Holi Cannoli, was inspired to start her own business apart from helping at her

family's restaurant. When she lost her own daughter in 2018, she decided to dedicate her career to her.

"She had a little girl that passed away, and her name was Isabella, so we started this company in honor of her," Alex said. "And now she has her own food truck that will be coming out [next week], and Isabella's Holi Cannolis will be all around Allegheny County and in the city of Pittsburgh."

According to Elise Hawkins, she was invited to be a vendor in Bloomfield's Little Italy Days, and will also appear in Butler for their Italian festival on Aug. 26.

"Whether other festivals or food truck events, anywhere they'll have us we'll be," Elise said.

Michael Tambellini's Event Cater-

ing celebrated its 20th year of Little Italy Days, setting up shop every year the festival has run in the Pittsburgh area. Tambellini said that the company is "just a block away" from where the event took place on Liberty Ave.

He also said that his company caters the Vintage Fair, Grand Prix, local farmers markets and other various social events. Regular customers have enjoyed Tambellini's chicken parmesan, stuffed shells, penne, meatball hoagies and more.

"Being Italian and celebrating the Italian heritage is something that everyone looks forward to," Tambellini said. "This is one of the biggest events in Pittsburgh besides the Steelers game."

Joey Spadaro is a sophomore information systems major at Duquesne. He and his Alpha Phi Delta brothers, a historically Italian social fraternity, talked to multiple vendors at Little Italy Days — enjoying the food, music and good memories. Spadaro said, his favorites were Calinete's pizza and "Italian" egg rolls, which he considered a "modern twist on classic Italian food."

"This was my first time there, and I think since my family is Italian and a bunch of my friends are too, we wanted to check it out to support the culture," Spadaro said. "I think more Duquesne students should head [to the festival] next year, too."

Anthony Marino, a 2005 Duquesne University alumnus, gathers with fellow Duquesne graduates Robert Salvatore, Adam Marino, Anthony Rocco and John Barnallini each summer for the Little Italy Days' bocce tournament.

Consisting of 18 teams, Little Italy Days has welcomed bocce leagues for the past 10 years. Anthony said that he and his friends are "super fortunate" to be leaders of their league for seven years in a row.

"We got a great bunch of guys here

that come out, [and we] got teams that come from Belle Vernon all the way to Wheeling, West Virginia," Anthony said. "If you look around, we get a good crowd. Everyone loves to watch, and gets to learn the game if they don't know it already."

"It's like young and old. You have old school Italian guys who can teach you how to play, and you have guys in their mid-20s just learning. Kids can run around on Friday nights for open courts. It's all for the community."

The bocce leagues are founded on volunteer work, and all materials are donated from local fundraisers in the community, where winning teams give back to local businesses, according to Anthony.

"This is all for the community, all for Bloomfield and all for this festival."



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR  
Homemade gnocchi hits the spot on a warm summer day in Bloomfield.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR  
Generations of Italian-Americans gather in Pittsburgh to celebrate their heritage.



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR  
Various vendors put their best dishes to the test at Little Italy Days.

## CAMPUS EVENTS

Root Beer Float Night  
Aug. 25 @ 9 p.m.

Join Center for Student Involvement at the NiteSpot for make-your-own root beer floats! Free to all Duquesne students. Supplies limited.

Welcome Back Picnic!  
Aug. 26 @ 12 p.m.

Calling all commuters! Go to the Commuter Center on the first floor of the Union for free food and fun!

DU Nite:  
Outdoor Movie and Ritas  
Aug. 26 @ 9 p.m.

Go to College Hall Lawn for an outdoor movie with DPC and Rita's Italian Ice! Movie will be relocated to College Hall 104 if it rains.

Make-Your-Own  
Ice Cream Sundae  
Aug. 29 @ 9 p.m.

Head to the NiteSpot for another sweet treat! Free to all Duquesne students. Supplies limited.

## CAPRI'S KIND WORDS

Enjoy it While You Can

It's true what they say: these moments don't last forever.

I'm sure you can recall — at least the feeling of — your first day of high school, or maybe your last one. That bittersweet, shaky memory of nerves and excitement that bubbled up inside you is something you can experience again and again, just not in the exact same way.

Cherish each hello and welcome you receive in your classroom this year — there will come a day where you've achieved all you've strived for, but that success no longer translates to a grade on a paper. Your success, instead, will be a mosaic of every kind word you've given to a stranger, or the way your eyes lit up when you got to talk about something you love. You must continue to learn and read and grow when it's not assigned to you, and appreciate all your classmates and professors do to create a caring, productive environment that pushes you to do your best.

Pay it forward; bring a smile with you to class. It'll make all the difference.

— Capri Scarcelli

**Aquarius**  
Wait is it her Taylor Swift birth-day? Let me check my calendar.

**Gemini**  
How confident are you in your ring toss skills?

**Libra**  
Does anyone have the address to Harry's House? I have a Doordash.

**Pisces**  
BORING!

**Cancer**  
Oh so you graduated so you're popular.

**Scorpio**  
Gold star to whoever can guess how much I love you wait what

**Aries**  
The clawwww

**Leo**  
Romanticize the suburbs again.

**Sagittarius**  
No no don't cry, it's giving fierce!

**Taurus**  
DTL (Down to Love)

**Virgo**  
Time to: shine, radiate, glow, illuminate and thrive baby.

**Capricorn**  
So you've watched Pulp Fiction.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Duquesne Red Masquers unveil 2022-23 lineup

ISABELLA ABBOTT  
features editor

The Duquesne University Red Masquers have released a lineup filled with unique performances for the 2022-23 year.

From "SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical" to "Burlesque on The Bluff," Duquesne students will have many different genres of performances to choose from.

The first performance on the calendar this fall is the Pittsburgh "New Works Play Festival," which Duquesne began hosting at the Genesius Theater on Aug. 20. The performance will run through Sept. 17.

During these dates, viewers can watch the many plays put on by theatre companies in the Pittsburgh region, including The South Hills Players and McKeesport Little Theater.

Most of these new plays will also be available in-person or to stream on demand.

The Red Masquers' first performance back on the Bluff will be their "Fall Play-In-A-Day." This includes students writing, memorizing and rehearsing a number of plays in a 24-hour time period.

Some members, like Victoria Kapfer, describe that period as "chaotic fun."

"It's chaotic, for starters," Kapfer said. "People are taking coffee shots all

day, and it shows how fun we can be."

Kapfer, a senior Secondary English Education major and the President of Red Masquers, said she is ecstatic for the upcoming shows this year like "SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical."

"With auditions coming up, we've been getting so much interest, and we're hoping to have a really strong presence this year," Kapfer said. "We've already ordered pool noodles and seaweed cutouts."

John Lane, Arts and Executive Director of the Red Masquers, knows that the SpongeBob SquarePants performance will be a hit because of its unique script and large cast size.

"It's a really lovely show," Lane said, "the score is really clever, the script is really cute and it's got a big cast."

Auditions will be held for "SpongeBob SquarePants the Musical" on Sept. 5-6 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The actual performance is scheduled to run from Nov. 3-19.

Roughly a month after the SpongeBob SquarePants performance, the Red Masquers will perform their "One Acts for Charity" event from Dec. 3-10.

This event has students putting on a number of plays, with proceeds going toward a charity of their choosing.

There will be a "Spring Play-In-A-Day" performance on Jan. 7, similar to the fall.

There will be four other performances during the spring semester.

One of these performances, known as "Burlesque on The Bluff," is already bringing excitement to the members of the Red Masquers because of its historical factor. The show is based off the 2010 movie-musical "Burlesque," featuring artists Christina Aguilera and Cher.

"I like how we're presenting the historical part of it since Burlesque has taken on a different meaning," Lane said. "We're going back to this meaning with songs and acts."

Susan Betten, Vice President and costume chair of the Red Masquers, is thrilled for what this performance will look like as well.

"I'm super interested in the history of Vaudeville and Burlesque type performance, not to mention the costumes, and I can't wait to see where we take that production," Betten said.

From March 23-April 2, the Masquers will be putting on "Serenade."

Red Masquers secretary Rachel Lewandowski said she can't wait to be a part of this show.

"I'm really excited for Serenade since it's the world premiere for it, and [it] will hopefully be a cool process," Lewandowski said.

From Jan. 25-29, the play "Mud" will be performed. The Red Masquers' last performance of the year will be Premieres 46, which includes a series of short plays that will run near the end of the semester, from April 19-22.

Students who are interested



COURTESY OF MATT DUDLEY | DUQUESNE RED MASQUERS

Join in on some "nautical nonsense" as the Red Masquers prepare for their exciting season. Follow @duqredmasquers for more information.

in joining the Red Masquers can reach out to Lane, who is the director of the university's Theater Arts program.

Kapfer wants it to be known that students of all interests and back-

grounds are welcome.

"...If you're passionate about theater, you're able to just come and have fun with everyone," Kapfer said.

## Big stars find way to Pittsburgh's brightest stages

JACOB YANOSICK  
staff writer

As the summer concert season is wrapping up, local Pittsburgh venues prepare for highly anticipated fall tours; and it is expected for more shows to pop up throughout the fall season.

Wiz Khalifa and Logic will close out the summer this Sunday at The Pavillion at Star Lake with their Vinyl Verse Tour. 24kGoldn, DJ DRAMA, C Dot Castro and Fedd the God will open the show, with Logic and Khalifa headlining.

They both recently released albums — Logic with "Vinyl Days" and Khalifa with "Taylor Nights." They are expected to play a set of their more well-known hits, as well as songs off their new albums.

Twenty One Pilots will bring their ICY TOUR to PPG Paints Arena on Aug. 31, and Peter McPoland will be opening the show. They are expected to perform a 27-song set throughout the night, including hits like "Stressed Out," "Ride" and "Heathens."

Ringo Starr will bring his All-Starr

Band tour to PPG Paints Arena on Sep. 10. He will likely perform a mix of his own songs, as well as Beatles classics. Starr is expected to perform many covers, including songs from Toto & The Isley Brothers.

Elton John is performing at PNC Park on Sept. 16, as part of his Farewell Yellow Brick Road tour named after his 1973 album "Goodbye Yellow Brick Road." This is intended to be his last tour.

For country fans, Zach Bryan will be performing at Stage AE on Sept. 19 as part of his American Heartbreak Tour, which will give an opportunity to see him perform in a mid-sized venue.

He will perform many of his hits, as well as songs from his latest album "American Heartbreak."

Post Malone will bring his Twelve Carat Tour to PPG Paints Arena on Sept. 28. He is expected to play an 18-song mix from all his albums. Songs from his latest album "Twelve Carat Toothache" include "Wrapped Around Your Finger," "Cooped Up," "I Like You" and "Insane."



CAPRI SCARCELLI | A&E EDITOR

Billy Joel may have seen the lights go out on Broadway, but Elton John can't be kept in his penthouse as he takes over PNC Park Sept. 16.

**Here is the current lineup for the fall in the Pittsburgh area (list not all-inclusive).**

### Stage AE:

Sept. 7 – \$uicideboy\$, Ski Mask the Slump God, \$not (& more)  
Sept. 19 – Zach Bryan  
Sept. 23 – The Avett Brothers  
Sept. 24 – Pusha T  
Oct. 10 – Death Cab for Cutie  
Oct. 12 – Giveon

### The Pavillion at Star Lake:

Aug. 26 – Jason Aldean  
Aug. 28 – Wiz Khalifa & Logic

### PPG Paints Arena:

Aug. 31 – Twenty One Pilots  
Sept. 1 – Michael Bublé  
Sept. 10 – Ringo Starr  
Sept. 28 – Post Malone

### PNC Park:

Sept. 16 – Elton John

## THE DUKESNE DUKE

113 College Hall  
600 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15282

## editorial staff

editor-in-chief	Luke Henne
news editor	Alicia Dye
opinions editor	Zach Petroff
features editor	Isabella Abbott
a&e editor	Capri Scarcelli
sports editor	Spencer Thomas
multimedia/layout	Brentaro Yamane
social media & ads	Nicholas Zotos

## administrative staff

adviser Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduquduke@gmail.com

“We are all storytellers.  
We all live in a network  
of stories. There isn’t  
a stronger connection  
between people than  
storytelling.”

JIMMY NEIL SMITH

You just read | Now tweet  
our thoughts. | us yours.

@TheDuquesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced and include the writer’s name, school/department and phone number for verification. Letters should be no longer than 300 words and should be delivered to *The Duke* office at 113 College Hall or e-mailed to theduquduke@gmail.com by 5 p.m. Tuesday. The editors reserve the right to edit any and all submitted copies. All letters must be verified before being published.

### Corrections/clarifications

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### Contact

email: theduquduke@gmail.com



PETER BOETTGER | STAFF COMIC ARTIST

## Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is too little, too late

This past summer, America took part in one of its most consistent traditions dating back to the mid-20th century: economic turmoil.

Opponents of the current administration classify this current economic situation as a recession. The White House has adamantly denied this, stating in a news-release that, “While some maintain that two consecutive quarters of falling real GDP constitutes a recession, that is neither the official definition nor the way economists evaluate the state of the business cycle...”

That sounds more like an eloquent way to say, “The economy is failing, but just in a non-traditional way.”

While talking heads in the political realm bicker over semantics, the American people saw consumer prices rise 9.1% (per the Bureau of Labor Statistics), the largest increase in over 40 years. Gas prices soared to the highest amount they have ever been at an estimated 51% increase from a year ago nationwide, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Americans are not looking for clarification on what defines economic anomalies. They want change, they want to not have the uncertainty that is facing so many families across the country.

However, some Americans are seeking comfort from these tumultuous economic times by finding ways to place blame on their opposing political party. The same age-old arguments tied to political partisanship are being regurgitated from mouth pieces whose moral outrage is guided by his/her thin-veiled political ideologies.

It does seem that there is an irrational loyalty to an economic hierarchy, and our political leanings give almost a clemency to perpetrators as long as their political identities align close to our own.

I once asked someone whose opinions I respect: What is the measure of a good economy? His answer — the deficit. When asked the same question four years later with a different political party in the majority, his answer changed to the unemployment rate. The lack of consistency we have with holding those making economic decisions accountable greatly diminishes our chances of actually enacting change.

It is puzzling that, despite supposedly having the strongest economy in the history of the world, we find ourselves in economic crises seemingly every decade. These economic downfalls have a tendency to hit the lower economic classes the hardest, forcing the majority of American people to carry the brunt of the consequences of the wealthy elite.

When the economy tanks, it decreases cash flow. Those that have assets may see a temporary decrease in their assets’ value, but a majority of America’s wealth



ZACH PETROFF  
opinions editor

consists of cash, savings and a relatively small stake in the market. While a majority of American people will watch their savings deplete, the wealthy can hold strong as the value of their assets will eventually return.

It almost seems like the game is rigged.

In an attempt to muster support before the midterm elections, the Biden administration was able to pass the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. This is a watered down version of the “Build Back Better” legislation that the Democratic Party was unable to get passed with a majority in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

It is a feeble attempt that does not cover nearly enough to prevent the economic crisis that this country has been bracing for since the turn of the century. Republicans

are criticizing it with their usual hot button terms like socialism and big government. These ideas and accusations are so off the mark that one has to wonder if they’re genuine.

The Democrats appear inefficient at self-reflection and are so afraid to criticize members of their own party as if the whim of the American voter could drastically change when any sort of criticism is aimed at their own party.

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 only delays the inevitable. As the gap between the wealthy and the rest of us keeps increasing, these subtle changes and half-hearted attempts to hold the economic elites accountable is not nearly strong enough to change the trajectory of the American economic landscape.

A 15% tax increase to the corporations and individual estates that profited over a billion dollars in a period of three years, the increase in the IRS’s budget to try to capture tax-evading wealthy individuals and the expansion of Medicare benefits sound promising on paper. However, this administration is just scratching the surface when it comes to our economic woes.

There is a true lack of investment in your everyday, modern American citizen. This country’s wealth and economic capabilities are influenced by a wealthy elite ruling class and major corporations. As these wealthy elites garnish more wealth, a section of the American people are left on the outside looking in.

The housing market is in a serious flux as property values will plummet back to normalcy, causing a level of value disruption that could have some very unfortunate consequences. Rent across the nation keeps steadily climbing. It is almost impossible to receive a higher education without incurring a massive amount of debt that will seemingly never be able to get paid off. Wages have stayed stagnant while laborers are asked to do more. Small businesses are being absorbed by the massive corporations. Wall Street is an exclusive, members-only club, a club that feels like it’s benefiting only a few predetermined individuals.

We need practical regulations. This needs to be an economy that works for everybody, not just a privileged few.

STAFF  
EDITORIAL

### How far is too far with NIL deals?

As collegiate athletics get underway this fall, it’s worth pondering what’s happened to a landscape where love of the game was always the first priority.

The equation was always so simple. A student-athlete comes to a college or university and receives a scholarship. The athlete showcases his/her athletic abilities and helps grow the school’s image, and receives an education in return.

While that still may be true in some cases, name image and likeness (NIL) rules have thrown a wrench into amateurism as it’s been commonly known.

In September 2019, per *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, California became the first state to pass a law (known as the Fair Pay to Play Act) that would allow college athletes to be compensated for use of their NIL. The law took effect in September 2021.

By July 2021, after more states began passing NIL laws, the NCAA suspended its previous rules and began allowing athletes to sign deals with companies and be paid for their success.

There’s a beauty to this. Doug Edert became a phenom for Saint Peter’s College during the 2022 NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament and instantly signed a deal with Buffalo Wild Wings. University of South Carolina quarterback Spencer Rattler inked an endorsement deal with Raising Cane’s, a popular fast-food restaurant.

NIL has become an essential way for athletes to grow their own image. However, it’s also opened up the floodgates for some collegiate athletes to be compensated like professionals.

The Sporting News’ David Suggs reported in June that Ohio State University football coach Ryan Day told nearly 100 members of the football community in Columbus that the program will need to secure \$13 million in NIL deals to keep his roster intact and prevent players from being lured away toward lucrative deals at other schools.

Jaden Rashada, a high-school quarterback prospect who is committed to play at the University of Miami, reportedly signed a \$9.5 million contract with a Miami booster in June, before playing a single game at the collegiate level, according to Bleacher Report’s Max Escarpio.

How has it reached the point where the imbalance among collegiate athletes has never been greater?

It’s plausible to say that an Ohio State quarterback generates more revenue for the school than a tennis player, but the former is playing on FOX, ABC, ESPN on a weekly basis. You can’t say the same about the latter.

Big Ten Conference Commissioner Kevin Warren said on HBO’s *Real Sports* with Bryant Gumbel that he sees the conference eventually playing players. It’s an inevitable but, unfortunate, reality.

Are NIL deals good for marketing and self-promotion? Absolutely.

There’s a fine line to walk, and the lucrative money that’s being given to athletes emphasizes one key principle: money trumps academics and amateurism every single day in the landscape of collegiate athletics.

## Fogel's case is an example of preferential treatment

LUKE HENNE  
editor-in-chief

One of the biggest principles I try to abide by in life is being consistent.

Whether its in the world of journalism with adhering to AP style or by always telling the truth and doing what's right, consistency says a lot about the type of person someone is.

That's why the case of Marc Fogel, a teacher from the Pittsburgh suburb of Oakmont, is so alarming and disheartening to someone like myself.

Fogel, who's taught internationally in countries like Malaysia and Venezuela, has also instructed in Russia for a decade. But, as Manuel Roig-Franzia of *The Washington Post* reported, Fogel was arrested in August 2021 during his attempt to reenter the country.

His crime? In his possession was approximately half an ounce of medical marijuana that was prescribed to him back home to treat lingering chronic pain.

Fogel's offense aligns itself with that of Brittney Griner, who was arrested in February when trying to enter the same nation with the same substance: a "small amount of medical marijuana."

After respective hearings for Fogel and Griner, it was clear that Russia was consistent (but unjustified) in delivering harsh sentences. Griner was given nine years in prison during a hearing on August 4, while Fogel received 14 years this past June.

A pretty consistent pattern



COURTESY OF UNSPLASH

Marc Fogel, a teacher from the Pittsburgh suburb of Oakmont, was sentenced to 14 years in a Russian prison for attempting to enter the country while possessing medical marijuana. His case closely parallels that of WNBA superstar Brittney Griner.

is clear in each individual's story: an American enters the country with medical marijuana, Russian authorities arrest the individuals and dish out unfathomable prison sentences for what seem like such minor crimes.

Where do the cases differ? Unfortunately, one is a star athlete, while the other is lesser known.

Griner, an NCAA champion at Baylor University in 2012 and a WNBA champion with the Phoenix Mercury in 2014, has been a focal point of news coverage and White House efforts to get the basketball superstar back to the United States in a prisoner swap.

Roig-Franzia indicated on

July 27, nearly a week before Griner's sentencing, that Secretary of State Antony Blinken had made a "substantial proposal" to have not only Griner released, but also Paul Whelan, a fellow American who is imprisoned in Russia on a 16-year sentence prompted by spy charges.

What about Fogel? What makes him any less important than Griner or Whelan? After all, they are all Americans. Americans who are being, what is commonly regarded as wrongfully detained, in a powerful but adversarial nation.

Jane Fogel, Marc's wife, told *The Washington Post*

that she's starting to fear that her husband will catch the short end of the stick.

"There's a sinking feeling in the pit of my stomach that Marc will be left behind," Jane said to Roig-Franzia. "It's terrifying. I would hope that President Biden and especially first lady Jill Biden, who is an educator, realize the importance of including Fogel in addition to Brittney Griner and Paul Whelan."

*The Washington Post* reported that Fogel's case has been stalled at the mid-functionary level of the U.S. State Department, and word of a potential Griner swap didn't

help Fogel's well-being.

According to a letter that Fogel wrote home, he said, "That [the prisoner-exchange reports] hurt. Teachers are at least as important as [basket]ballers."

Roig-Franzia noted that a State Department official said that the agency "is aware of Fogel's case," but cited privacy reasons as justification for refusing to provide any further information, while also declining an interview request.

I fully agree. There's zero reason why Griner (or Whelan) deserve preferential treatment over Marc. All three are Americans, and equal attention should be paid to each of them.

It's not like any of the three are rivals with one another. Fogel said that she hopes Griner and Whelan will also make it home. Griner previously issued a statement in which she pleaded for other Americans to be released.

Jane has said that she feels like a "widow." It shouldn't be this way.

The tenured teacher is an American, just like the women's basketball icon is. But, if equal attention isn't paid and one is given more treatment due to her accolades and notoriety, how can Americans be certain that the government cares about all of its citizens?

It's time to see a little bit more consistency and more effort put toward securing the release of not just Griner, Whelan or Marc individually, but of all those who are treated unequally and inhumanely.

## On-field product means more than a stadium name

BRENTARO YAMANE  
layout/multimedia editor

As the school year commences, so does the impending football season.

Students in the Pittsburgh area are trying to get back into the flow of school. While it might not be easy to get back into the rhythm, one of the things that might help students relax is attending Pittsburgh Steelers and University of Pittsburgh football games.

For those who have attended Steelers and Panthers games in previous years, the stadium's name became synonymous with Pittsburgh culture.

However, a new chapter opened for the venue on July 10, when the name "Heinz Field" vanished after 21 years. The next day, a Michigan-based insurance company known as Acrisure secured the stadium's naming rights, and the venue will be known as Acrisure Stadium for the foreseeable future.

Growing up in the Pittsburgh area, I had always known the home of Pitt and the Steelers to be Heinz



LUKE HENNE | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After over two decades of entering Heinz Field, Pittsburgh fans will see a new name on the North Shore: Acrisure Stadium, which secured naming rights in July.

Field. Many local fans are upset because Heinz was and is Pittsburgh. It's a Pittsburgh-based company, and it was something they could relate to. It evoked a sense of pride and honor.

While it might be upsetting to not see two giant red ketchup bottles anymore, it will not stop people from attending Steelers and Panthers games this fall.

Change is a part of life. If every-

thing was the same, nothing would ever evolve or move forward. Personally, this "switch" that has happened is one that many Pittsburgh residents would take any day in because it's inconsequential to the way they go about their lives.

Other forms of change consist of having a family member die, losing a job or having a relationship with a significant other end. It's important to keep things in perspective.

The only thing people should

and will complain about in year one of Acrisure Stadium is if one or either teams significantly underperforms.

Both teams are still legit.

The Steelers have a shot to make it to the postseason for the third-consecutive year, having assembled a healthy mix of young offensive weapons to coincide with a strong defense in year one removed from the post-Ben Roethlisberger era.

With the exception of quarterback Kenny Pickett (drafted by the Steelers) and Jordan Addison (transferred to Southern California), the Panthers return a significant amount of talent from a team that won 11 games and an Atlantic Coast Conference title a season ago.

Despite any outrage, attendance isn't going to shift.

In October 2016, just four months after the franchise secured its fourth Stanley Cup, the Pittsburgh Penguins renamed their arena from Consol Energy Center to PPG Paints Arena. While both companies are based in Pittsburgh or its surrounding area, people could've taken exception to having a building that opened just six years

prior already changing its name.

Attendance didn't skip a beat, and the Penguins won a second-consecutive title in 2017.

In the end, results always have the biggest impact.

After watching the first game at Acrisure Stadium, a preseason contest between the Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks on Aug. 13, it was obvious that the atmosphere was electric.

It was also clear that a name wouldn't dictate whether fans were excited. That was left to Kenny Pickett, who entered the game in the third quarter and threw for two touchdown passes in his professional debut. Pittsburgh won 32-25.

Although initial reaction to the stadium's name might not be favorable, in the end, people will not care.

They'll care about whether Steelers Head Coach Mike Tomlin can produce another postseason appearance. They'll care about whether Pitt Head Coach Pat Narduzzi can prove that the 2021 campaign wasn't a fluke.

Perspective is key. Don't lose sleep over a name. There are bigger things to worry about in life.

# A front-row seat to witnessing history

**LUKE HENNE & BRENTARO YAMANE**  
staff editors

*Editor's Note: Luke Henne is the staff's editor-in-chief, while Brentaro Yamane is the staff's layout/multimedia editor.*

In the bottom of the first inning during an Aug. 18 game between the Boston Red Sox and the Pittsburgh Pirates at PNC Park, Bryan Reynolds hit what was the 2,999th home run in PNC Park's history.

On that night, we gathered with Brendan Henne (Luke's brother) and Luke Clinefelter (Luke's friend) at the game.

Little did we know, the next home run — hit by Reynolds in the fifth inning — would be one that created a lifelong memory for the four of us.

"As soon as it [the baseball] hit the bat, I knew it was going to be close to us," Brendan said. "I remember yelling, 'Heads up!' and nudging Luke Clinefelter on the arm."

"It hit the people either a row or two rows behind, hit off their hands and bounced right into my hands. I didn't even have to move."

It was an ordinary Thursday night, but it was a night where us four gathered in each other's presence at the same time for the first time ever.

We sat in right field, on the Roberto Clemente Wall. The game was played on what would have been Clemente's 88th birthday. Clemente finished his career with exactly 3,000 hits.

For Brendan, he'd been to over 400 Pirates games at PNC Park, but had never caught a home run. This was a first.

Within seconds, we all remembered what we'd discussed after the first of Reynolds' two home runs in the game: the 3,000-home run record was close.

And, now, Brendan held the prized possession in his hands.

Michael Bracci, a member of the Pirates'

security department, found his way to our section in a matter of minutes to begin the negotiation process.

"He was like, 'Alright, well, we want that ball,' Brendan said. 'We want to put it in the PNC Park Hall of Fame if you, of course, would give it up, so we're prepared to offer you a signed bat or ball.' He didn't really specify a player."

After Bracci told Brendan that he was willing to negotiate with whatever he wanted in exchange for the ball, Brendan had just one initial request: meeting and exchanging the ball with Reynolds.

He also informed Bracci that his favorite player was Jack Suwinski, and he hoped that maybe a replica Suwinski jersey would find his way to him.

While the latter hope was not immediately possible because Suwinski is currently not on the Pirates' active roster, the former wish was in place to be fulfilled.

After a brief discussion, Bracci and Brendan left the seats. Bracci then made a call to Chris Hunter, the Pirates' senior director of ballpark operations, to get the postgame plans lined up.

At this point, footage of the event had made its way onto social media, and cameras began capturing the negotiations.

Robby Incmikowski, a reporter for AT&T SportsNet Pittsburgh, found his way to Brendan and Bracci to get the inside scoop on the process, and he'd soon relay the details to play-by-play commentator Greg Brown on live television.

After a few innings, Brendan got it arranged to have Clinefelter and the rest of our group go into the stadium's service tunnel with him. Brendan was going to be the one to deliver the ball to the man who hit it. The three of us were just along for the ride, soaking the moment in.

After the game, Brendan knew he'd be meeting Reynolds, but was stunned at how it happened.

"My first thought when I said I wanted to meet Reynolds was maybe after he showers or when he's walking to his car, get a picture with him there or in the clubhouse," Brendan said. "I never would've

newer college schedules and work schedules," Brendan said. "I think it was no coincidence that [Luke's complimentary employee] tickets were blocked off for that series because it was the Red Sox, kind of



COURTESY OF JOSH LAVALLEE | PITTSBURGH PIRATES

Brendan Henne and Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Bryan Reynolds pose for a picture after Reynolds hit the 3000th home run in PNC Park history during an Aug. 18 game, a home run caught by Brendan.

imagined walking on the field.

"I think that was a good thing because I didn't really expect it, I wasn't nervous. As soon as the game ended, [Bracci] takes me on the field, Reynolds is giving the postgame interview, I look up into 20,000 [people] and all the lights...I think, 'This is surreal right now. I've never seen anything like this.'"

Brendan expressed his gratitude for the moment, especially given that his brother holds an internship in the Pirates' baseball communications department and doesn't get to attend as many games with him.

"We've [each] gone to a million games alone, especially me this year with our

forcing us to buy seats in the outfield."

Brendan became a local celebrity in his native Cranberry Township. The *Butler Eagle* published a feature story, and he was recognized in a tweet by Seneca Valley, his high school alma mater.

A video of him catching and celebrating with the ball found its way on to SportsCenter's Twitter page. His picture with Reynolds was featured on the Pirates' Facebook page.

He's grateful for the memory created.

"I wouldn't have rather had anyone there other than you [Luke], but it was pretty cool to have [Clinefelter] and Brentaro there, too. That's probably a moment that they'll remember for the rest of their lives as well."

# Pet therapy relieves orientation week stress

**SPENCER THOMAS**  
sports editor

Cuddly canines brought their love to Gumberg Library on Friday as part of freshman orientation week festivities. Students had the opportunity to meet and pet three trained therapy dogs.

The line stretched around the fifth floor of the library, with upward of 100 freshmen eager to see Kobie, Piper and Shep.

The opportunity to connect with their furry friends was clearly a mood booster for freshmen as they crept through their first week of college.

"For orientation, we always incorporate some sort of stress relievers," said orientation chair coordinator Abby Hill. "It's a new environment, and they're getting used to being here."

Pet therapy mixed things up, as students got to know the dogs.

Since it's the first week many spend away from their families and homes, orientation week allows for constant interaction with new people.

The first pup to arrive was Kobie, a 3-year-old golden retriever. Students' faces immediately lit up with smiles when they got to meet him and his owner, Sarah Koblentz. Unlike service dogs, therapy dogs belong to families, who have them

trained for therapy.

Animal Friends, Inc., is the company that operates the pet therapy program, known as "Therapets." According to them, a therapy animal is "any companion animal who has undergone training and certification to provide comfort and affectionate support to someone other than their owner."

Any pet owner can contact the company, and once the pet makes it through their training, they are able to be present at colleges, hospitals, workplaces and wherever else anxiety may rise.

The Koblentz family adopted Kobie when he was a puppy, and he came at a crucial time, supporting them as the Covid-19 pandemic began.

"He did a wonderful thing for my two boys, just being there when they needed him," Koblentz said.

She also added that she knew Kobie's therapeutic side-gig was "something we wanted to do when we got him."

Kobie is a rookie in the therapy game, having just started his training in June. Koblentz noted how he had the energy of a puppy, but it was the training that allowed him to remain under control in such a stimulating environment.

He seemed just as happy to meet the students as they were to meet him, with a smile across his face and a panting tongue. Besides the hugs

and kisses, Kobie loved to back up onto students, enticing them into what Koblentz said were his favorite: butt scratches.

Students happily indulged him, laughing with Kobie and his self-described "mom."

Among the students lucky enough to meet Kobie was Lucas Cook, who felt like the contact definitely helped relieve some of the move-in anxiety.

"Who doesn't love therapy animals?" Cook said. "I already feel better."

Many students get to know each other over conversations about their own pets, with the animals consisting of dogs, cats, bunnies and even a raccoon.

Perhaps the best indication of the event's success could be seen on a before-and-after exercise. Upon entering the room, students were asked to rate their stress level from one to five by placing a sticker on the corresponding number of a chart. They were then asked to do the same thing after meeting with the dogs.

As the event came to a close, the graph demonstrated students entered with a minimum of four stress levels. No student exited with anything higher than a two. Despite being a small sample size, the atmosphere in the room was undeniably or... "paws"ative.

When scratching Kobie, one student re-

marked that it was the best day of her life.

Koblentz echoed a similar sentiment, saying that, "This is the best day ever for [Kobie], too."

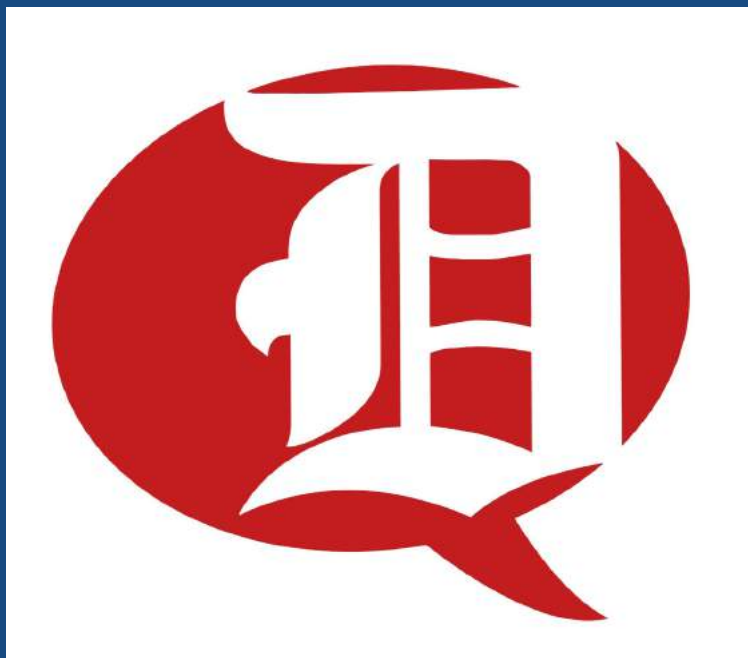


SPENCER THOMAS | SPORTS EDITOR

Sarah and Kobie Koblentz gather with students during pet therapy at Gumberg Library.

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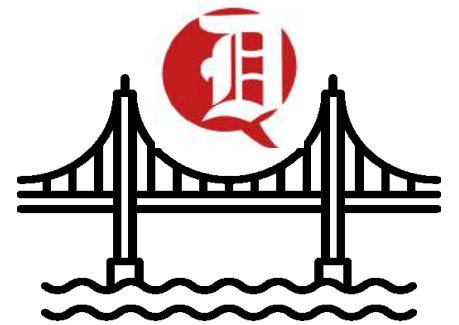
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