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### Sunny's Community Garden grows

EMILY AMBERY layout editor

Five years ago, Sandi Welch brought her favorite phrase, "if you build it, they will come," to life when she founded Sunny's Community Garden. Since then, her non-profit has created three community gardens in the greater Pittsburgh area.

In a new partnership with Evergreen Environmental Club at Duquesne, Welch and her team will be assisted by Duquesne students with all things gardening from moving logs and mulch to weeding and watering.

Sunny's gardens currently serve the Hill District and Manchester areas with construction beginning at the newest Cheswick location starting April 13.

Sunny's Community Garden originally built the gardens and maintained them with a single crew, but Welch has since modified the mission. Now, the nonprofit will build the garden and give it back to the community to maintain.

"We'll give it to [the community], but they have to support it," Welch said. "We have given something to the community that enables them to work within their community for food education."

Evergreen Club students will be assisting the new Cheswick garden construction and are excited to give back to the community. President Rebecca Ulinski expressed her excitement to get started with Sunny's and continue a longer-term partnership with the garden in the Hill.

"We owe it to the Hill and we we it to ourselves to establish partnerships with the people that exist around us as long as they're also willing to enter into partnerships," Ulinski said. "It's really important for students to get off of campus because it helps them meet new people, and it expands people's worldviews."

Sunny's garden relies entirely on the kindness of others. Those that own the spaces pay for the

see GARDEN—page 2

### THE DUQUESNE DUKE

# Proudly Serving Our Campus Since 1925 Welcome to "Druquesne"



REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

New Head Coach Dru Joyce III celebrated the Dukes' Atlantic 10 win. Joyce is confident. "We will hold the trophy again. We will raise another banner," he said.

REBECCA JOZWIAK staff writer

As the sun rose and the calendar turned to April, Dru Joyce III was driving from his hometown of Akron, Ohio, to Pittsburgh. At the end of the drive was an empty podium, where he would soon be standing as the 18th coach in Duquesne men's basketball history. Joyce opted to listen to the silence as he drove across state lines.

The silence finally stopped when Joyce reached for his phone, shuffling his music library.

"What popped on was 'Step by Step' by Whitney Houston," Joyce said. "It was fitting for today. It just reminds me of the journey that I'm about to go on – we're about to go on."

"Step by Step" seems to be the mantra for Dru Jovce. With only five seasons of coaching experience, he is stepping into his first head coaching job.

Joyce succeeds former Duquesne Head Coach Keith Dambrot. Dambrot enjoyed seven years as the Dukes head coach, seeing an all-time record of 256-243, and earning the team's first conference championship in 47 years, and first NCAA Tournament win since 1969.

Joyce first met Dambrot when he was 12 years old playing at youth clinics in Akron, before joining Dambrot's St. Vincent-St. Mary High School squad. Joyce and Dambrot reunited when Dambrot took over as the head coach for the University of Akron in 2004, where Joyce played from 2003-2006, earning his degree in communications.

With a 26-year age gap between Dambrot and Joyce, the team environment is bound to change.

"The way I'll describe it is if he wasn't my coach, he's just a guy, " freshman Jake DiMichele said. "I just love to just hang out with him."

At 39-years-old, Joyce is one of the younger coaches in the NCAA. In 2023, the average age of a Division I men's basketball head coach is 50 years old. That was the first thing that returning players noted when comparing their two coaches.

"They are the same person but [Dru] is younger," said team captain Kareem Rozier. "He's still got that fire lit up under him.

And that's what I want."

In the rapidly evolving era of college athletics that includes NIL money and the transfer portal, Joyce's youth may be an even greater benefit.

"I think you've got to be more vested in relationships. I think some young men are making quick decisions that are transactional for them," said Duquesne Vice President of Athletics Dave Harper. "If they would slow down and take a deep breath, it's about the lifelong relationships you need to establish."

Joyce spent 12 years playing professionally in Europe before starting as an assistant coach at Cleveland State University in 2019.

"Another good thing about him is he's extremely relatable for all of us," DiMichele said. "A lot of the things that he's gone through in life are a lot of the same things that we're going through right now. So, he's able to give us advice, not just as a coach, but as a personal mentor."

While being a part of Dambrot's coaching tree, Joyce explained that his philosophy is an accumulation of everyone he's been around. His father,

Dru II, succeeded Dambrot as the head coach at SVSM, where he remains to this day, having won seven state championships. His brother, Cam, won his first state title last month as the head coach of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland.

"He told us that you can't expect him to do everything [with] the same approach that Coach Dambrot did," DiMichele said. "He's going to adapt his own style and his own culture. He kind of laid out those core values for us in our meeting today."

Joyce explained those four values that will define his program's culture.

"The first is discipline - a high level of discipline. Being able to show up consistently, and the practice of positive habits. Those habits that can create a way of life and a lifestyle beyond basketball."

Joyce also expects his tenets to be observed off of the court, as well.

"The next thing I ask of our young men in our program is integrity," Joyce said. "We're truth tellers, and we're not afraid to tell each other the truth, whether we agree or disagree."

see WELCOME – page 3

### Spreading the word about survivor support

#### **POLICE BRIEFS**

#### Tuesday, March 26-

There was a call about marijuana in Duquesne Towers. The violator was referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

#### Thursday, March 28-

It was reported that two Rockville Subwoofers were stolen from a parked vehicle.

#### Thursday, March 28-

A resident student reported damage to his vehicle while it was parked in Locust Garage.

#### **EMAILTIPS**

The Duke's news section would love to hear from you about stories that you want to see in print. Know a talented professor or accomplished student? See something on campus that just doesn't make sense? You can send your tips and story ideas to Editor-in-Chief Emma Polen at polene@duq.edu

#### The Duquesne Duke supports local businesses





US TODAY!

EMMA POLEN editor-in-chief

Hilary Ballard blamed herself not once, but twice for being the victim of sexual assault. The first time was with a close friend. The second time, with a stranger. She believed that she "led him on." That she "had too much to drink," that she "didn't say no clearly enough."

But back then, at 16 and then again at 22, Ballard didn't think anyone would take her seriously if she stepped forward.

"How many of us have believed this lie and tried to reframe things so that the blame would fall on us? How many men and women have chosen to stay quiet because they are worried about not being believed, rather than standing up against the violation that was done to them?" Ballard asked her audience on Tuesday.

"My hope and the reason I am so willing to share my story is because I want to remind you that belief is the biggest gift that you can give someone after they experienced an assault," she said. "So as we begin Sexual Assault Awareness Month, I want to say to all of those who experience sexual assaults, I believe you. We believe you."

In honor of Sexual Violence Awareness Month, Pittsburgh Action Against Rape (PAAR) spent Tuesday morning in the City County building for their event titled "It's a Great Day to Believe Survivors." The event began with a news conference followed by speaking to local leaders and promoting their new mental health support program for victims of sexual assault.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month is observed annually in April, and, according to PAAR, it serves as a campaign "to raise public awareness about sexual assault and educate communities and individuals on how to prevent sexual

PAAR is Allegheny County's only resource center solely devoted to the issue of sexual violence. Their role in April is to spread the word about their programs.

The new free services announced on Tuesday for survivors in Allegheny County encompassed PAAR's

PAAR Executive Director Sadie Restivo presented the news at the "It's a Great Day to Believe Survivors," news conference. Restivo acknowledged the pressures on victims of sexual assault, including mental health care cost, stigma and limited resources. First Steps responds to these needs with full-time case managers, therapy and access to shelters and safe relationships.

"As advocates for survivors, it's incumbent upon us to advocate for comprehensive mental health services that are accessible, affordable and sensitive to the unique needs of survivors," Restivo said, "affirming the worth and the dignity of every survivor."

Cory Hart, PAAR director of development and marketing, said First Steps arose from the team's realization that there was a gap between services available to survivors and services meeting their basic needs.

These services might solve different problems from client to client, Hart said, including housing insecurity, food insecurity or transportation issues.

"Until you meet those," he said, "we're not going to be able to really get you the support that you need."

First Steps began around six months ago, and PAAR is on their way to fully funding the project

violence in the United States."

First Steps mental health program.

team behind it, Hart said. Still, there is room to grow, he said, especially when it comes to "bridging the gap" and meeting survivors' basic needs. With Tuesday's meetings with county representatives, the hope is to amplify their message to those who need to hear it.

Megan Schroeder, PAAR director of victim response, said the purpose of their Tuesday meetings with local officials was to raise awareness of the program's free, confidential resources for survivors of sexual abuse.

also attended Tuesday's news conference to show her support for a "like-minded" organization.

"What we want to do is support

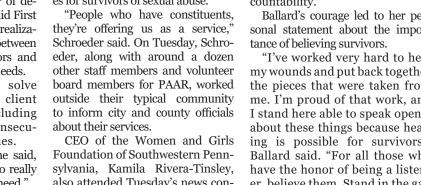
in teal shirts, the official color of Sexual Violence Awareness Month. any initiatives that they have, because oftentimes our constituents are also their constituents, and we want to provide a broad block of support," Rivera-Tinsley said. To achieve their goals, she said that her foundation incorporates as many partners as possible and

EMMA POLEN | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"get the work done." Allegheny County Executive Sara Innamorato spoke at the event, recognizing the courage of survivors and advocating for accountability.

Ballard's courage led to her personal statement about the impor-

"I've worked very hard to heal my wounds and put back together the pieces that were taken from me. I'm proud of that work, and I stand here able to speak openly about these things because healing is possible for survivors," Ballard said. "For all those who have the honor of being a listener, believe them. Stand in the gap and hold space for the survivor who did the most brave act of all: They told you their story."



The Pittsburgh Action Against Rape team showed up to their event

# Evergreen Club helps water Sunny's Community Garden's roots

from GARDEN— page 1

water and Welch emphasized that the non-profit does not own anything in the process of creating the community gardens.

'We rely on finding a good soul who will give us the use of his or her property and who will pay for the water," Welch said. 'If we had to own something, we couldn't do what we do."

Welch has been a master gardener for 30 years and welcomes the young muscle Duquesne students can provide.

The Cheswick location will hold 20 raised bed containers which utilizes the Hugelkultur method. This horticultural method uses a foundation of rotting wood and other plant materials for increased irrigation and nutrients. Students will be helping to get the beds ready for planting by moving logs into the raised beds, shoveling mulch and soil.

Welch described implementing a variety of vegetables at Cheswick. The garden will be home to greens, onions, carrots, potatoes,

ginger, herbs, radishes, squash, er and I thought okay, I want to do tomatoes and peppers.

Evergreen executive member Brynn Tripp grew up enjoying the outdoors as a kid. Now in college, she is excited to get her hands dirty while focusing on what community gardens can do for sustainability.

"With climate change, I was like, 'Okay I want to be able to appreciate everything and still be able to do these hobbies, but now, we all have a responsibility to sustain that and really care for the Earth," Tripp said.

While helping the environment, Sunny's Community Garden also provides the community an opportunity to engage with where their food comes from.

Welch recalled her dismay when a voung student she was working with thought that carrots came from a plastic bag in the grocery store. This experience sparked her interest in education through gardening.

"I'm sort of appalled at the food frenzy I see in terms of cheap low nutrition high carb food options there are in poorly serviced areas and food deserts," she said. "I'm also appalled by the lack of knowledge and that it is so easy to grow healthy food so put that all togetha community garden."

Sunny's mission of education through gardening falls in line with Evergreen's mission at Duquesne, according to Ulinski.

"We do a good mix of education, service and social. We try to offer as many materials and supplies as possible to allow sustainability to be accessible to college students," Ulinski said. "Community building is also a big part of that work, too."

The gardens provide a community space that goes beyond the plants. The Hill District location has hosted two weddings, poetry groups and a grieving seminar.

"There's something about a garden that brings out the best in people," Welch said.

They respect the space especially when the neighbors see how hard you have to work in order to bring this to life. So I'm just counting on good citizens being a part of our program, watching out for us and respecting what we do."

Evergreen Club will be arranging rides to the Cheswick location on April 13 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. All are welcome to join. Email evergreenduq@gmail.com or DM @evergreenatduq on Instagram.



COURTESY OF REBECCA ULINSKI

Evergreen has had other community partners like Tree Pittsburgh. Executive board member Amelia Stezoski and Rebecca Ulinski participated in a tree planting in the California-Kirkbride neighborhood

### **SPORTS**

### Dukes welcome Joyce's program outlook

from WELCOME—page 1

The next value is enthusiasm.

"We are fortunate to do what we do," Joyce said. "So we must do it with passion, we must do it with joy, we must do it with love."

Finally, Joyce explained that toughness was his final point of emphasis.

"We don't know how it's always going to wind up," he said, "But we will keep going, and I know we will because we'll be mentally emotionally and spiritually tough."

"I let him know that we got his back, starting now," Rozier said. "For myself as the leader and captain of his team, I had to make sure that I was [at the news conference], just letting him know that I got him at all times."

He may have the framework down for his team, but the team understands that the job will not always be smooth sailing, especially coming in after the Dukes' historic postseason run.

"He told us that you can't expect him to do everything," DiMichele said of what to expect from Joyce. "He's going to adapt his own style and his own culture.

"There's going to be that rough day, that rough game, but we're going to battle through it," Harper said.

Along with recognizing the ups and downs that Joyce will inevitably face, Harper acknowledged his profound respect for Joyce while speaking to the media.

"Dru, I'm making a full commitment to you in front of witnesses that I'm going to be there to support you," he pledged.

"This relationship that we build is not transactional, but transformational," Joyce said. "I think it's my duty and my purpose to make an impact on each and every one of your lives."

With every moment of on-and off-court growth, Joyce is stepping up to launch a new era of Duquesne basketball.

"We will hold the trophy again. We will raise another banner," Joyce said. "We're just getting started."

Now he just needs to make that happen. Step by step, bit by bit- just like Whitney



Brentaro Yamane | Multimeda Editor

Joyce, seen here walking through the Dukes' send-off event before the NCAA Tournament, has already begun his duties as head coach, making recruiting calls to rebuild the roster for next season.

### Buccos off to another hot start in 2024

AIDAN WEISS staff writer

The Penguins might miss the playoffs again, the Steelers are looking like a quarterback's graveyard, and the North Shore is underwater. Somehow, the Pittsburgh Pirates are the best thing in the city right now. They are off to a 5-1 start, their best since 1983, and look to continue the momentum into their home-opening series against Baltimore this weekend.



Brentaro Yamane | Multimeda Editor Outfielder Bryan Reynolds leads the bats

The hope for a playoff push is expected to be led by the hitting core of Bryan Reynolds, Oneil Cruz and Ke'Bryan Hayes.

Reynolds, extended in April last season, rewarded the team with 24 home runs, a .790 OPS and stellar defense in the outfield last season. The hope for him is to continue to build on that and take the next step as the team's top hitter.

Cruz is the big wild card on the team

as he returns from a fractured fibula that kept him out for all but nine games in 2023. The 6-foot 7-inch shortstop boasts huge power potential and elite speed, but it remains to be seen whether he can harness that elite potential and become a cornerstone.

Meanwhile, Hayes is coming off his best season as a professional, winning his first Gold Glove and setting career highs at the plate. He has always had elite glovework but becoming even a 20 home run hitter could launch Hayes into stardom.

The core is joined by a good mix of high-potential prospects and steady veterans. Leading the prospect side is 2021 first overall pick Henry Davis, who slots in behind the plate. Davis played right field in Pittsburgh last season but has flashed at catcher this young season. He also brings a .947 career minor league OPS to the plate.

The veterans are led by Pittsburgh icon Andrew McCutchen, currently sitting at 299 home runs. At 37-years-old, his biggest contributions should come when he leads a young clubhouse. He can also step up to be a strong bat against lefthanders. The team also brought in first baseman Rowdy Tellez to provide stability for this young roster.

For the starting rotation, things are completely different, with 2023 All-Star Mitch Keller as the only returner. The rest of the rotation will be filled by a mix of prospects and veterans.

On Keller's side, the right-hander was extended in February through the 2028 season. The team is expecting him to become their ace, and his 210 strikeouts last season prove that he has the potential to be that guy.

The Pirates brought in left-handed veterans Martín Pérez and Marco Gonzales, to supplement Keller. Pérez, a 2022 All-Star, arrives after winning a World Series with Texas last season while Gonzales went from Seattle to Atlanta before being traded to Pittsburgh for a player to be named later. Both are expected to be innings-eaters and mentors for the younger pitchers.

The prospect side of the rotation is where much of the excitement about the 2024 Pittsburgh Pirates resides. Jared Jones is the team's No. 3 prospect, and he made his debut Saturday against Miami, going 5.2 innings with 10 strikeouts.

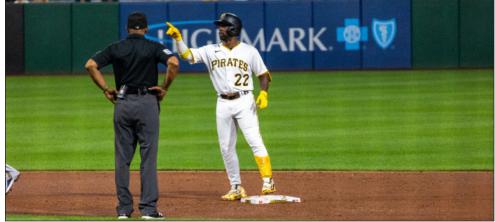
However, the most buzz is around Paul Skenes, No. 1 Pirates prospect and No. 3 prospect in all of baseball. Skenes was selected first overall out of LSU last July and is already starting this season in Triple-A Indianapolis. He is expected to make his debut sometime in 2024.

With a fastball touching 102 mph and a wipeout slider/changeup combo, it would not be surprising to see him become a Cy Young Award contender within the next five years.

Additionally, the team could also see the debuts of No. 4 prospect left-hander Anthony Solometo and No. 7 prospect Braxton Ashcraft, but that would most likely come in the bullpen this season.

Speaking of the bullpen, this is the projected strength of this Pirate team this season. David Bednar continues to be elite in his closer role. He will also be supplemented by Aroldis Chapman, who won a ring with Texas last season. To set up those two, Colin Holderman, Ryan Borucki and Carmen Mlodzinski expect to be key middle relievers. All finished with ERAs below 4.00 last season.

Considering the lack of talent in the National League Central this season, it is reasonable to hope that the Pirates can stay in the division race throughout the season, rather than flame out when the weather warms up this summer. The pitching is a strength, so this team can only go as far as the bats can take them. It's worked out so far this year, and one can only hope things continue to trend positively this season in the Steel City.



Brentaro Yamane | Multimeda Editor

Andrew McCutchen is spending the sunset of his career building a new generation of Pirates.

### **SPORTS**

### Historic season ends in teary farewells

SPENCER THOMAS sports editor

OMAHA, NE — The result was no longer in question, and the majority of neutral fans had left the CHI Health Center in Omaha, Neb. Duquesne's run was going to end in the Round of 32 of the NCAA Tournament, but its fans were still on their feet cheering as loud as when the game began. When the final buzzer sounded, every single member of the Dukes' team walked over to applaud their traveling support. They weren't cheering the game, rather celebrating the season and the team that put them on that court in the first place.

The emotions flowed, because the end of the season means Duquesne has to say goodbye to seven seniors, as well as retiring Head Coach Keith Dambrot.

After that farewell, the team retreated to the locker room to be addressed by their leader, before he made the rounds shaking everyone's hand. Some wiped tears from their eyes, as much about the loss as the jerseys that were being worn for the final time.

"That's what hurts more," team captain Kareem Rozier said about the seniors. "Knowing that I won't be seeing them in a locker room no more."

Tre Williams was the longest tenured of the group. He's one of just two remaining players from Duquesne's 6-24 team that finished in last place of the Atlantic-10 Conference, and one of only four not to leave the program that offseason. He explained that decision back in December.

"I found my home with Coach D and his staff," he said. "I love my guys here. I can't turn my back on them."

His season ended in the A-10 quarterfinals with an injury, but he remained everpresent on the sidelines. After Duquesne's upset victory over BYU in the Round of 64, the team picked him to place the ceremonial "Duquesne" placard into the next round of the bracket.

"Tre Williams has become one of my best friends," Rozier said. "He had one job my dad gave him, which was to take care of me when I came in as a 17-year-old freshman, and he's done that"

Williams was as emotional as anybody after the game. Headphones resting on his head, eyes welling with tears, he sat in silence, aimlessly staring into the last college locker room he will ever set foot in.

"He's helped build me into a man," Rozier said. "I'm very blessed and happy to call him a big brother."

"I definitely took a huge role in being a leader on this team because the guys trust me," Williams said back in December. "These guys definitely look up to me and I'm just trying to help them as much as possible."

"He's just a nice person, so everybody gravitates toward him," Dambrot said. "I don't know if Tre has a mean bone in his body."

Freshman Jake DiMichele agreed that Tre and the seniors were mentors as well as teammates.

"I'm eternally grateful for those guys," he said. "They helped me out a lot personally, always giving me advice and making sure I was good."

Four graduate transfers only spent one year

at Duquesne, but their legacy is forever enshrined in their roles in Duquesne's first appearance in March Madness since 1977. That includes Andrei Savrasov, whose minutes waned over the course of the season until he was rarely making it off the bench in March.

"The way I'll describe them is sacrifice," DiMichele said. "Every single one of those guys sacrificed something for the better of the team. Whether it be Tre sacrificing literally his body, or Andrei sacrificing playing time even though he wasn't happy."

Dusan Mahorcic had to fight as hard as anyone just to say goodbye. A severe knee injury forced him to miss the first several months of the season, and he admits he still isn't close to 100% physically now. Nevertheless, nobody saw more upside in the moment.

gether, on and off the court.

"Me and Jimmy's duo is going to go a long way," Grant said. "He's going to be my brother forever. We have so many similarities and so many things we are alike."

"I have to say the same," Clark said. "We talk about this sport a lot; we talk about life a lot."

Dambrot singled out Grant as someone who helped shift the culture in the program right up until the end of the Illinois game. He says that Grant came up to him in the final minutes to make sure that every player on the roster got in the game.

"These guys do anything for anybody," Dambrot said. "He didn't say put me back in. He said make sure this guy gets in and he gets in. That tells you a lot about what kind of person he is. All of them are like that. They're just

Rebecca Jozwiak | Staff Photographer

Sophomore David Dixon salutes the crowd of Duquesne fans cheering as the game ended.

"There's not that many people that came back from this injury and were able to play within a year," he said. "So, I'm proud of myself for how much I accomplished."

When sophomore Dave Dixon finally spoke after wiping away tears and hugging everyone, media included, he laughed at the fact that Mahorcic had planted a kiss on his face when they embraced after the game.

Hassan and Fousseyni Drame were laughing together, as they had all season. While the former had his minutes limited by injury, Fousseyni became a hero in Duquesne's win over BYU. It's unknown where they'll go next year, but if the last five years are any indication, they'll go there together.

Finally, the two most prolific players from the senior class returned from the locker room from their media availability. Dae Dae Grant and Jimmy Clark III combined to form an elite backcourt tandem over the last two years, earning All-Conference honors in Brooklyn last week. They worked well togreat guys."

Their legacies will outlive all the milestones they reached in Cooper Fieldhouse this season. DiMichele and Rozier spent this year learning behind the duo before they step up to take control next winter.

"Being able to play behind such great guards," Rozier said, "I feel like I'm built for anything now in my next two years."

Finally, all they could say was thank you.

"It's a blessing to just be able to go out with those other seniors on this note as well," Grant said. "We went out on a note that we're still champions, and nobody can take that from us."

"I was just thankful to be around a bunch of guys that never quit," Dambrot said. "Just to see the brotherhood really grow."

That was the synopsis of his final postgame speech in the locker room.

"He was proud of us," Rozier said. "[He told us] to hold our heads high, and that this will be legendary. We will remember this for the

rest of our lives. We'll go down as a family. We'll go down as champions."

When asked about their coach, every player talked not about his basketball knowledge, his analytics or even the game. They talked about Dambrot, the man.

"I will remember him more as somebody who helped me in the daily things in life than on the basketball court," Mahorcic said.

Grant said he finally got the most out of his coach after a conversation early in the season when he asked to be pushed more by the staff.

"I think after that time, Coach was starting to coach me harder, our relationship just grew, and I just became much more appreciative to have him as a coach," he said. "To be under his wing, learn more, whether it's off-the-court or on-the-court things to make me a better man."

Stemming from the second chance at coaching he got at St. Vincent-St. Mary's, Dambrot was always keen to give somebody a look when nobody else would — whether that was Clark, who got kicked out of VCU, or DiMichele, who was fully prepared to play Division-II ball before Dambrot came calling.

"I'll always remember him for just taking a chance on me," DiMichele said. "He put me in line to do something that a lot of other coaches wouldn't have had the moxie or gall to do."

Dambrot's care off the court is what made him so successful on it. His staff, including successor Dru Joyce III, almost all played for him and have hardly worked for anyone else. He only came to Duquesne because he felt an obligation to revive the once-proud basketball program his father starred in 70 years ago.

"Having a coach out there that has that faith in you, it just makes playing the game so much easier," DiMichele said, "because I know the guy on my sideline has got my back no matter what."

"I remember the only person to give me an opportunity," Rozier said. "I love that man to death. I'd do anything for him."

He was certainly fighting his emotions, but Dambrot said he was smiling in the locker room after the game after seeing a massive crowd that included former assistant coaches, players and, most importantly, his family.

"We were laughing in the locker room, that when we first got there, we couldn't get 10 people to come to the game," he said. "Look at all the people that came out for this.

"I know my dad will be pleased about that, wherever he is right now."

One by one, the players put on their jumpsuits and began to file out of the locker room.

It might have been then that the gravity of the moment struck. Players tore their March Madness nameplates from above their lockers, then looked around for any other keepsakes to remind them of the greatest week of their lives. Posters, stickers, banners — anything with a March Madness logo was yanked down and stuffed into duffel bags bound for Pittsburgh. Since Tuesday, March 12, the players had spent just one night in their own beds.

"It's just now sinking in for real, what we've done and what we've accomplished," Rozier said. "While we were winning stuff we were just living in the moment. And this moment has come to an end. But man, I've been trying to take it all in."

### **ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT**

### Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre introduces spring

Naomi Girson staff writer

The dancers took their places as the curtain rose, while the music started to hum from the live orchestra. As they leapt across the stage like skillful acrobats, the dancers pushed themselves to their limits with their flexibility and body control. Each of the scenes and musical pieces carried them with impeccable rhythm and synchronicity.

The Pittsburgh Ballet Theatre (PBT) is leaping into the spring season with their "Spring Mix," featuring four movements tying contemporary and neoclassicism together in one bright performance. Using a mixture of choreographers, including award-winning Pittsburgh-based Jae Man Joo, they put together a perfect seasonal show.

With only four performances set to hit the stage at the Benedum Center from April 5 to 7, all are encouraged to revel in the ballet. In preparation for the show's premiere, PBT invited *The Duke* to a media preview earlier last week.

Each piece is wildly different from the last, but they all mesh together to create the same feelings of new beginnings and spring awakening. There is more than one cast for each movement due to the rigorous nature of the work they are doing.

The dancing, especially when it is as explosive as in the "Spring Mix," is extremely hard on all of the dancers and their bodies.

They work each day to make sure they maintain their body to be able to continue pushing themselves to the limit.

'Allegro Brillante,' a neo classical piece from the "father of 20th-century American ballet" George Balanchine, is used in juxtaposition with more contemporary pieces, lending to the company's emphasis on their double world debuts.

"Mr. Balanchine choreographed over 400 works [that] many ballet companies [have] nationally performed," said Director of PBT and curator of the Spring Mix Adam McKinney. Balanchine said the allegro in PBT's "Spring Mix" "contains everything I know about the classical ballet in 13 minutes."

This movement featured 10 dancers in more traditional tulle costumes in lighter pastels.

The dancing was dynamic, fun and light while featuring harmonies with the whole cast. Each dancer had their moment to shine, as they worked hard to hit all of Balanchine's intricate and specific movements.

During Choreographer-in-Residence Yoshiaki Nokano's 'Violin Pas de Deux,' the stage filled with two instead of 10 for an eye-catching performance.

The duo moved across the stage so in time with the music, it was as if they were composing through their dancing. The duet was danced by William Moore and Jessica McCann.

As the two went through the movement, the focus behind their eyes was evident but graceful. The dance featured lots of lifts and seamless movements, entangling the two into the music, the movement and each other.

"The orchestra makes everything better," "Spring Mix" dancer Diane Yohe said.

Returning to PBT, and perhaps most contemporary of the mix, was Helen Pickett's 'Petal.' These movements were more explosive, with eight dancers performing, four men and four women.

The 'Petal' cast were adorned in vibrant bright blues and yellows, tying in with the bright music and dynamic ideas spread throughout the piece.

'Petal' was extremely expressive, with large, exaggerated movements that used the whole body to convey a myriad of emotions from intimacy to joy.

'When Time Stands Still' will also make its world debut at the "Spring Mix."

The movement is choreographed by Jae Man Joo, assistant professor at Point Park University and 2009 Princess Grace Award for Excellence in Choreography.

This piece will be officially unveiled during their first performance on opening night.



Ava Rieger | Staff Photographer

Jessica McCann (above) was lifted by William Moore (below) during their rehearsal of Choreographer-in-Residence Yoshiaki Nokano's "Violin Pas de Deux." The movement was characterized by several lifts and romanticism, set to a violin concerto by Max Bruch.

The piece is set to be "a riveting contemporary piece with an energetic pace that highlights the artists' athleticism with crisp, graceful movements and provides an intriguing contrast between elegance and energy," according to a news release.

In a special offer for students, PBT offers a discount code available for use when buying tickets on their website at www.pbt.org. Tickets start at \$29 before using discount code "PBTSTUDENT."

Several 'Q&A' sessions will be available to the public through PBT's Education and Community Engagement programs, with choreographers Helen Pickett, répétiteur Zippora Karz and director McKinney sharing their knowledge and expertise with audience

members after the shows.

Registration is not required for the sessions and they will take place in the Orchestra level.

Ballet is not always at the forefront for most audiences, but as it evolves into the contemporary space – while still respecting its historical and neo classical roots – the discipline continues to evolve and inspire new viewers.

McKinney believes that watching the "Spring Mix" will show off the art and its rigorous athleticism and dedication.

"I want [people] to take away not only being excited about PBT and the direction of PBT but notice how hard people work," McKinney said. "I want people to feel at home when they come to [the show]."

### **CAMPUS FVFNTS**

Color Your Own Hat April 4 @ 5:30 p.m.

Join the Center for African Studies as they partner with Yinz Lidz in Towers MPR.

Towers Pool Dive In April 5 @ 7 p.m.

Watch Jaws with the Office of Residence Life in the Duquesne Pool!

Out of the Darkness Spaghetti Dinner April 9 @ 5 a.m.

Enjoy good food in the Union Ballroom while supporting suicide prevention. Register on CampusLink.

> SASV Art Show April 9 @ 6 p.m.

Stop by the Africa Room to celebrate Sexual Assault Awareness Month through art.

> Lambda Fashion Show April 10 @ 8 p.m.

Head to the Union Ballroom for "Fashion Knows No Bounds: Camp Reimagined."

### EMILY'S EPIPHANIES

Celebrations Multiply

It is likely that in this world we will come across days of overlap when it comes to birthdays, holidays and other moments of happiness.

It can be easy to fall into the belief that we must pick the greater of two joys to dwell upon.

Instead, we can allow the positive ripples of one thing build upon and multiply the joy of another.

The wonderful thing about joy is that it compounds; it doesn't compete.

Practice moving away from the competition of success and instead focus on how you can uplift yourself and others.

It is important to cultivate a community of camaraderie and to find company that appreciates you for all the things that make you your best self.

Without cheerleaders, we might never take the chance, send the resume or pitch the idea.

Find ways to become the person that you need in your corner.

— Emily Fritz

#### Aquarius 🗯

May Daveed Diggs be with me.

#### Gemini ${\mathbb I}$

Aaron Burr is the kind of guy you can grab a cookie with.

#### Libra <u>∩</u>

I beg your FINEST pardon?

#### Pisces H

Maybe the stereogram was the friends we made along the way.

#### Cancer ©

One pixel of nut.

#### Scorpio M

I am anti-earth worm.

#### Aries $\gamma$

Nacho verbs to you, too.

#### Leo ∂

Spider Jesus dies on the asterisk for our sins.

#### Sagittarius 🕅

He's bold. He's angry. He's the red M&M.

#### I said 'no' though. <3

Taurus X

Virgo M

Sir, there is no catch. This is a Baskin' Robbins.

#### Capricorn $\gamma_{\!\scriptscriptstyle O}$

Oh ethyl acetate, where are you?

### **OPINIONS**

#### **THEDUQUESNEDUKE**

113 College Hall 600 Forbes Avenue Pittsburgh, PA 15282

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editor-in-chief news editor opinions editor features editor a&e editor sports editor multimedia editor ads manager layout editor

Emma Polen Megan Trotter Eliyahu Gasson Isabella Abbott Emily Fritz Spencer Thomas Brentaro Yamane Nicholas Zotos Emily Ambery

#### administrative staff

adviser

Paula Reed Ward

email us: theduqduke@gmail.com

"I hate to hear you talk about all women as if they were fine ladies instead of rational creatures. None of us want to be in calm waters all our lives."

JANE AUSTEN

You just read our thoughts.

Now tweet us yours.

@TheDuquesneDuke

## EDITORIAL POLICY

The Duquesne Duke is the student-written, student-managed newspaper of Duquesne University. It is published every Thursday during the academic year except during semester breaks and holidays, and prior to final exams. The Staff Editorial is based upon the opinions of the editors of The Duke and does not necessarily reflect the views of the students, faculty, administration, student government or the University publications board. Op-ed columns do not reflect the opinions of The Duke, but rather are the sole opinions of the columnists themselves

Letters policy

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 theduqduke@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

Readers should report any story or photo error to *The Duke*. All legitimate errors will be corrected in print the following edition.

#### Contact

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REBECCA JOZWIAK | STAFF WRITER

Terrence Shannon Jr. was allowed to play again thanks to a preliminary injunction granted on Jan. 19.

#### Shannon demonstrates toxic standard

REBECCA JOZWIAK staff writer

Throughout the college basketball season, plenty of positive achievements are highlighted in the media. However, March Madness shines a spotlight on star athletes – even the ones facing criminal allegations. Whether they want to be in the spotlight or not, athletes must face the consequences of their misconduct on and off the court.

After defeating Duquesne 89-63, the University of Illinois team members spoke to the media in a postgame news conference — except for their leading scorer, Terrence Shannon Jr. begging the question: Why would the team's leading scorer and the Big Ten 2024 Most Valuable Player be absent at a press conference after dropping 30 points in a March Madness game?

The simple answer: Shannon is a controversial figure for the team.

In September 2023, Shannon allegedly groped a woman's buttocks, in addition to touching her inappropriately under her skirt without her consent. Once the claim was filed with law enforcement in early December 2023, and a warrant put out for his arrest on Dec 27, Shannon turned himself in a day later. Shortly thereafter, the senior guard was released on a \$50,000 bail.

He was charged with one count of rape or an alternative count of sexual battery.

Due to the "zero-tolerance sexual conduct" policy implemented at the University of Illinois, Shannon was immediately suspended from team activities. On Jan. 2, 2024, Shannon wrote a 1,366 word letter that declared his innocence from the alleged assault.

Shannon went on to file a temporary restraining order against the University of Illinois seeking immediate reinstatement.

U.S. District Court Judge Coleen Lawless ruled in favor of Shannon, noting that the University of Illinois violated his civil rights with a suspension. Shannon would have suffered "irreparable harm" without the injunction – but what about his victim?

Hasn't the victim of Shannon's alleged assault also faced "irreparable harm" due to what happened to her?

By Jan. 21, Shannon was back on the court for the Illini, returning to a symphony of hoots and hollers.

The situation poses a daunting question: To what extent do we hold athletes accountable for their off-the-court actions?

Fans should realize that their favorite players need to face consequences for their actions. This, however, leads the argument further down a slippery slope: Does every player in every sport that has ever done something criminal deserve to be given the cold shoulder?

The answer to that is not totally clear. Depending on the incident, some actions may be seen as justified. Back in 2019, two Louisiana State football players were involved in a homicide case after a young man attempted to rob the duo. Both athletes reported the incident and waited for authorities to arrive at the scene.

The allegation against Shannon is justified – it is a prime example of a person taking advantage of another person's bodily autonomy. A player wins a championship on the court, yet is fighting a battle in a courtroom.

Shannon finds himself in a compromising situation – are we seeing a young man, who has claimed his innocence the whole time, falsely accused of an act he did not commit? Or are we seeing a man who did commit a crime continue to advance his career free of serious consequence? Although there is no verdict yet, we must continue to hold our athletes to high standards.

When it comes to collegiate basketball, the treatment of athletes' behaviors on and off the court has an astronomical wedge of sexism and double standards.

Angel Reese, a standout senior at Louisiana State University, has faced rampant criticism for her iconic 'you can't see me' hand wave during the 2023 NCAA Championship Title Game. The taunt occurred in the fourth quarter of the game, as Reese tapped on her ring finger while staring down Iowa's Caitlin Clark. Since then, Reese has faced massive criticism for her 'unsportsmanlike' behavior – according to *NPR*, the word 'classless' trended on X after the incident unfolded.

Flash forward nearly a year later to the Elite Eight round of the women's NCAA tournament. Reese and Clark's respective teams found themselves facing off against each other again. The Iowa Hawkeyes went on to defeat the Tigers, 94-87.

Reese scored 17 points and tied her career high of 20 rebounds against the Hawkeyes.

What did Reese have to say about the game and her performance?

"I've been through so much ... I've been attacked so many times," Reese said in a postgame conference on April 1, as she began to cry. "I'm still a human. All of [the criticism] has happened since I won the national championship. I said the other day I haven't (been) happy since then."

Reese has found herself verbally assaulted, sexualized and ridiculed for her now-infamous hand wave at Clark – but what about the treatment of Shannon? How does a woman taunting another player gain more controversy and criticism than a man on the court with an active assault case?

Outside of Reese's life as a bona fide basketball player, the guard has dedicated the "Angel Reese Foundation" to women and underrepresented groups to educate them in sports, education, and literacy ... yet all she seems to be known for is her 'disrespectful' behavior on the court.

It's essential that we give the same amount of criticism to men that we do to our women, especially when the former's misconduct does more harm than the latter. Regardless, we must treat each other the way we want to be treated, and not push our frustrations out on impressionable, young athletes.

#### STAFF EDITORIAL

## Where's the band? Duquesne MBB misses out on school pride

The heartwarming story of the high-school band that stepped up to play for Duquesne in March Madness may have tugged at your heart strings, but it begs one massive question: Where was Duquesne's?

Of the eight schools to play in Omaha, Duquesne was the only one not to bring its own band. Not only that, but it was one of just three schools not to bring its official mascot. On the biggest stage the athletic program has ever seen, Duquesne was without two of the largest sources of school representation and spirit.

The beauty of college sports is in the culture that they demonstrate on and off the court. In Omaha, Iowa State players walked to the team bus through a crowd of screaming fans as they were serenaded by a line of trumpets and cheerleaders. Drake University's mascot, a bulldog, crouched like a canine behind the cheerleaders when they weren't hyping up the traveling fans.

Duquesne had a large section of passionate and screaming fans travel on their own, but as far as school personnel, it was just the basketball program and administration.

The fans noticed the missing pieces.

Said one fan on X, formerly twitter: "Did our mascot have a hot date that night? Put the suit on a flight - I will do the job!"

"Embarrassing how much the pep band has fallen apart since i was in school," one alum tweeted. "Plus duquesne probably wouldve cheaped out from sending the pre-pandemic sized bands to brooklyn or omaha anyway."

This isn't meant to disrespect the Duquesne Pep Band and its leaders. The group died out during Covid-19 and the process of reviving it began this year. Those who showed up and played in Cooper Fieldhouse were instrumental (no pun intended) in creating an atmosphere that makes fans and players want to come back.

However, as March demonstrated, this isn't happening fast enough. There are 350 students enrolled in Duquesne's excellent school of music, yet there is not enough interested to form a band large enough to travel the country and play in 18,000-seat arenas.

Duquesne's basketball teams are on the rise. If the school wants to build a culture befitting the talent we see on the court, more resources and attention need to be devoted to hyping it up.

### **FEATURES**

### Junior Jays rock Omaha for the Dukes

sports editor

When the Duquesne fight song played prior to the Dukes' Round of 64 victory in March Madness, the melody was the same, but the musicians weren't.

The Creighton Preparatory School in Omaha lent Duquesne their Junior Jays Pep Band for the weekend, sending the ensemble courtside to perform and cheer on behalf of the Dukes.

This is a frequent occurrence in March for schools like Duquesne that don't have a pep band large enough to send to games. Last year, Fairleigh Dickinson University borrowed the University of Dayton Pep Band for their games in Columbus, Ohio, but the collegiate musicians were used to that sort of audience. For the Junior Jays, though, this was their largest stage ever.

And so, on Thursday morning, over two dozen high schoolers played hooky, lugged their equipment down the tunnel of CHI Health Arena and created an atmosphere befitting Duquesne's historic season in a stadium that seats 17,650 fans.

"It made us feel really important," tuba player Patrick McFall said. "Just having a little part of it means a lot.'

Paul Ketchen, Creighton's Director of Bands and Instrumental Music, said the opportunity came via Creighton University, the hosting school.

The Junior Jays had played occasion-



PHOTO COURTESY OF PAUL KETCHEN

The Creighton Prep Junior Jays played for an arena that seats nearly 18,000 fans, getting to watch a March Madness game. Other fans in attendance said the students were the loudest Duke supporters in attendance.

al volleyball and basketball games for Creighton while the college band was gone on breaks, so when Duquesne told their hosts they were looking for a band, Ketchen scrapped that week's plans and waited to surprise the bandsmen when they arrived at rehearsal.

Students walked in and saw pep band tunes on their stands, which was a surprise considering their season was supposed to have been over. When they heard the news, they were ecstatic.

"I honestly didn't believe it at first," said trumpet player Ryan Eichele. "I've always watched March Madness, but I've never got a chance to actually attend a game."

In just a couple hours of practice, Ketchen taught them the Duquesne fight song and refreshed them on some crowd pleasers to entertain Duquesne's travel-

"It was a feeling of 'making it' of sorts," McFall said. "We're like big dogs now."

The high-stakes performance was one that they felt brought out the best in their music.

"I personally had to step back more than once and process the fact that we even had an opportunity like this," said percussion leader Andrew Tran. "The energy of the band was the highest I have ever seen it, and I could tell they were en-

Wearing their brand-new Duquesne merch, the Junior Jays got to experience one of the greatest days in school history as honorary college students.

"It was very eye-opening, the experiences that college band students probably experience on a weekly basis," McFall said. "The energy, the size of the crowd, it's just another level of performing."

Eichele said that the band drew from their experiences in the "Bird Cage," their school's home gym, to cheer on the Dukes. Fans and media alike said that the band were some of the loudest fans in the stadium.

"I loved just being there with all my classmates, all my bandmates," Eichele said, "in this incredibly electric atmosphere.

"They had the time of their lives," Ketchen said. "This really is a once in a lifetime opportunity. So, they really appreciated it.

Unlike most of the bands that they shared the stage with, Creighton Prep's doesn't require members to audition. They brought everyone they could, from tubas to flutes. They got to dip their feet in the college experience with a small school 836 miles away that now holds a special place in all their hearts.

'I've just been singing the fight song in my head all day," Ketchen said. "It's so much fun. I think after this gig, I'll still be rooting for Duquesne for sure.

### New org on campus raises awareness for mental health

ISABELLA ABBOTT

features editor

A new club chapter has formed on campus, shedding light on the mental health of student athletes. Founded in 2019 by Victoria Garrick Browne, a former volleyball Division-I athlete at the University of Southern California, The Hidden Opponent (THO) is an accredited nonprofit that strives to end mental health stigma in sports culture.

Though the organization already exists at campuses and high schools in all 50 states, including some international locations, Duquesne athletes wanted to bring this awareness to the Bluff.

Madison Dickert, a swimmer for 18 years, and current Duquesne student athlete and campus captain at THO, founded Duquesne's chapter of the mental wellness organization. She said it's important to "spread the awareness and conversation of mental health.

"It affects everybody at one point in their life or at least one day out of the week," Dickert said. "And people don't know how to have that conversation, how to help themselves, or where to look to better themselves. So, having this organization allows you to have a conversation with your coach or boss and know you're not alone.'

As a campus captain for THO, Dickert promotes improving the culture surrounding mental health at Duquesne. She does this by hosting events, including yoga, self-love and healthy habit talks. The entire organization has more than 900 ambassadors at over 750 college campuses worldwide.

According to The Hidden Opponent's



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADISON DICKERT

The Hidden Opponent is a new organization on campus that focuses on destigmatizing mental health in student athletes. During finals week they hosted a yoga event for relaxation.

website, although a growing number of athletes have started speaking out about their struggles, an estimated 92% of colleges still don't have adequate support for athletes.

Another campus captain of The Hidden Opponent at Duquesne and junior swimmer Hannah Morelli struggled with mental health herself, especially when she tore her shoulder this year. She said experiencing it firsthand allowed her to appreciate the need for conversation

"I think my biggest problem with mental health right now is it's only talked about when something bad has happened," Morelli said. "We need more preventative measures which is one of my biggest roles in this organization.'

To help bring awareness to campus, program founder Garrick Browne visited

Duquesne in October 2022 and spoke about her struggles with mental health when she was a Division-I athlete herself.

Dickert organized this event with Browne, which she said was "one of the biggest privileges of her life.'

"She was just one of the nicest human be-

ings I've ever met in my life," Dickert said.

Many athletes, like Morelli, have looked up to Browne for years. Morelli was thrilled when she came to speak.

"She's always been someone that I've looked up to like a role model, someone that has completely altered the standard for student athletes and mental health,'

"Hearing from her in person and hearing how she was able to bring to life this organization that's for the betterment of students is amazing.

Although the club is up and running,

they're still struggling to find members, especially male students. Currently, the Duquesne chapter only has one male member, and Morelli believes this can be attributed to the stigma surrounding men and mental health.

According to an article on Butler Hospital's website, men are often expected to be self-sufficient and stoic, which makes it difficult for them to acknowledge their struggles and ask for help. They can also have feelings of shame and weakness when struggling with mental health issues.

'Not only are they facing issues around student-athletes in general but they're also facing the stigma surrounding them," Morelli said. "We want to bring them in and teach them that this is normal and it's okay to not be okay. I think the saddest part is that people don't feel comfortable enough or team cultures aren't so accepting of mental health concerns like this.

Similarly, Dickert said the club aims to destigmatize these mental health

Dickert and Morelli said anyone is welcome to join, student athlete or not, and their overall goal and hope is to create a safe environment in which they can openly discuss this topic on campus.

There are so many people across the world in different religions and different races who all have different experiences with mental health, yet at the end of the day, there's somebody else who experienced the exact same thing as we did," Dickert said. "To know that somebody else is within that conversation, within that realm and within that problem is so important.'

#### WRITERS & PHOTOGRAPHERS NEEDED FOR THE DUKE

Contact polene@duq.edu

### **THEDUQUESNEDUKE**

### Joshua Radin tour stops in Strip District, shares journey

ELIYAHU GASSON opinions editor

Singer-songwriter Joshua Radin is back on the road for his Spring Tour after a stint with Insider Expeditions' Artists in Antarctica, a luxury tour through the seventh continent, and is now performing at City Winerys across the United States, including the location in Pittsburgh's Strip District.

A native of Shaker Heights in Cleveland, Radin attended Northwestern University to study drawing and painting. It was during his time at Northwestern that he met Zach Braff, who would go on to play "Scrubs" protagonist and main character, J.D. The two became friends, and it would be Braff who introduced Radin to medical television drama "Scrubs" creator, Bill Lawrence.

Radin first gained national attention in 2004 when his first song "Winter" was featured in "Scrubs," during an emotional plot twist in the episode, "My Screw Up.'

According to Radin, he had only just learned to play guitar two years before his song's debut on "Scrubs." Now, he says, the stage feels like home.

"I was thrown to the wolves right away," Radin told The Duke. "I was terrified on the stage, and I just had

it took about a year or two of touring and playing live shows before I got comfortable on the stage."

Before his professional career took off, Radin took a number of art-related jobs.

"After college I was teaching middle school kids art from the inner city of Chicago and working at an art gallery thinking that was going to be my path," Radin said. "Then I went traveling and teaching in South Africa for a year. Then I went to New York and started writing screenplays."

Radin spent six years writing screenplays in New York before moving to Los Angeles, where he would learn guitar.

Though he ended up occupying the stage, Radin said he never really craved it, preferring a career behind the scenes.

"I always wanted to do something creative," Radin said. "I had been trying different mediums for quite some time. I stumbled into music when I was 30 and bought a guitar and taught myself to play and then write right away, writing my own songs. I just kind of fell into it."

Radin's feature on "Scrubs" caused waves, with his first album in 2006, "We Were Here," charting number one on iTunes upon its release. His success started a

to sort of learn by doing. And then bidding war between the major music labels for the right to publish his music.

> "I picked Columbia because they had all my heroes like Bob Dylan, Miles Davis and Paul Simon," Radin said.

Radin's music would go on to be featured in a number of popular television series including "Brothers & Sisters," "Grey's Anatomy," "One Tree Hill," "Leverage" and "Studio 6o."

"[Music] just felt natural, I guess," Radin said. "I never really tried when it came to music ... growing up."

Radin's latest release, the twopart "though the world will tell me so," was released one song at a time before being compiled into a couple of EPs.

"I was trying to experiment with a new way of releasing music before because it's ever changing in this industry," Radin said. "People consume music so differently now than when I started."

Though he conducted the experiment, Radin said he didn't know the results.

"I find that if I get too concerned with the album sales or streaming, then it sort of takes away from the whole reason that I got into this, which was to be an artist," Radin said.

Radin played to an audience at

City Winery Pittsburgh on March 26 and 27. Michael Darin, front of house manager and life-long Radin fan, was present for both of

"[His music] is very mellow ... I think that his music is very contemplative. It's not something you get really excited about," Darin said.

Regardless, Darin said, Radin's live shows were fun and his involvement with the audience added something special to his sets.

"One thing he did, there was a song that he did where he had everybody clap, and then he would change, and we would all snap," Darin said.

"[His songs] are very soft. They're about love and romance and healing yourself. People just kind of sat there and listened. It was so nice."

After his tour, Radin says he's off to Los Angeles to record a new record.

As for what audiences can expect from his new album, Radin said only that the general theme is "falling in and out of love."

"There's a lot on this album that's reminiscent of a lot of music that I grew up listening to, which was old soul music like Sam Cook and Bill Withers," Radin said. "I think it's going to be a kind of acoustic soul album with some Americana sprinkled in."



COURTESY OF CITY WINERY | PITTSBURGH STRIP DISTRICT LOCATION Joshua Radin (center stage) is slated to perform at a number of City Winerys, like that in Pittsburgh's Strip District.



#### Writers & Photographers needed for the Duke





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