



UREC PINK WEEK 2021

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Photo by Niyathi Sulkunte

PINK WEEK

UREC hosts week of group fitness classes, in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month
to raise awareness of regular testing

by Kathryn Caudill
Staff Writer

Photos of fitness classes during Pink Week courtesy
of Caroline Mui and Tori Lord

University Recreation (UREC) hosted UNC Charlotte's annual "Pink Week" from Oct. 25 to 28, 2021. Pink Week is a week of group fitness classes that are re-themed to fit the recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October.

The classes and events for Pink Week are planned through the various fitness programs and intramural sports teams to highlight each type of class offered through the UREC.

Anyone who currently has a membership at UREC attended for free.

Tori Lord, assistant director of fitness for UREC, spoke with the Niner Times regarding her role in the event.

"We are trying to bring awareness to breast cancer by having facts available," said Lord.

Each of the events had informational pamphlets with information on self-testing and mammogram testing for breast cancer and other pertinent facts such as signs and patterns.

"We want facts available for everyone, right in front of them, even for males to know and recognize the signs also," added Lord.

"We also want to highlight each of our classes to get people to branch out into a new program," said Lord.

Oct. 25 was "Kick Cancer's Butts and Guts" class from 4-4:45 p.m. in room 201, a retitled version of the "Butts and Guts" group fitness class. In this class, the abdominals, glutes, quadriceps and hamstrings muscles are focused on through squats and crunches. The class had 22 participants, which is a typical turnout, according to Lord.

The "Tour de Cure" class took place in room 213, the cycle studio, from 5:30-6:15 p.m. on Oct. 26. and had a full class. This is a remastered cycling group fitness class. This class is for all fitness levels, and speed can be adjusted to fit the current fitness level.

Oct. 27 featured "Pump Up the Pink: BodyPump" group fitness class at 7 p.m. in room 212 with a full turnout. This class is a play on the typical "Body Pump" class that uses barbells to strengthen the entire body. This class lasts one hour and targets all major muscle groups. The weights used are dependent on current ability and fitness levels.

On Oct. 28, UREC showcased "Pose for Pink," a yoga group fitness class, at 4 p.m. in room 503. With the typical class size, the "Gentle Yoga" class uses deep stretching and relaxation techniques.

Also on Oct. 28, the "Party in Pink Dance Party" and "Big Pink Volleyball Tournament" took place. The "Party in Pink Dance Party" was on the UREC courts from 6-8 p.m. Zumba, cardio dance and "Twerk N Tone" were all featured classes at the dance party. The zumba class is a dance-exercise program that uses a combination of merengue, reggae-tone, salsa, cumbia and other dance types. The cardio dance class consists of various dance styles that are easy to follow and are meant to sculpt, tone and condition. "Twerk N Tone" is another class offered at the UREC that uses resistance bands and dance movements to target the glutes and other muscle groups.

"The Party in Pink' is my favorite event," said Lord., "It brings everyone together."

The Party in Pink event consisted of a playlist made by all the dance teachers

who led the group in the dance-exercise program. Dining services like the previous years even provided pink food.

This event typically has the largest turnout as it is three combined classes.

The "Big Pink Volleyball" tournament from 5 to 10 p.m. also took place on Oct. 28 and consisted of multiple teams that used a giant comically-sized ball rather than an average volleyball.

"You cannot be physically good using the giant ball, but it is fun to try," said Lord.

Many of UNC Charlotte's intramural teams participated in the tournament as their second Pink Week, where they collaborated with the fitness programs.

At each of these events, people wore pink to bring awareness to the cause, and UREC provided shirts to participate at the different events.

"Almost everyone has been impacted by someone who has had breast cancer," said Lord. "Pink Week' is meant to continue to bring awareness."





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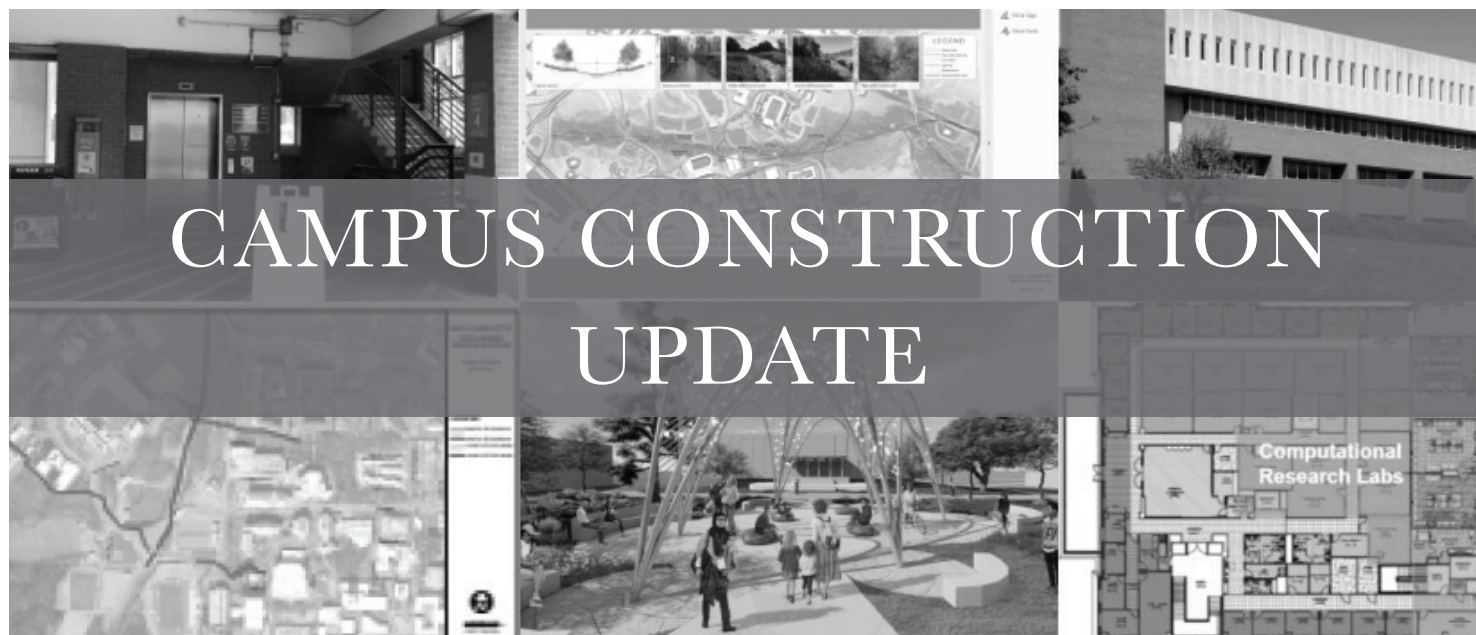
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CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction projects and their projected costs, completion dates and designs

by Taylor Case
Staff Writer

Photos of campus construction plans courtesy of
UNC Charlotte Facilities Management

Construction on the UNC Charlotte campus continues as they conduct thousand-dollar projects across campus such as repairs, renovations and restorations. The Facilities Management website includes plans and all other relevant construction information.

McEniry renovations and repairs

Facilities Management lists two separate projects taking place in McEniry.

Repairs to electrical, plumbing and HVAC in the McEniry building are estimated to be completed by November 2021. According to the Facilities Management website, this project will replace an existing chiller, transformer and electrical service for the newly added equipment. The total project budget for this project is \$1,093,664.

McEniry's IT infrastructure will also undergo several upgrades by the completion date. These upgrades will include the renovation of the current two research labs and modifying an existing lab exhaust system. Construction on floors 2, 3 and 4 will be complete in June 2021, and the lab exhaust upgrades will be complete in November 2021. The total budget for these upgrades sits at \$10,000,000.

Bioinformatics building

The updates to the Bioinformatics Building include the build-out of about 24,000 square feet of space on the fourth floor of the building. This will allow for extended research space with computer-supplied and experimental research labs, faculty offices and space for graduate research assistants. The completion date for this project is April 2022. The University has a \$10,500,000 budget for this project.

Remembrance Memorial

A memorial and commemorative space will be produced in Belk Plaza, across from Kennedy, to recognize the on-campus shooting at UNC Charlotte on April 30, 2019. According to a September Niner Times article, the construction for this project will break ground on April 30, 2022, and will be completed by May 2022. The budget for this project sits at \$2,000,000.

Union Deck elevator

Updates to the Union Deck southeast elevator will begin in March 2022 and be completed by August 2022. The current elevator in this area is hydraulic, and facilities management says that it "needs to be modernized." The University

allocated \$800,000 towards this project.

Toby Creek restoration

The City of Charlotte Stormwater Services will work to improve conditions alongside the bed of Toby Creek to improve its overall water quality. The improvements for Toby Creek are scheduled to be completed by October 2022. There is no University budget listed for this project.

Reclaimed Water project

The Reclaimed Water project will bring reclaimed water into campus from the Mallard Creek Water Reclamation Facility. This project intends to replace the existing potable campus water and connects the regional utility plants and irrigation systems. As noted by the City of Charlotte website, pipe installations have already begun. This project should conclude in January 2023. The budget for completing this project is \$2,100,000. More updates regarding the Reclaimed Water progression can be found on the second issue of the Mallard Creek Pipeline Newsletter.

For more information about construction on campus, visit businessaffairs.charlotte.edu/facilities-management.



GIVE US A BREAK

Why professors should not assign work over breaks

by Jessica Danesi
Intern

Photo of stressed student by Zoya Zalevskiy
Asst Layout Editor

On Oct. 11 and 12, students rested and took time off during fall break. That is, as long as they didn't have any classwork to complete. Even though student recesses and holiday breaks aim to give students a pause from classes, some professors still assign work under the impression that it should be easy to complete since they have free time. But students look forward to this free time to escape from the sometimes overwhelming class pressure. Becoming overworked can lead to burnout, which can negatively impact work ethic and performance.

After weeks of continuous work and academic pressure, students deserve to have a few days without classwork so that they can return to class with a refreshed mindset.

Not to mention, professors benefit from some time off to relax. With no extra work given over the break, professors have less to grade. So it's just as important for professors to make time to de-stress as it is for students.

In American culture, being consistently busy is not only normalized but is often expected and praised. There's a certain status quo about productivity and how busyness is a sure sign of success. Lack of

a break creates pressure for people to be constantly preoccupied to feel productive, especially in academic settings.

Kathryn Isham, co-founder of and licensed clinical psychologist at Vayda Mental Health Collaborative, said that "Neuroscientists have found that chronic exposure to stress can alter your brain structure and bring on anxiety and depression. Many who return from vacation are more focused and productive."

The traditional "college experience" is more than going to class. The social aspect of attending college is also important. With some time off from classes, students would actively participate in student organizations, attend campus events and explore campus. In addition, students may want to visit home to spend time with friends and family. They might not be able to do some of these things if they have classwork to complete.

Students feel that the expectation of completing work during a break is unfair. For example, Charlotte student Caitlin Bell said, "Several of my professors assigned work about two or three days before the break with the expectation that

it'd be completed on the first day back."

It's immoral for professors to give homework over school breaks. Breaks allow students to focus on their personal lives rather than their academic ones. "School breaks are meant to provide students a mental and physical break from taxing classwork that contributes to burnout. Assigning homework over this time exacerbates the already difficult navigation of stress, and anxiety students face," said Bell. Professors sometimes forget that students take several classes at once. Even if the work for one class is "light," students still have at least four other classes with professors who might tell them the same thing.

Students aren't the only ones who feel it's unfair to make students work on designated school recesses. Cheryl Spainhour is a senior journalism lecturer in the communication studies department. She didn't assign her students extra work over fall break, believing they should relax. However, she worked on grading some assignments for her advanced journalism classes. Though she didn't assign work classes that she lectures, she feels she shouldn't say whether or not professors should give

extra work. "I can only speak for my own courses; I don't think it's my prerogative to speak for other professors," Spainhour said.

Currently, there's not much in school policies about whether or not professors can or should assign work over recesses and holidays. If Charlotte were to introduce a policy that discourages professors from giving work over breaks, some professors might feel that this will set their course curriculum behind schedule. However, a goal of education is to increase productivity amongst students and increase the overall quality of their work. If professors plan their curriculum by giving students breaks from assignments when the university schedules recesses, this will push forward an agenda that achieves these goals.

All in all, everyone deserves to allow themselves some time to rest, students and professors included. Taking days of rest to recharge has benefits for our mental health and our work. Assigned classwork over break impedes our ability to rest and should be discouraged.

FROM SKIING TO SERVING



Editor-in-Chief sits down with restaurant owner Paul Manley to discuss his success in the Charlotte area

by April Carte
Editor-in-Chief

Photo of Paul Manley
courtesy of Paul Manley

Traveling around the country as a competitive skier may seem appealing, but for Paul Manley, it is not the most practical lifestyle. At the age of 23, Manley had to make a tough decision: go get a college degree or work for himself and quit a “bohemian” life of travel and skiing. After deciding not to go to college, Manley took any restaurant industry skills he had thus far to a whole new level—creating his own culinary empire.

“I was never a good student anyways,” Manley says, “And I didn’t know if I had the discipline to go back to school at that age.” Many successful restaurants and a ton of shucked oysters later, Manley never looked back on his decision.

Before his move to Charlotte about 15 years ago, Manley lived in many different states across the U.S. The first restaurant he ever started was in Denver, Colorado.

“It was marginally successful at best that made it five years, but it was not a great location. I learned a lot,” he says. Manley then went on to own ‘Pearlz Oyster Bar’ in Charleston, South Carolina. If you are ever in Charleston, Pearlz offers some of the best oysters you can find, and it is conveniently located right on East Bay Street! After his success with Pearlz, Manley decided to make the move to Charlotte with his wife Jean, shortly after their oldest son Cooper began kindergarten.

“I was offered a position in a corporate company where I had to travel a lot. I had to live somewhere in the Southeast with a good airport,” he says. “It worked out amazingly well. We love it here. It’s definitely home.”

Living a bohemian lifestyle of being carefree and moving all around the country was officially over by the



time he settled down in Charlotte. “That lifestyle doesn’t serve everybody that only served me,” he says.

Manley began serving his fellow Charlotteans after opening ‘Crepe Cellar’ in NoDa and shortly after opening ‘Growlers Pourhouse’ right next door. Once Manley moved on from those two restaurants, he started his own company, High Tide Hospitality, and opened up ‘Sea Level’ in 2016, Manley’s most well-known restaurant. And personally, one of my favorites.

Sea Level is a perfect bite of seafood that can be difficult to find in the Charlotte area. Sea Level’s website says, “The core of its seafood offerings are harvested from local N.C. farms, in partnerships with coastal fishermen, and is dedicated to serving only non-threatened species.”

Personally, however, my favorite part of the restaurant is the inside. With dim lights, a ton of laughter, and servers that treat you like family, it is an awesome dining experience overall. Manley describes this scene as one of his favorite parts of the restaurant industry experience.

“There’s just something about that moment. Around seven or eight at night, when the front desk is doing well, and the tables are getting bused, everybody

seems to be having a great time. That feeling that you get at that moment is just like nothing else,” he says. But this feeling relies heavily on the staff that helps bring a restaurant to life — something that Manley takes great pride in.

Emphasizing the importance of character over talent, he says, “We’re not doing brain surgery here. We’re just feeding people and serving them drinks, and trying to provide an experience for them. Nothing that we do is terribly technical, so you have to have character.”

In April of 2020, just like many others, Manley began preparing his staff for the unknown. Now, as we approach November of 2021, Manley says there are two things he and his staff have learned through the pandemic.

After taking off his glasses and scratching his head a little, he begins recapping what has been a pretty difficult time for his businesses. He says, “Historically, this industry doesn’t take care of its own very well. As soon as Covid hit and we shut down, a lot of people in our industry said, alright, everybody’s laid off.” This was a huge eye-opener for Manley. “We’ve had to learn how to take care of our staff. We have to have health insurance and

offer a living wage,” he says. Two things that Manley has set out to accomplish.

He also mentions how much mental health has been highlighted in the workplace now and how thankful he is for it. “The polarization of people and anti-maskers and all that kind of crap,” he says. “It’s hard on the management, and it’s hard on the staff. They are on the frontlines and have to deal with all that stuff.” Being mindful of other people’s mental health and recognizing that people need breaks was key for Manley. “There’s been a little bit of an awakening in the industry,” he says. “Whether it sticks or not, we’ll see.”

On the topic of mental health, Manley discussed his most significant struggle in the industry thus far. Without hesitation, he mentions the idea of being well-capitalized and having access to good money. “There’s a lot of people that want to change your dream because they’re holding the purse strings,” he says. “Finding a way to be capitalized in this business was a difficult time.”

After discussing his own struggles, he gives advice to anyone else struggling with their own path of entrepreneurship. Whether that path looks similar to Manley’s or involves a college degree

first, the advice remains the same.

“Embrace failure because it really teaches you an amazing lesson,” he says. “Every once in a while, someone is super successful without a lot of failures, but it very rarely happens.”

Manley has built a culinary empire that many people have been inspired by. He has been in the restaurant industry since he was 16—even during his time as a competitive skier. When asked if he was ever going to retire, after a slight chuckle realizing there really is no retiring in the restaurant industry, he says, “I’ll do this till I can’t do anything. At the end of the day, I love the industry.”

Manley’s current company, High Tide Hospitality, has been running the show for 12 years. Currently, his company oversees three restaurants, Sea Level, The Waterman Fish Bar and ACE No. 3. All three restaurants are fairly close to the University City area. ACE No. 3 is the closest and the most recent location to open up at Concord Mills, right across the street from the mall. Sea Level is located right in the heart of the city off of East 5th Street. The Waterman is towards the middle of South End off of South Blvd, conveniently placed near a ton of cool Charlotte spots. Check them out!



by Julie Dam
Staff Writer

Money photo
courtesy of Canva

No matter where you are in your college career, finances are most likely one of your biggest priorities—and often the biggest source of stress. Unfortunately, many students struggle to navigate budgets and make smart money decisions because they lack guidance and information. So, how can you get a better handle on your money and find resources on financial literacy?

A good place to look for resources

is right on your computer. UNC Charlotte’s Division of Student Affairs offers a webpage dedicated to financial literacy and wellbeing. You have access to a series of informative articles and detailed, self-guided learning modules to start your journey to financial success.

Learning modules that are currently available include the eight principles of financial literacy, student

loans and your money mind. You can explore these topics at your own pace, and there are optional reflections and evaluations as well.

If you learn better by talking to other people, you can schedule individual coaching sessions directly on the website. Whether you need help starting a budget, managing student loans, getting a credit card or even planning your retirement,

you can discuss any financial literacy topic in your appointment.

The first step to financial literacy is by recognizing your need to learn now, so be proud of yourself for that. Next, you should work to understand your money decision-making process and find effective ways to give up what you want now for what you want most.

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Charlotte women's soccer players talk mental effects from covid-19

by Gabie Stanfield
Staff Writer

Photo of Macey Bader during the game against Florida Atlantic University
Photo by Bethany Ivan

Covid-19 took its toll on society since the deadly virus started to spread in March of 2020.

The after-effects of the virus hit college athletes in multiple ways.

The Charlotte women's soccer team disclosed how the last two years of Covid impacted them mentally and physically. The reintroduction of past safety regulations took a toll on them as athletes and as a team.

With a team full of young players who have only experienced college soccer through the lens of the pandemic, the light at the end of the tunnel was visible this year. This season, there were 10 non-conference games compared to last season's two. In addition, only nine games were played during last year's regular season, whereas the team will play 15 this regular season.

"It was definitely hard for my mental health. Soccer is an outlet, and something that you look forward to is getting to play a sport that you enjoy," said fourth-year Michaela Arteta. "Nothing is consistent. It's taken consistency away. You don't know what's next. We haven't had the same starting lineup more than two times this year."

The team experienced a breakout early on in the season, which led to a lot of uncertainty. For example, Arteta said there was

a game where only 16 members were able to dress out, leaving only four subs and a lot of tired legs.

The pandemic stunted progression for some through the lack of social exposure. Peer training and guidance were cut out, leading athletes to focus solely on their personal training. First-year Macey Bader said,

"Covid definitely took a toll on my progression. I had no (club) practices, no games, no help from coaches. I was lucky enough to have my dad over the break, who is a professional soccer coach, so I had more resources accessible, but it really is just so hard to replicate the game. If you're not playing soccer, you're not game-fit, you're not sharp, and you're not improving under pressure."

Second-year Lily Suyao experienced her first year at Charlotte in the thick of Covid. With classes being online, training and games being irregular and team bonding taking a hit, the loss of socialization impacted their mental health.

"I really struggled last year. Not even with school, but with the social component being gone," said Suyao. "We weren't allowed to do anything, and if we did, we had the possibility of our team being shut down, which happened once."

Fortunately, with things looking up this year, the team has been able

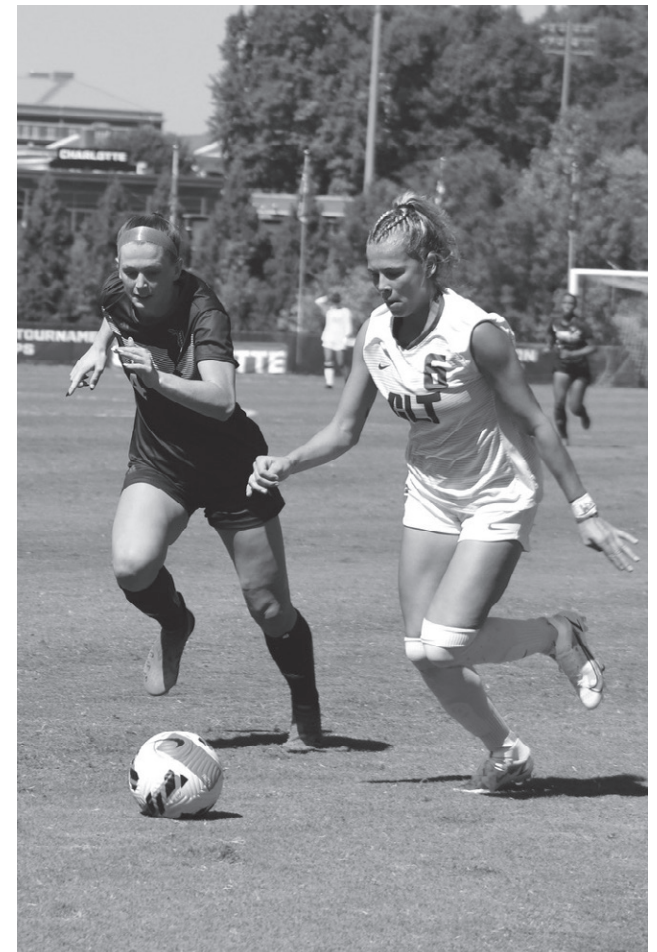
to bond more. Games, practices and training have all been regularly attended, and the opportunity to hang out with teammates outside of the game has opened up. In addition, simple things such as sharing meals with teammates are something that was reintroduced, much to the player's enjoyment.

"I feel like this year we're able to do more stuff as a team together," said Suyao. "When we are going on away trips, we'll go get ice cream after, or we'll be able to eat together in the locker room, which is nice. Last year we just would have to take it and go, and we had to be in and out of the locker room in 15 minutes. It's been great being able to sit down at meals and eat together."

Bader added on the positives of fully bonding with her teammates this year as a freshman.

"Getting to be in the locker room, hanging out and bonding, and being able to hug my teammates brings me so much joy," said Bader. "My favorite thing we have done as a team would be dip night. Everybody made a dip, we hung out and just ate good food. It was a really fun night, and I loved getting to talk to people I don't normally hang out with."

The Charlotte Women's soccer team is enjoying somewhat of a normal season during these



unpredictable times and is making the most of it through the support of their coaches and teammates. The team is currently 7-5-3 on the season as they look to capitalize on their last conference game during the regular season. After that, they will head into Conference USA Championships starting on Nov. 1.

GOLDEN CONNECTION

The running back core for Charlotte has been making a huge impact for the 49ers this season

by Cameron Williams
Staff Writer

Photo of three Charlotte running backs during the 2021 season
All photos courtesy of Chris Crews

An ongoing theme the last few years at Charlotte is to use several running backs. The same is true in 2021, as the 49ers stick to a consistent three. Just past the season's midway point, the three backs have shared the load, and it has proven to be a successful method thus far.

A team's success is driven by how well players can work together, and it is no question after speaking with them that these three can.

"It's a gold connection," said running back Calvin Camp. "I seriously couldn't ask for anything better."

Calvin Camp: Camp has 74 rushing attempts on the season, rushing for 451 yards and three touchdowns. He averages over five yards per carry and is quick and elusive in open space. He has multiple 40 yard or longer runs, one coming against Duke and another against Middle Tennessee. Camp is the veteran back on the team, and his leadership in that position room has made it better as a whole.

Camp has had explosive plays, but one he commented on was his long touchdown against Middle Tennessee.

"I really just have to thank the blocking of Cam Dollar, Grant DuBose and my O-line. I credit them for everything because if they didn't work everything out up front, then I wouldn't have had that one-on-one opportunity," Camp says.

Shadrick Byrd: As an Iowa transfer, Byrd has a little bit of power five football experience.

"Up there, football is life," Byrd said. "You really have to know how to handle your business day after day."

Byrd has 81 attempts on the ground

this year for 317 yards and one rushing touchdown against Gardner-Webb. He also has a game-winning touchdown against Duke. Although this came in the air, it is still one of his best touchdowns of the season.

"I knew from the way we were lined up, and also how they (Duke) were lined up, I was going to get the ball," Byrd said. "After I caught it, I hit them with a little (juke), and after that, we had the first down, but after that, might as well go score. It was big for me."

As of late, Byrd has made a serious impact in the kickoff return game. On the season, he has 14 return attempts for 371 yards. That is 26.5 yards a return which is more than the 25 given for a touchback.

ChaVon McEachern: Only a redshirt freshman, McEachern has played a big role in the success of the 49er running back unit. He might not get the number of touches as Byrd and Camp. However, he is a hard worker that the other two backs can rely on

to make a big play at any time. McEachern has 38 carries for 168 yards on the season and one touchdown to go along with it.

One of the most questionable "no-calls" of the season for the 49er faithful came on a play where McEachern got hit hard towards the sideline against Illinois. Many thought Illinois should have been flagged for targeting, but this was not McEachern's take on the play.

"I don't think it was a dirty play," McEachern said. "I think it was a very good play. We had a miss communication back with the quarterback, and number 25 (Kerby Joseph) just made a good play. I feel like if he wasn't there, it was a touchdown."

Each of these guys takes something away from each other's game to better themselves on the football field.

Camp feels like McEachern's glaring talent when he came into the program motivated him to get better. "He (McEachern) pushed me just by seeing his talent and how good he was and

his expectations coming in," Camp said. "I had to be on my game and make sure I'm up to par. I knew I had to step my game up and be sharp."

McEachern feels like Camp's leadership and knowledge are admirable and have helped him in his time with the program so far. "Cal just always knew," McEachern said. "I had been through a lot when I first got here, and Cal was like a good big brother. It wasn't just on the field but off the field too. He helped me a lot."

McEachern is also very admirable of Byrd's game also. "Shad might be the same age as me, but he knows football," McEachern said. "He will watch the film with you and break it down. That is what I have taken from Shad is how well he knows the game."

When Byrd came in, he wanted to watch how the other running backs played to see how he would fit into the rotation. "Calvin is very patient back there in the backfield," Byrd said. "He lets the guys do the work upfront before he makes his decisions which you are supposed to do. It helps you out as a running back a lot. I try to take some of that and use it in my game."

Byrd says that McEachern is calm and collected in the backfield, and he takes that from his playstyle. "With Von, he is a smooth runner," Byrd said. "When my boy gets the ball in his hands he relaxes and he is just as smooth as anybody I have ever seen with the ball in his hands."

"Both of them (McEachern and Camp) and way better at making guys miss than I was when I first got here," Byrd added.

When Byrd came into the program, Camp wanted to make a serious effort not



just on the field but also off the field.

"For me, with a new back coming in, I really wanted to get to know Shad outside of the ball," Camp said. "I wanted to understand his personality just as a person. I feel like me and him just click. It's like a one-two punch between him and me. We have been connected since he came here."

This is a group that watches a lot of football as well. Each of them looks to implement things from NFL greats to their own game to make themselves better.

For Camp, it was LaDainian Tomlinson and Reggie Bush. Both of these guys had outstanding professional careers and Bush had what can be argued to be the best collegiate career of all time.

"The main one was Reggie," Camp said. "He wore number five, and to have five back now is a good feeling. I want to pattern my game after those two. LaDainian because he is a smaller back; I'm a smaller back and he brings a lot of power and juice and speed with him. But those are the two I pattern my game after."

McEachern's answer was unique in that he selected two guys who had very different play styles for the two he patterns his game after.

"For me, it is Marshawn Lynch and

Jamal Charles," McEachern said. "I like Marshawn Lynch because of the power of his running and Jamal because of his elusiveness. I like contact, but I feel like I am more of an elusive back."

Byrd's answer jumped off the page. It was not stereotypical whatsoever.

"Growing up in Alabama, I didn't really look too far outside of Bama," Byrd said. "I wasn't even a Bama football fan growing up, but if I am being real, I'd say Trent Richardson."

Richardson had a phenomenal career at Alabama and was a national champion as well but did not have the best NFL career, and this is why Byrd's answer was unique.

The connection that all three of these guys have with one another is special, and each of them is selfless because they won't ever speak about their own achievements but rather how they learn from one another.

"I couldn't ask for a better trio than what we have right now," Camp said. "I've never had a connection like this."

As the latter part of the 49ers' season gets underway, continue to expect coach Will Healy and the offensive unit to share snaps with all three of these guys and continue building their "gold connection."

SECOND HALF WOES

49ers drop second straight game 45-13 at WKU

by Kameron Roach
Staff Writer

The Charlotte 49ers football team faced off against Western Kentucky Hilltoppers in Bowling Green, Kentucky, on Oct. 30.

The Hilltoppers extended their three-game winning streak with a breezy win over the 49ers. Western Kentucky outplayed Charlotte on both sides of the ball and walked away with a 45-13 victory. Charlotte is now 4-4 overall and 2-2 in the conference.

The 49ers got off to a slow start both offensively and defensively as the Hilltoppers built a 14-3 lead after the first quarter.

Quarterback Bailey Zappe led the way for WKU. Zappe started the scoring for the Hilltoppers when he threw an 11-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Daewood Davis. After a 37-yard field goal from the 49er's placekicker, Jonathan Cruz, Zappe added another score with his legs on a two-yard run with 1:21 left in the first quarter.

Zappe would end the game with four touchdown passes to four different teammates on Saturday. The senior quarterback finished the game with 33 completions out of 46 pass attempts totaling 393 yards.

However, Zappe didn't walk away with a perfect game. Charlotte's backup safety, Marcus Robitaille, came up with an interception halfway through the first quarter. Then, in the second quarter, Justin Whisenhunt, the grad transfer from Troy,

stole a pass after a Western Kentucky's wide receiver couldn't hold on to the ball.

The 49ers young quarterback, James Foster, made his first career start as he took over for veteran Chris Reynolds in the matchup versus WKU. Foster regrouped in the second quarter after a modest start in the first quarter, taking the Charlotte offense on two scoring drives. Foster capped off a seven-play, 75-yard drive with a two-yard run as he hit pay dirt to close the scoring margin to 21-10 with just under 10 minutes remaining in the second quarter.

The Niners closed the gap to just one touchdown after Cruz's electrifying 56-yard field goal three minutes before halftime. Unfortunately for Charlotte, the Hilltoppers would respond with a four-play, 36-yard drive to increase the lead to 28-13 at the half when Jerreth Sterns caught a 21-yard touchdown pass from Zappe.

After the half, the game began to slip away from Charlotte. The 49er offense did not score again, and the Hilltoppers' offense couldn't be stopped as WKU added a field goal between two touchdown drives to conclude the scoring for the game.

Charlotte will be looking to bounce back versus Rice during Homecoming week at home in Jerry Richardson Stadium. The game will be Saturday, Nov. 6 at 3:30 p.m.

Read full story at ninertimes.com.



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EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

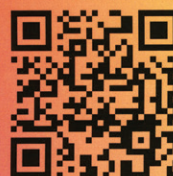
GRACEN MORRIS

Gracen Morris is the Student Media Employee of the Month. Gracen joined Student Media in October 2020 as an office assistant. She greets all students and visitors with a smile and goes above and beyond to provide assistance. Most recently, Gracen has worked to improve and enhance newspaper circulation to ensure that the route lists are updated and place new racks in better locations. Gracen provides support to all in the office and is greatly appreciated. Thanks so much Gracen for a job well done!

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