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Creighton's lady Jays: then and now

ELIZABETH JONES
Editor in Chief

As basketball season kicks off, it seems women's basketball will maintain the nationwide buzz it's generated over the last couple of seasons and, coming off a Big East finals run and NCAA tournament bid last year, the Bluejays will likely be a team worth watching this year. But women haven't always held such a dominant place within Creighton University. Despite Creighton being founded in 1878, women weren't admitted as undergraduates at the university until 1913. They didn't get a Division I basketball team until the '70s.

However, women were involved at the university from the very beginning, just in the background. According to the "Creighton's History" webpage on the school's website, the university was founded with funds donated by Mary Lucretia Creighton. She was left with her late husband Edward's fortune after he passed and set aside \$100,000 in her will to go towards building a school in Edward's honor. Following her death, the then-bishop of the Diocese of Omaha, the Rev. James O'Connor, enlisted the Society of Jesus to es-

tablish the school she had envisioned.

Classes at the university, then Creighton College, began on Sept. 2, 1878, with 120 students (all men), five Jesuits and two lay teachers. One of these lay teachers was likely a woman. According to a timeline of Creighton women on the Creighton Alumni and Friends website, a woman named Mrs. Hall taught English for at least the first year of classes. Records of her are limited.

St. John's Parish also exists in part because of a woman, according to the university's history webpage. Sarah Emily Creighton, a younger sister of Mary Lucretia and wife of Edward's brother, John, wanted the church to be built so that students could have a proper place to worship. St. John's Collegiate Chapel was dedicated in 1888, and the parish was established in 1897, allowing the church to conduct special events like weddings and baptisms.

Still, despite the influence of Mary Lucretia and Sarah Emily, Creighton was not a feminist-forward institution during its earliest years. Most women weren't welcome in the classrooms at first — but this wasn't Creighton-specific. According to data from the National Center for Education Statistics,

women jumped up to just 36% of the students enrolled in college in 1899-1900 in the U.S.

“Are there women in your medical college? She [Earhart] asked. She believes very thoroughly in women following professions or at least being in touch with the modern world.”

**-Mary Ellen Leary
The Creightonian, 1933**

While women couldn't enroll in undergraduate classes at Creighton until the early twentieth century, women were welcomed into graduate school programs sooner, albeit sparsely. Kate Drake became the university's first female student in 1892, enrolling in the John A. Creighton Medical College (now the Creighton University School of Medi-

cine) the year it was founded, according to the Alumni and Friends timeline. Drake was also the first woman admitted to any Jesuit university in the U.S. However, she didn't graduate and only attended the school for one year, as specified in another Alumni and Friends article. Dr. C. B. Offerson became the medical school's first woman physician in 1894, and in 1898, Dr. Anna Marie Griffith became the medical school's first woman to graduate and complete all medical training, according to the timeline.

As time went on, based on the Alumni and Friends timeline, women became more and more integrated into the university. Mattie Arthur was hired as the university's first medical staff member in 1901. In 1908 the first women graduated from the university's dental school. Cassie Chancellor graduated from the university's pharmacy school in 1913, becoming the first Black woman to graduate from Creighton. Then, in 1916, Bertha Winterton and Clara Witt Breuer were the first women to graduate from the university's law school. It wasn't until 1948 that a Black woman graduated from the law school for the first time. That graduate,

TURN TO “Women’s” PAGE 3

Charity Lift-a-Thon supports veteran families



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Chris Johnnides, a sophomore in College of Nursing, spots Richard Everett, a third-year law student in Creighton's Ahmanson School of Law, bench pressing in the Kiewit Fitness Center.

WALTER LOVELY
News Reporter

Creighton University held the Strength for Service Lift-a-Thon, a charity event organized in partnership with Folds of Honor, the Creighton University Student Bar Association and the Student Wellness Association.

The event, hosted on Nov. 8, aimed to raise money for Folds of Honor, a nonprofit organization that provides educational scholarships to the families of fallen or disabled service members.

Richard Everett, a third-year law student

at Creighton's Ahmanson School of Law, organized the Lift-a-Thon and said he wanted to use fitness as a way to bring the campus community together for a good cause.

“We were able to raise \$471,” Everett said via email. “A little shy of our \$500 goal, but all the money went directly to Folds of Honor and we didn't take a penny.”

Folds of Honor was founded by Lt. Col. Dan Rooney, an F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard. The organization supports the spouses and children of United State service members who have died or become disabled as a result of combat. All of the money from the Lift-a-Thon was do-



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Everett deadlifts 195lbs while participating in the Lift-a-Thon event in the Kiewit Fitness Center gym. Everett continued to support the Folds of Honor charity through numerous lifting styles.

nated to the Folds of Honor.

According to the organization's website, Folds of Honor's mission began after a powerful moment on one of Rooney's flights home from Iraq.

“It began with Lt. Col. Dan Rooney's flight home from his second tour of duty in Iraq. An F-16 fighter pilot in the Oklahoma Air National Guard, he became painfully aware of the realities families face when a loved one in uniform is fallen or disabled,” the website said.

Everett said he was inspired to organize the Lift-a-Thon after meeting Rooney at an event in New Jersey. He was assisted by Nick

Fischer, another Creighton student who has previously helped plan professional school events on campus.

The Lift-a-Thon allowed participants to test their strength in a series of weightlifting challenges. Prizes were awarded to top lifters, but the competition was open to anyone regardless of experience level.

According to the CU Involved event page, the focus was on self-improvement and community rather than competition.

“Come to test your strength, surpass your current goals or compete with your friends,” the event page said.

Reducing waste, one cycle at a time

Free reusable menstrual products fight period poverty, plastic use

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

Creighton University's Elieen B. Lieben Center for Women hosted its Flow and Grow event in the Skutt Student Center. At the Nov. 5 event, students learned more about menstruation and the importance of sustainability from speaker Dr. Jodanne Hedrick, an OBGYN and assistant professor at Creighton's School of Medicine. Free compostable menstrual cups and discs were also distributed.

"As we've developed this program, we realized that, even me included, there's a lot of women who don't know a lot about their bodies and how menstruation actually works," student coordinator for the Lieben Center for Women and a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, Vanessa White, said.

White said the event aimed to provide a safe space to learn more about menstruation in an open, educational setting.

"We even had [asked] the question of 'What do you think comes out of your body during menstruation?' and most people just think it's blood and ... we realized that not a lot of women know the inner workings of their body," she said.

Lieben Center for Women's student staff member and a sophomore in the Heider College of Business, Akofa Aclinou, also recognized a lack in menstruation education prior to collegiate life.

"In terms of my educational history, the first time that I ever learned about a period

was in elementary school. I think in sixth grade, we had that formal talk about how menstruation works, and like, 'Oh, once you get your period, you should ... go home [and] talk to your parents about it,' Aclinou said. "Obviously I started menstruating myself, and then I went to a public school at the time, so it wasn't really spoken about, and it's also important to note, obviously, public school's co-ed, so there were men in the classrooms as well. So, it wasn't like freely talked about. If I needed a tampon or a pad, I didn't really want to announce that in front of the class."

Though the center originally held events such as Vibe and Paint, which included an informational presentation on menstruation while participants painted tote bags and received free feminine products. This year, the group collaborated with the Office of Sustainability to promote women's health alongside environmental responsibility.

"It's a big problem with female menstrual products, and how it's really disposable, and how it's been impacting the environment," Aclinou said. "Especially because most pads, tampons, all that kind of stuff is mostly made out of plastic. So, it's not really good to go back into the environment. So, we decided to [give out] reusable menstrual products, which are silicone menstrual cups and silicone menstrual discs ... to the people who attended."

According to the presentation given at the Flow and Grow event, approximately 12 billion pads and seven billion tampons are discarded annually in within the United States,

which can take about 500 years to decompose. So, with the distribution of compostable and reusable feminine products, the center is able to not only promote more eco-friendly products, but safer alternatives as well.

"With social media ... certain brands coming out have [these] chemicals or ... have bleach or something in them and we don't want to be handing products out to students that we know are harming them," White said. "And it seems like every day there's something coming out that's not good for you. So, just trying to also navigate between misinformation and trying to be reasonable and realistic, but that's something we've definitely talked about and are considering and trying to figure out."

As the center passed out free compostable menstrual discs and cups, White and Aclinou also aimed to address the prominent issue of period poverty. According to their presentation, the average student may spend \$55-70 annually on disposable menstruation products, yet a menstrual disc can save a student about \$165-\$250 as it lasts three to five years.

"It is not the easiest thing to do, but it was really heartwarming to see women come up and say, 'Thank you, I've been wanting to try this, and I don't have the money for that right now,'" White said. "And I think that was the big[gest] thing. We talked about period poverty and how even, I believe, one in 10 women experienced period poverty - and that's a lot of women - and to be able to try these things for free is very empowering. It gives you the opportunity to explore those options."

Additionally, Aclinou said this event provided an opportunity for women to receive help without needing to feel the pressure or shame to voice it directly.

"It's important to be aware of your surroundings and aware that some students, some people aren't on the same level as you all the time. ... Like, some people are also going through a hard time, and they don't want to voice it as well," Aclinou said. "So, being able to just have this be an event where anybody can come, it doesn't have to be like, 'Oh, like I'm struggling, I need something that will help me,' you can just come, you don't have to explain your situation."

The center also provided an option for those who were unable to attend to receive the presentation virtually or visit them for a personal educational seminar.

"We asked if they would like to see the presentation on their own time or come in with and talk to the Lieben staff and kind of get a little more personal presentation," White said. "And then, they're still able to pick it [discs and cups] up because we understand time conflicts and even being in that space can sometimes be uncomfortable even though there's a room full of women. So, that's why we kind of had the Lieben Center too. It's a support, especially if you don't feel comfortable kind of walking in a room that maybe you don't feel comfortable in."



Weekly Campus Safety Report

This is a selection of incidents chosen by the Editor in Chief and is not a comprehensive weekly report. The full report is compiled in the Daily Crime Log which anyone can access in the Public Safety office located at 2222 Burt St.

- 1** November 3 - 10:49 a.m.
A nonaffiliate was reported harassing students in Harper Center. Pub Safe made contact with the person when he attempted to hug a female student. He was issued a Ban and Bar Notice. It was found that he is on the Nebraska Sex Offender Registry.
- 2** November 5 - 12:30 a.m.
Public Safety officer witnessed a nonaffiliate toss two solar powered lights over the fence along PR road. It is unknown where the lights came from. (Not Pictured)
- 3** November 5 - 10:32 p.m.
Public Safety observed two individuals engaging in lewd conduct while parked in a vehicle in lot 38.
- 4** November 11 - 1:13 p.m.
A staff member reported observing a nonaffiliate expose themselves inside of lot 19. (Not Pictured)

Conversations that build careers



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Dalton Stone, a senior for the College of Arts and Science, discusses med school plans with Richard Everett, a third-year law school student who has attended three years in a row.



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students were invited to sit down with peers and graduate students to discuss future career plans and goals. Tables were sectioned off by career path with complementary refreshments.

PARKER LUND News Reporter

The annual Pre-Professional Mixer in the Skutt Student Center Ballroom gave an opportunity for various Creighton professional school students to answer questions from and give guidance to undergraduate students. More than 80 students attended the event on Nov. 6, which featured catering by Sodexo.

Creighton's School of Medicine, School of Dentistry, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions, School of Law and Department of Physical Therapy were among those represented. The questions answered ranged from undergraduates asking about what types of programs they should get into, what kind of coursework they should take, application processes and preparing for professional school.

Noah Schaeftbauer, a College of Arts and Sciences junior on the pre-law track, organized this year's mixer. As a student senator, he said his goal was to spark meaningful dialogue between graduate students and those hoping to follow in their footsteps.

"I want them to ask questions about what grad school is really like," Schaeftbauer said. "You know, whatever program that is. So,

they can, one, discern if that is truthfully the right path for them, and then two, just learn more about it. ... If that's something you're super passionate about, it's so cool just to hear from somebody who's there."

Schaeftbauer said he hoped to give undergraduate Creighton students an honest perspective of what graduate school looked like; to accomplish that, he wanted attendees to be prepared with gritty questions.

"They [need to be] willing to hear and ask about the hard parts of those programs," Schaeftbauer said. "I would love to hear from law students, like, 'What makes you cry?'"

This year's mixer also included a new feature — a representative from Creighton's Career Center. Schaeftbauer said the addition was meant to encourage students to take advantage of the resources already available to them.

"[The] Student Senate as a body has had a lot of requests from students saying, 'Hey, we would like resume help. We would like help with cover letters,' [and] career discernment-type stuff," Schaeftbauer said. "So, we're always like, 'Hey, the Career Center, it exists.' A lot of people have the assumption that the Career Center is only for, you know, business students, but it's not."

As both a student senator and Career Center employee, Schaeftbauer said he wanted to use his position to bridge that gap.

"But that was something that I put in there just because I work at the Career Center, and I know their resources ... That was my little, I guess, twist to this event."

This year marked Schaeftbauer's first time planning the mixer, but he said the planning process was smooth thanks to collaboration across different pre-professional tracks.

"What I said when we started organizing this event is like, 'Hey, if I can get one person for each pre-professional track, I think this will be a smooth organization process,'" Schaeftbauer said. "And that's exactly what happened. Everybody — our pre-PT people, our pre-med people — was able to get students from their respective grad programs. And then I just had to reach out to the law school."

Because of the way the event was put together, it was more dynamic than previous pre-professional events, according to Schaeftbauer.

"It's the most successful one because in the past it's been one professional, two professional organized event[s] per school ... there might be some stuff that's just missing,"

he said.

Schaeftbauer said the feedback from attendees was overwhelmingly positive, and he estimated close to 100 total participants throughout the evening. Dental and medical students were especially well represented, he added.

But even if some students were unable to attend this catch-all event, Schaeftbauer encouraged students to look for more specific events related to the professional path they are on.

"Honestly, what people need to do is they just need to look at the SLIC newsletter and see, 'Hey, this is a pre-law event. I'm a pre-law. I should go to this.' I think a lot of the time — I know I've been afraid to go to these events — but they're so lax."

Schaeftbauer said events like these not only provide practical guidance but also help students build confidence and community.

"Especially grad students, they're so excited to talk to undergrad because they were undergrads once too. They were in, I guess, our shoes," Schaeftbauer said. "People just need to not be afraid to go to these events. These are really, really helpful for learning and growing in your passions and your future interests."

Women's legacy continues at CU

Continued from Page 1

Elizabeth D. Pittman, J.D., went on to become the first Black person and the first woman to be appointed as a judge in Nebraska.

According to the university's 2013-2014 fact book, women were not admitted as undergraduate students until 1913, when they could be part-time students during summer sessions. Nearly two decades later, in 1931, women were incorporated more fully into the school, with the ability to enroll as degree-seeking undergraduate students at the University College. When the university's business school opened in 1920, eight women were enrolled — alongside 66 men, of course. In 1951, the University College and College of Arts and Sciences merged, becoming a co-educational division of Creighton.

As women were finally becoming more established as Creighton students, Amelia Earhart paid a visit to Omaha and expressed interest in women's role at the university, especially the medical school. She visited in 1933, one year after becoming the first woman to fly solo and nonstop across the Atlantic Ocean. Mary Ellen Leary, a Creightonian reporter, was able to get an interview with Earhart, confirming the pioneering pilot's inter-

est in women's rights and Creighton women specifically.

In an article published by the Creightonian on Dec. 14, 1933, Leary wrote, "Are there women in your medical college?" She [Earhart] asked. She believes very thoroughly in women following professions or at least being in touch with the modern world."

The article continued, "I like to see women doing general newspaper work, rather than just on a woman's page," said Miss Earhart. "Women should be interested in world problems as well as men. The world is their world. There is no need to confine their interests to frilly curtains and lemon pie."

During the mid-to-late twentieth century, while women were advancing as students at the university, they were also advancing in their roles as faculty, according to the timeline from the Alumni and Friends website. Maurine Hamilton was hired in 1950 as the dean of women, making her the university's first female administrator. In 1972, Ann L. Czerwinski of the School of Pharmacy and Health Professions became the first female president of the university faculty. The university's law school hired its first female professor in 1973, Frances Ryan, J.D., and a scholarship is still named after her today. Eileen Lieben became the university's acting

vice president of student personnel in 1982, making her Creighton's first female vice president. The university's Eileen B. Lieben Center for Women, founded in 1998, was named after her.

Today, Creighton has more women than men enrolled. According to the 2024-2025 common datasets available on the Creighton website, 2,588 of the university's 4,647 undergraduate students were women last academic year; 28 were listed as another gender and the rest were men. This means just under 56% of Creighton's undergraduate student body is women. The university also has more women than men enrolled in graduate school programs. This follows national trends. According to the Pew Research Center, as of 2024, 47% of women in the U.S. between the ages of 25 and 34 hold a bachelor's degree, whereas only 37% of U.S. men in the same age range hold a bachelor's degree.

Just like women have become important in Creighton classrooms, they've become important in the university's athletic world as well. Creighton currently has eight NCAA Division 1 women's sports teams, including basketball and volleyball. Both of these teams were established in 1973, following the passing of Title IX, a landmark federal civil rights law that prohibits sex-based discrimination in

any education program that receives federal assistance.

Today Creighton women are continuing to excel on the court.

The volleyball team has won the Big East Tournament title 10 times, and most recently in 2024, according to an article on gocreighton.com. This season, they are currently 14-0 in conference play and 21-5 overall. Their next game will be against St. John's today at 6 p.m.

The women's basketball team finished with an overall record of 26-7 last season and came in second in the Big East regular season standings. As this season begins, the Jays look to defend their conference standing despite a lot of personnel turnovers. They were ranked fifth in the Big East preseason poll, and their next game will be Thursday at 6 p.m.

So, nearly 150 years after women's humble, largely behind-the-scenes start at the university's founding, women are prominent across campus. As volleyball season winds down next month and basketball takes off, the female Bluejays are carrying forth the legacy of the Creighton women who came before them — on and off the court. Mary Lucretia Creighton's vision of a school lives on, now with women making their presence undeniable.

ISA celebrates CU's cultural ties



ENO SULE /THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton University's International Student Association (ISA) hosts its annual Cultural Night, a gathering in Harper Ballroom to commemorate the various cultures represented on campus.

BROOKE VANDERWAL Scene Reporter

Creighton's International Student Association (ISA) hosted its annual Cultural Night, where attendees were treated to a night of cultural enrichment, engaging performances, delicious cuisine and new connections.

For the event held on Nov. 8, participants were asked to don cultural clothing and come ready to share things unique to their culture. ISA served dishes such as falafel, biryani, spring rolls, hummus, pita, mango lassi and miniature cheeseburgers.

Students from the ISA club helped to plan and set up the event, including College of Arts and Sciences senior Mercedes Garcia Perez, an exchange student from Spain.

"I'm an international student. I'm an exchange student from Spain for the whole year, so I helped set the tables and the decor, doing all the flowers and putting all the flags," Perez said.

The event featured performances by two of Creighton's acapella groups, the Crescendos and the Creightones.

Emmanuel Fuentes, a College of Arts and Sciences senior and member of the Creigh-

tones, said his favorite part of the event was "the exchange of different cultures and seeing everyone's talents."

Swing dance and salsa performances were also a highlight of the night for Hayden Eldridge, a College of Arts and Sciences sophomore who was a member of the swing dancing group.

"Swing dancing actually comes from Mexico ... and when it came to the West is when it kind of started looking like this," Eldridge said.

Benjamin Dotterer, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences, also enjoyed learning

the dances.

"I've learned over the last two years there are so many different dances; so many different styles," Dotterer said. "From learning two-step to triple, to West Coast swing to country swing, it's all different."

Creighton is a home-away-from-home for students from all over the world, including but not limited to Vietnam, Spain, France, Belgium, Nigeria, China and India. Cultural Night was an experience geared toward celebrating international students and enriching the Creighton community with their unique cultures.

Lalibela upholds Ethiopia traditions



CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Lalibela is an Ethiopian restaurant located on Cass Street. The restaurant is family-owned and offers dishes like the combination platter (top left) filled with an authentic taste of Ethiopian cuisine.

CHARLOTTE THAISETTHAWATKUL in an Ethiopian food culture that stresses community and the bringing together of people.

Scene Reporter

Lalibela, a staple of the Ethiopian community in Omaha, is a family-owned business that has been serving dishes from all around Ethiopia since 2010, sharing the sour and the spicy with the Midwest.

As current Lalibela manager Sibhat Gebremichael explained, Lalibela began after his relatives emigrated out of Ethiopia around 35 years ago, escaping a civil war occurring at the time. His relatives first landed on the shores of California before moving to Omaha in the early 2000s.

Since then, Lalibela has grown into a successful restaurant, with many people from every part of the globe coming in to partake

Every dish at Lalibela is served on a large plate, with the thin sour fermented injera placed on top, acting as a tablecloth for the multitude of different vegetables and meat arranged in a circle around the dish. Every table is given a tray of extra injera, where customers tear off pieces and use them to dip and grab the different ingredients.

The doro wot, a spicy chicken stew originating from the northern region of Ethiopia incorporates a fusion of strong flavors, from the sourdough taste of the injera to the exotic spice of the doro wot stew.

A great first taste for newcomers of this restaurant is the combination platter, which brings together the other dishes, like the veg-

eterian platter that consists of the green, yellow and red lentils, and the kitfo, minced beef spiced with mitamita and cardamom, with spinach and ayip (Ethiopian cheese) on the side.

“Each tribe has their own different food, but they come as one, and they’re having this [combination platter].”

**-Sibhat Gebremichael
Lalibela
Manager**

Gebremichael said the combination plat-

ter is traditionally called beyaynetu, which means “combination” or “everything in one.” While it is usually only served at ceremonies and special gatherings, at Lalibela, it represents the whole Ethiopian culinary compass.

“This [the combination platter] is pretty much what is describing Ethiopia,” Gebremichael said. “Each tribe has their own different food, but they come as one, and they’re having this.”

The bringing together of tribes, cultures and families is what makes Lalibela special.

Lalibela is a great place to stop by when you have a large group. Whether it’s your friends or family, the fascinating culture and spice of Ethiopian food will surely bring you all closer together.

Olivia Dean: Best New Artist?

CHLOE CARRILLO
Assistant Scene Editor

Olivia Dean’s sophomore album “The Art of Loving” was released in late September. It debuted in the top 10 of six billboard charts in early October, and this past week, Dean was announced as a nominee for the Grammy’s Best New Artist award.

With the singles “Nice to Each Other,” “Lady Lady” and “Man I Need,” Dean had listeners hooked. Her soft pop sound and vulnerable lyrics made for relatable and heartfelt experiences with her music while staying true to her sound from her first album “Messy.” “Nice To Each Other” features Dean being extremely candid about her returning to a relationship without being sure that rekindling should happen. She writes that the two could be nice to each other, and that could

be enough.

The other two singles feature a more empowering tone through “Lady Lady” and “Man I Need.” “Man I Need” talks about Dean’s experience with wanting to know if a person is the man she needs, or just who she wants. In “Lady Lady,” Dean is extremely transparent about how not everyone may have a plan but change and growth aren’t always linear or the same for everyone. “Man I Need” is something that people can relate to, with themes of confusion in relationships and miscommunications.

The rest of the album follows Olivia’s signature blend of pop, R&B, jazz and soul. The first track of the album, “The Art of Loving (Intro),” is just what it says: an introduction to the album, featuring an honest and thoughtful take on love and relationships. Dean says in the song, “It’s the art of loving/

it wasn’t all for nothing ... you taught me something/ something lost and something gained.” These themes are told through the tracks on the album.

“Close up,” “Something Inbetween” and “A Couple Minutes” all mention the confusions and lingering feelings that can come from relationships, and how it can leave one feeling.

“Let Alone The One You Love” and “Loud” both feature how feelings can be post-relationship, thinking, “how could someone do this?” These songs feel the most raw and real from Dean, as she expresses her feelings in a way that listeners can picture or empathize with.

“So Easy (To Fall In Love)” and “Baby Steps” feature Olivia’s appreciation for herself. In “So Easy (To Fall In Love),” Dean describes attributes she feels are good about

herself, and how easy she makes it to be in love with herself. In “Baby Steps,” she touches on how it can just be right foot then left foot when learning to re-love yourself.

The last track of the album, “I’ve Seen It,” feels extremely personal and is a hopeful note to leave the listeners on. It speaks about all the different ways Dean has seen love around her, and how it has been “inside her all along.” The song is sort of a beautiful homage to all the ways someone can love another person, through friendships, family and other relationships.

Overall, I encourage anyone looking for a new artist to give Olivia Dean — who is creating authentic music through self-expression — and her new album, “The Art of Loving,” a try.

Let me eat by myself

CECE SLADOVNIK
Assistant Opinion Editor

Being the youngest child and raised with a 'do-it-yourself' mentality, I have never been uncomfortable doing things on my own. If my car tire is low, I don't look around for someone to fix it for me. Instead, I fill it myself. I did not choose to study abroad where my friends were going. Rather, I chose to go where I wanted. I see nothing embarrassing about doing something on your own. This is why I was shocked to find out that many people at Creighton are averse to eating alone in the dining halls.

I love eating with my friends, but if I am in between classes and none of them are available, I am going to eat by myself. If I tell someone this, or someone sees me, I am often met with a pitied tone. "Oh, you had to eat by yourself?" "Cece, why don't you come over and eat with us?" "Aw, you should've texted me!" Despite these comments, I never feel downcast about eating alone: it is simply convenient.

Many people have no problem eating their packed lunch alone, or sitting by themselves to study, but for some reason the dining hall holds some sort of primitive environment where people think it is necessary to move in groups for survival. We need to stop assuming that people are lonely when they are eating alone. Sometimes, after three back-to-back classes, I want nothing more than to read my book and eat a Harper cookie. If I have an exam coming up, I would much rather study for it than eat with someone I am not very close to just to escape sitting alone. Eating by yourself in the dining hall is a completely normal, practical behavior, something no one should be afraid to do.

Timing is everything

Celebrate each holiday — Christmas can wait

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

There's nothing like some healthy debate to keep your mind sharp. But some topics, it seems, are more touchy than others. Summer or winter, ketchup or ranch, whether pineapple belongs on pizza — sure, these are all valid questions, but the hottest debate this time of year, in that awkward limbo between Halloween and Thanksgiving, is this: is it too early to celebrate Christmas?

Christmas needs to be celebrated only after Thanksgiving and not a second before. Just as importantly, the celebration should not begin a second later. This beloved holiday needs to be cherished in this specific time frame for three reasons.

Thanksgiving deserves its moment too. Many don't regard it as a real holiday, which

is obviously a matter of personal taste. However, in order to live more in the moment, we need to take things one day at a time. Thanksgiving celebrates everything beautiful about family and love, so what's not to celebrate? This is even more important as days get colder and shorter, when our spirits run low and there's less to look forward to.

Not to mention, if we celebrate Christmas too early, all its magic dissipates. Have you ever had one of your favorite foods too much, to the point where you're sick of it? That's how I feel whenever my sister turns on "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree" in the middle of July. By the time late November rolls around and the holiday spirit should be peaking, I'm already burnt out. The feeling isn't new and shiny as it should be, but rath-



er overdone and exhausting.

All that is to say that Christmas belongs in its season. The holiday is an aesthetic in itself — snow falling, crisp air, cozy nights. Celebrating Christmas in 60-degree weather is like celebrating an engagement before he's popped the question. It doesn't fit and cheapens the meaning of the moment.

In short, Christmas absolutely deserves all the hype it gets, just at the right time. Thanksgiving is important too, and when we celebrate each holiday in its season, it feels even more magical because everyone is sharing in the joyful spirit together, the way we should be.

How to survive tough days

TOMMY CARRAUX
Opinion Writer

College can come with a lot of stress and emotions that we are unfamiliar with. It comes with rigorous pressure to achieve while beginning to experience the world as an adult and a functional member of society. Needless to say, it can be difficult to handle all the different stressors that come at us daily. Here are five strategies I have learned over the years for how to deal with this phase of life:

1. Take a deep breath. It will all be okay. When life gets stressful, it is vital to allow yourself space to breathe. Remember that you've made it this far, and no matter what happens, you will survive.

2. Don't judge yourself based on your

perception of others. Sometimes it may seem like everybody else is thriving, but in reality, nobody has it all figured out. We are all going through something, and your perception of other's success is just that: a perception. Your success is not quantified by those around you.

3. Take time for yourself. Self-care is crucial to a balanced life, and it looks different for every person. You can work out, watch your favorite show, journal or even just take some time to reflect. There are no instructions for real self-care; it just requires taking time for yourself, appreciating how far you've come and recognizing how well you're doing.

4. Connect with others. We all get overwhelmed sometimes. It can be difficult to get out of a funk alone. If you open up to others about your struggles, it can relieve a lot of stress and help you see things in a new light.

Be vulnerable with some close friends. Real friends will always be understanding and want to help you grow. If you don't feel comfortable talking to your friends, therapy is another great alternative for talking through your problems.

5. Stay positive. As cliché as it seems, trying to remain positive in tough times can have a huge impact on your perception of struggle. That doesn't mean ignoring problems or pretending everything is okay. Just know that everything has a positive side, and you will always find it eventually. Take whatever situation you're in and flip it on its head. Use that negativity to push you, turning it into a force for good.

This list isn't perfect, but a start — and a reminder to enjoy your life, because you only get one.

Overpacked, yet still unprepared

ELIZABETH GRAVELINE
Opinion Editor

As another day passes, I arrive home. I take off my shoes, set my backpack down and stretch my aching back. Opening my backpack to grab my laptop reveals the culprit of my pain: a five-subject notebook, currently housing six subjects of notes and a folder with approximately three inches worth of paper handouts. I start unzipping pockets. Here's my lunch container, my empty coffee mug and notecards. Notecards!? When was the last time I used notecards? Why have I been carrying around all this stuff? I didn't use any of this today!

The supplies I use on a given day include my laptop, notebook, two pens and a water bottle. Maybe a packed lunch. Instead, my backpack contains Tylenol, five hair ties, two hairclips, hand sanitizer and a nail file. Why do I have a pencil bag when I only use two pens? Upon further inspection, I see it holds my mechanical pencils (which have no lead) and my large block eraser which I've had since sixth grade. I can only assume these items symbolize productivity that has never materialized. It seems that approximately 25% of my backpack supplies are used in any given week. The other 75% are emotional support items and crumpled paper products.

I have heard tales of those who make the trip to campus with only a laptop. Legend has it they stand up tall and walk with a sense of freedom, untethered by anxiety and

notebooks. However, most of us pack every morning like a backpacker heading off on an adventure. Lunch, snacks, gym clothes, water and books, knowing we won't be home for 12 hours. I am like a boy scout, always prepared, ready for any challenge that comes my way. Emergency supplies give me comfort, proof that I am prepared for the campus-wide disaster that has yet to occur.

For most of us, our backpacks reflect a subconscious fear: being caught unprepared. It is a survival instinct to pack 'just in case.' We hold on to our belongings like lucky charms, hoping they provide some protection from the uncertainty of the future. After all, if we don't carry every pen we own, we may forget how to write altogether.

Maybe that is the truth of college: we all take on more than we need, hoping it'll somehow make us feel ready for the uncertainty of tomorrow. And tomorrow, you know I'll repack it all — the pens, the papers, the emotional support Tylenol. Maybe one day I'll lighten the load, but for now I'll continue to carry my unused financial calculator as a symbol of my commitment to pain, preparedness and higher education.



Opinions on the Mall

Question: What is your strangest backpack essential?

"Mini Vaseline, the cocoa butter version."

Addison Burmeister, Senior

"Trader Joe's Mango Fruit Crushers."

Julianne Yasana, Freshman

"Dance shoes."

Genevieve Pietruszynski, Senior

"A charm ... from Japan for academic success."

Liam Walsh, Senior

"My EpiPen, because I'm allergic to peanuts."

Ethan Briggs, Junior

"I need my DayQuil."

Kawena Kekauoha, Senior

"A three-hole punch."

Lucie Schrader, Senior

"I have a stamp with my name on it."

Kawena Kekauoha, Senior

Akron scores late, ends CU's title run

ABBIE GALLANT
Editor in Chief

Alegría (joy). Belief. Drive. Excitement. Hunger. Identity. Opportunity. Patience. Perseverance. Pride. Progress. Process.

The Creighton men's soccer team has stayed true and played true to these qualities throughout the 2025 season. Each match was a step forward, each time on the pitch a new opportunity to show the world what a group of 30 guys, made up of 14 true underclassmen, could do.

"It's been a special group from the onset. Having 11 new faces and watching these guys foster and build relationships and trust between each other has been really nice and refreshing to see," Creighton head coach Johnny Torres said.

All the way until the final minute of the final game of the regular season on Nov. 7, the Bluejays pushed, unwilling to relinquish what they worked so hard to create over the 2025 campaign.

But as fate would have it, the No. 19 Akron Zips would come to Omaha and leave with a 1-0 victory over the Bluejays on Senior Night. The win meant the Zips took were crowned Midwest Division champs and secured their spot in the Big East Tournament. The Bluejays' loss meant a good chance the night would mark the end of their season.

However, what unfolded between the top two teams in the Midwest Division was nothing short of a show.

"It was a good college match. There was a lot of action and a lot of good football, a lot of desire and teams that aren't sitting back. Both teams wanted to defend, both teams wanted to be on the front foot and both teams wanted to go forward, and so that was a fun match for those that came in attendance and watched," Torres said.

In the first 45 minutes, the score may have remained stubbornly at 0-0, but on the pitch, the match showed anything but a lack of opportunity for success.

Both teams began on the front foot, though Akron made the first move in just the first minute of the match. As redshirt freshman goalkeeper Matthew Hudson attempted a free kick, an Akron player blocked the ball. Hudson didn't miss a beat, though, quickly recovering and advancing the ball to his teammates up the field.

Despite the first-minute scare, Creighton settled into the match and began controlling most of the possession, developing dangerous sequences.

Within the first 12 minutes, Creighton was awarded three corner kicks, though none found the back of the net.

Looking for the go-ahead against their No. 19 foe, the Bluejays' closest chance of the half came from an aggressive run by sophomore forward Bautista Rossi. The Argentina native demonstrated his dynamics at the front of the Creighton offense from the first whistle, but in the 14th minute, the sophomore nearly notched the first score.

Breaking down the left side, Rossi closed in on the near post for a one-on-one with Akron goalkeeper Mitch Budler. Budler came out just in time to cut off the angle, keeping the match scoreless.

After about 38 minutes of possession control for Creighton, the Zips turned the tide in the last seven minutes, ripping off five shots in that time and forcing Hudson to get active in the net.

Hudson's first save in that time came in the 43rd minute, as a zinger of a shot from the top of the box hurdled toward goal. With keen awareness, Hudson jumped up and caught the ball, stopping Akron's attack in its tracks.

The redshirt freshman followed up the clean save with another in the final minute of the half. Similar to the save in the 43rd minute, Hudson grabbed a shot out of the air and controlled possession for the Bluejays.

Hudson's saves were a critical part of preventing a quick go-ahead goal for Akron in the opening half.

"I think his performance tonight sums up the type of season he's had. He's made some tremendous saves ... there was no difference tonight," Torres said. "I'm really proud of where he's at and how far he's come, and I think that position for us in the future is in good hands."

True to Creighton's game plan, the first 45 minutes of the division title match were anything but stagnant, as the Bluejays generated four corner kicks and fired off four shot attempts.

The only obstacle preventing the first half goal in favor of the home team? An Akron defense that allowed just one shot on goal over the entire match.

However, the Bluejays were undeterred heading into the latter 45 minutes of the match. Fueled by the intensity that had gradually been building throughout the first half, the Bluejays continued to berate the Akron offense. On the other end of the pitch, the Zips did the same, and the battle became a defensive one.

Though the Bluejays only allowed Akron to generate three shots throughout the second half (one third of their allowed shots from the first), the 57th minute saw the Zips' offense begin to brew. The momentum came to a peak in the 63rd minute.

"I thought we were a bit careless in the



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Down 1-0, head coach Johnny Torres felt frustration as the game neared an unfavorable end.

middle third in possession. I thought we forced it a bit, and maybe there was a five- or six-minute span where Akron maybe had a little bit of the momentum on possession, but ... I thought their goal came at one of our misfortunes," Torres said. "It wasn't so much that they broke us down, I don't think — although they had a couple of shots that were dangerous."

The scoring run began with a forward pass into the box from Akron's Jack Sullivan. Senior defender Ryusei Shimonishi intercepted the pass, but as the ball deflected off the defender, it settled in front of Akron's Thomas O'Rourke. Firing the game-winning goal into the back of the net, the Midwest Division title match saw its first and only score.

In the face of a one-goal deficit, the Bluejays refused to back down, pouring everything into the final 30 minutes of the match.

Three separate opportunities came close to meeting their mark, including a shot in the 69th minute from Shimonishi that went wide left and a header from redshirt freshman defender Brian Edelman that hit off the crossbar and stayed out of goal in the 78th minute.

The Bluejays battled to the very end, but the equalizer evaded them.

When the final whistle blew, an air of intense sorrow settled over Morrison Stadium, as players slumped to the turf, and fans stood in stunned silence. Akron may have been cheering after hoisting the Midwest Division trophy, but the silence that enveloped all those in white and blue was just as loud. The implications of a loss were not lost on the 2,564 people who packed into the stadium on a windy night in Omaha.

Earlier results from around the conference had sealed the Bluejays' fate: while Seton Hall edged out UConn, Georgetown's draw with Providence eliminated Creighton from the Big East tournament, dropping them from the top of the Midwest Division to out of contention altogether.

Yet even amid the heartbreak, Torres expressed pride in his team's fight and resilience,

against Akron and throughout the season.

"[This season's success and the opportunity to be Midwest Division champions] is a testament to their resilience and their desire to want to be better. Some people might have thrown in the towel starting the season at 0-2-2, but [with] these guys, there's no quit in them. They always had the desire to continue to grow and develop, continue to be diligent and plug away at what we were trying to do ...," Torres said.

That pride and resilience extended to Creighton's eight-person senior class, whose leadership and consistency defined the team's effort and embodied the Creighton men's soccer identity throughout the season. Though Torres is sad to see them go, he said, the relationships he has built with each of the eight seniors will extend far beyond four years in a Bluejay uniform.

They've even taught Torres a little something along the way.

"[They've taught me] patience, especially early on in the first couple of weeks of the season it was challenging, but I think these seniors were so graceful in their patience and their grace that they showed the guys," Torres said. "I think that's something that I'll take away from it and [will] be a nice lesson for me, to see the grace that these guys utilize to be able to bring those guys along."

Though their future is murky — with a potential open bid into the NCAA tournament possible but far from guaranteed with their 8-4-4 record and recent loss to the No. 19 Zips — the Creighton Bluejays of 2025 brought alegría, belief, drive, excitement, hunger, identity, opportunity, patience, perseverance, pride, progress and process to the pitch every match. With ranked opponent wins, statement victories and highlight-worthy moments, the Bluejays built a powerful resume that spoke for itself.

Bluejays fall short in Big East semifinal

ALLY SEEVERS
Sports Editor

When the final whistle blew in Boyds, Md. on Nov. 6, Creighton's players stood scattered across the field — some with hands on their knees, others locked in long hugs fighting back tears. The scoreboard behind them read 2-0 in favor of No. 10 Georgetown, but the story of the Bluejays' season stretched far beyond the numbers glowing in white.

This was Creighton's third trip to the Big East semifinals and the first time the program has qualified for the conference tournament in back-to-back seasons since joining the league in 2013. Once a stage that felt distant, it has now become part of the Bluejays' growing identity. Against one of the nation's top programs, the Bluejays played with heart and grit, defending, diving and holding their shape through wave after wave of Georgetown pressure.

"That's the first time we've [qualified in back-to-back years.] What we've done over the last five weeks to get into this tournament has been nothing short of amazing, really, but we knew tonight was going to be tough," head coach Jimmy Walker said. "We

were going to need them to have a bit of an off night. We were going to have to have our best game and unfortunately, they did not skip a beat tonight. They were exceptionally good against us."

From the opening whistle, Georgetown pressed hard, testing Creighton's backline repeatedly before breaking through in the 33rd minute with a lucky strike. Henley Tippins found the net off a corner kick from Shay Montgomery, giving the top-seeded Hoyas the lead. Facing one of the nation's most prolific offenses, which had outscored opponents 43-9, the Bluejays held strong, with senior goalkeeper Alyssa Zalac making several tough saves to keep the score close.

"Alyssa can walk away knowing that's probably the best game she had all year. She can walk away proud of that performance," Walker said. "She made some huge saves tonight. Huge."

Georgetown doubled their lead in the 62nd minute as back-to-back Big East Offensive Player of the Year Maja Lardner scored her 14th goal on the year. Creighton's lone shot attempt came in the 85th minute, when First Team All-Big East Selection Ariana Mondiri's free kick was stopped by Big East Goalkeeper

of the Year Cara Martin.

The Hoyas outshot the Bluejays 27-1, earning a 9-0 advantage in corner kicks. Despite the overwhelming pressure, Creighton's defense limited Georgetown to just two goals, keeping the team within striking distance throughout the match.

"We were very resilient tonight," Walker said. "It was a really good, solid defensive performance. There was just one or two small errors that against good teams you can't make ... [but I am] so proud of the effort, proud of the season [and] proud of the way we've moved the program forward."

The loss brought Creighton's season to a close at 7-8-4, a record that only begins to capture the team's growth. From early non-conference battles with nationally-ranked Duke and Arkansas to statement wins over Seton Hall and St. John's down the stretch, the Bluejays proved they belong among the league's best.

"You have to understand, this senior class two years ago was [at the] bottom of the conference. So they went through a coaching change, and then a brand-new coaching staff comes in with different ideas of the way they want to do things. ... What they've done is em-

brace that change," Walker said. "I think the biggest thing they could have done was move our legacy forward. ... Last year, we went to the quarterfinal, and this year, we went to the semifinals. ... They've done more not just on the field, but in terms of leaving the program in a much more respectable position. That's what this group has done."

As the program turns toward next fall, Walker's pride carries a hopeful edge. The group will be younger, but the foundation feels stronger than ever.

"I think we're headed in the right direction. We're going to be very young next year. It's going to be a very exciting group coming through, but I'm proud," Walker said. "Creighton [women's] soccer [is] finally being respected now. The men's program's always been well respected, but the women's program [is] starting to finally be respected now. That's huge for the ladies and the work that they're doing. They've got to keep progressing it forward."

For a team that once sat at the bottom of the standings, a semifinal loss to a top 10 powerhouse isn't the end of a story. It's only just the start of something that is still being built.

Seniors shine as Jays sweep Hoyas



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

In the final home match of their Creighton careers, seniors Annalea Maeder, Sky McCune, Ava Martin and Kiara Reinhardt share the court with their teammates and execute a Senior Day sweep.

GRETA WALLER Sports Reporter

The celebration started long before the confetti fell. As Creighton volleyball swept Georgetown in straight sets on Nov. 9, the cheers that echoed through D.J. Sokol Arena were both for another win and for the four seniors who built one of the most dominant runs in program history.

No. 12 Creighton never trailed in the match, extending its Big East regular season win streak to 45 matches. The match doubled as a senior day sendoff for Annalea Maeder, Sky McCune, Ava Martin and Kiara Reinhardt, who together finished their home careers 40-0 against Big East opponents inside Sokol Arena.

The Bluejays didn't waste any time turning the afternoon into a party. Nora Wurtz served a school-record nine aces, including five in a 12-0 run to close the first set. Her serving runs were interrupted by timeouts and media breaks, but the redshirt freshman never lost focus. She said she was thinking about the seniors every time she stepped back to the service line.

"I thought, 'The faster we can get out of here, the faster we can all cry and love each other,'" she said. "We can't imagine this team without them. They're such good role models, on and off the court."

Most players would get nervous serving so many points in a row, but Wurtz credited the seniors for teaching her composure under pressure.

"On the court, even when things aren't going well, they're all so calm. They're always collected and uplifting everyone. No matter what, there's a smile on their faces," she said.

Creighton hit .418 as a team, Martin leading the way with 13 kills. Reinhardt added nine kills and five blocks, and Maeder orchestrated the offense with 29 assists. McCune, who has battled injuries this season, made her second appearance of the season as a serving specialist.

The afternoon had the feeling of a coronation. Wurtz opened the second set with back-to-back aces, drawing 2,500 fans to their feet. When her record-breaking ninth ace dropped early in the third, the announcement over the loudspeakers was nearly drowned out by the roar of the crowd. Later in that same set, each senior was subbed out one-by-one to a stand-

ing ovation.

The emotion wasn't limited to the court. Less than 24 hours earlier, the team had attended the wedding of former Bluejay star Nora Sis, who married a Creighton baseball player. The morning of the match, underclassmen decorated the locker room for the seniors. Head coach Brian Rosen said this made all the difference in the match.

"We're not a team that plays well in tight, serious environments," Rosen said afterward. "We're a team of joy. We play our best when we're having fun and getting after it."

Rosen credited the senior class with preserving and expanding the culture first established by former head coach Kirsten Bernthal Booth.

"It's a group that genuinely loves each other and would do anything for the person next to them," he said. "As a staff, we're just lucky to be around them. That's why we do this."

Annalea Maeder, a setter and graduate transfer from Cal Berkeley, has been Creighton's steady hand all season. The native of Ried, Switzerland, leads the Big East in assists per set and has already surpassed 3,500 assists in her career.

Maeder's mother, who she says is her "biggest supporter," was able to come to Omaha for the match. She donned a blue shirt with the words "Swiss Miss" on the front — a nod to the nickname Maeder earned at Cal — and waved the Swiss flag enthusiastically before embracing her daughter in a long hug.

"I really think there's no place like D.J. Sokol Arena," Maeder said in a senior day video. "When we pack this place for big games, it's electric. The fans are so supportive, and they make you want to play your best volleyball for them."

Rosen said Maeder's decision to stay committed to Creighton after the coaching transition spoke volumes.

"She could have gone anywhere," he said. "For her to trust in our program and our culture means everything. She's brought a ton of joy and experience to our team."

McCune, a Gretna native and defensive specialist, has been part of the program for four seasons and lived out a hometown dream.

"It was my dream to play here," she said in the senior day video. "Growing up and coming to all the games, and then getting recruited here, was the coolest thing ever."

Injuries limited McCune's time on the court this season, but she was able to sub in

for a few serves during the senior day match. "With her injuries, she could have easily said, 'I'm done,'" Rosen said. "But this program has meant too much to her to do that, and she fought through a lot of pain to get to the point that she's in right now."

McCune's influence reaches far beyond the stat sheet, as the senior is a steady source of encouragement and confidence for her teammates. That same encouragement extends to her coaches. When Rosen stepped into his new role last spring, McCune's belief in him was one of his first moments of reassurance.

"That's Sky. She's a people person, a relationship builder, and I don't think she realizes how much those little things impact us as coaches," Rosen said.

If McCune embodies Creighton's heart, Ava Martin represents its rhythm. The senior outside hitter from Overland Park, Kan., has been the team's offensive anchor. A two-time All-American, she is known for her poise in big moments and her ability to make the game look effortless.

"Watching Ava get better and better every single year has been truly special," Rosen said. "She is among the greats to ever play in this program."

"It's a group that genuinely loves each other and would do anything for the person next to them. As a staff, we're just lucky to be around them."

**-Brian Rosen
Volleyball
Head Coach**

Martin's impact extends outside the court, especially in the way she connects with fans.

"Everywhere we go, if I'm wearing Creighton stuff, people say, 'Go Bluejays!'" Martin said in the senior day video. "We have such huge support for volleyball now; it's not just 'Go Jays,' it's 'Go Creighton Volleyball!'"

That same support has been a constant in her personal life, too.

"My parents are amazing," she said. "Growing up in a big family, it wasn't always easy for them to make everything, but some-

how they still find a way to be at almost every home game and a lot of away games."

Of all the seniors, Kiara Reinhardt has been around the longest. The middle blocker from Cedarburg, Wis., is in her sixth season with the Bluejays. She's led the Big East in blocks, ranks among the top hitters in the nation this season and, on Sunday, became the D.J. Sokol Arena record holder for solo blocks.

"She's been a leader for this program every year I've been here, so I can't picture this team without her," Rosen said. "She's so selfless ... she represents our program with the highest standards. Yes, she's really good at volleyball, but she's so much more than that."

Reinhardt stayed for a sixth season while earning her master's in nursing, helping guide a younger roster through change and challenge.

"It's been such a blessing to go through life with these girls," Reinhardt said. "They fight for one another and support each other through tough things outside of volleyball."

Her growth, she said, has been as much personal as athletic.

"I've grown so confident in my values and my leadership," Reinhardt said. "I've learned how to connect with teammates and really listen. It's been cool to let go of the things that don't matter and hold close to what does."

Her leadership on and off the court has shaped the team's play and its culture. Along with Maeder, Martin and McCune, she will help guide the Bluejays as they finish the regular season on the road at St. John's and Seton Hall. Then, they travel to Milwaukee for the Big East tournament, where they hope to win a sixth straight conference title.

Rosen said he hopes the looseness and energy the team showed against Georgetown will continue.

"I asked [the team] after the match, 'Can we recreate this? The feeling that you as an individual, as a team, had today, how can we recreate this moving forward?'" he said.

With that kind of energy, Creighton hopes to carry that joy straight through to the post-season. The Bluejays will go on the road for their final two regular season matches, squaring off with St. John's before closing out the schedule with a 4 p.m. matchup tomorrow at Seton Hall. With a pair of wins, Creighton will clinch their 12th straight Big East regular season title. First serve with the Red Storm is set for 6 p.m. tonight.