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Creightonian

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Omaha unveils new Central Library

City welcomes \$158 million project as space for learning and creativity



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr. cuts the ceremonial ribbon to mark the grand opening of the \$158 million Omaha Central Library on Sunday, April 19, at the intersection of 72nd and Dodge Streets.

LILIAN GARDNER News Editor

Where the words are more than symbols on pages here, birds echo in halls, nouns, scale the walls, tall tails seep into couch cushions and story time cars. Shadows swing from the starry night made of the ground floor lobby lap. Spreads like milk weed seed in our seats, we sprout, speak, meet, and greet over coffee sneak, midwestern readings, and passing between authors, creators, and master manifesters, comedians, designers, poets, and podcasters, fabricated futures, and spines wide enough to hold our history. The written and 3D printed genealogy and science fiction. This home marks a renaissance we can bear and hope.

-Nebraska State Poet Jewel Rodgers

Omaha's new Central Library officially opened Sunday, April 19, as community members, city leaders and project partners gathered at the intersection of 72nd and Dodge Streets for a public ceremony marking the debut of the facility. The event featured remarks from library officials, elected leaders and guest speakers before a ribbon cutting formally opened the building to the public.

The new library is intended to expand access to educational resources, digital tools and community programming, reflecting a broader investment in public learning spaces in central Omaha. Speakers throughout the ceremony emphasized the building as both a civic asset and a long-term investment in

literacy, technology access and community engagement.

OPL Executive Director Laura Marlane opened the program by emphasizing the library's focus on discovery and innovation. She highlighted features such as the automated storage and retrieval system, expanded research areas, and spaces designed for hands-on learning and exploration of local history.

"Or just wander the shelves and see what finds you," Marlane said. "This space was designed for discovery in all its forms."

She added that the library represents a shift in how public spaces function, pointing to its blend of traditional collections and emerging technology.

"Every part of this building reflects something important — that libraries are not just about where we've been; they're about where we're going," Marlane said. "And where we're going includes the next generation."

Marlane said the facility was designed with young people in mind not only as visitors, but as creators and leaders, noting that student interest had already emerged during construction.

King Maxwell, a junior at Creighton Preparatory School who has been recognized in youth arts and community programs across the Omaha metro area, was invited to share an original spoken word poem after reportedly reaching out during the building's development.

In his piece, "New Beginnings," Maxwell reflects on libraries as spaces where individual stories and shared experiences intersect.

"Today, a new chapter opens," Maxwell said. "Around us sits thousands of books, thousands of stories, no two the same. No two pages offer the same view of the world."

He continued, emphasizing the way those stories come to life within the space itself:

"Each one offers us a glimpse into lives we may never live, moments we may never see, perspectives we may never know. And here, inside the Omaha Central Library, when we walk through these doors, we are not just surrounded by stories, we become part of them."

Following his performance, Marlane recognized the collaboration behind the project, thanking Omaha Public Library staff, architects at HDR, construction firm Kiewit, and partners including the Omaha Public Library Foundation, Do Space and Heritage Omaha.

She also highlighted Heritage Omaha's financial contribution, calling it a major investment in literacy, digital equity and community development.

Nebraska State Poet Jewel Rodgers, who is the first African American to serve as Nebraska State Poet, followed with a spoken word performance that traced the evolution of libraries from quiet, restricted spaces into active, expressive community environments.

"I remember the librarian's hiss, striking a barrier between my childish wonder and the words between my lips," Rodgers said. "I learned then places like this were meant to be quiet."

She contrasted that past with the modern library experience:

"But you are lucky enough to be here now,

where words are more than symbols on pages ... birds echo in halls, nouns scale the walls, stories seep into couch cushions," she said. "We are patrons and libraries becoming one."

Rodgers described the library as a shared space of creativity and access:

"This is a place to find the sound of the living and to see them too," she said. "Your name, your dreams, your creations are worthy of this never-ending celebration."

Her performance drew visible reactions from attendees, underscoring the library's identity as both a cultural and civic space.

Omaha Mayor John Ewing Jr., Omaha's first ever African American mayor, closed the speaking program by praising the library as a modern public institution that combines traditional services with new technologies and community-centered design.

"This new Omaha Central Library does that and more," Ewing said. "It combines traditional library books and services with in-demand social amenities and state-of-the-art technologies."

He said the library's downtown location reinforces its role as a civic gathering point.

"This intersection has always been where Omaha comes to celebrate, to gather, to make their voices heard," Ewing said. "This library is the perfect fit here."

Ewing also pointed to the collaboration behind the project, crediting Heritage Omaha, city leadership, library staff and multiple public and private partners.

"We also had some amazing city council

TURN TO "Ink" PAGE 3

Creighton libraries lead AI literacy

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

As artificial intelligence continues to re-shape higher education, Creighton Libraries are positioning themselves as a campus hub for AI literacy, combining classroom instruction, emerging technology resources and research support to help students navigate a rapidly evolving landscape.

“When people think of AI, we hope that they think of the library,” said Yvonne Dooley, Head of Research & Instruction at Creighton University Libraries.

For Dooley, the effort is not simply about introducing students to new tools, but about building a broader framework for responsible and informed AI use. That work includes generative AI literacy learning outcomes designed to help students understand how AI works, use it effectively, evaluate its outputs and consider its broader social and ethical implications.

“This is a natural fit for us,” Dooley said, describing how AI literacies build upon the library’s traditional role in information literacy instruction.

That work has taken shape in classrooms across campus. Librarians have been integrating discussions of AI into instruction sessions, while also introducing students to tools supported by the library, including Keenious, Scopus AI, Scite and Research Rabbit.

“There’s two components to this,” said Ian Hughes, Research & Instruction Librarian for Humanities. “There’s the tool part, like the tools that we’re getting and then there’s the information literacy part.”

Hughes emphasized that the larger goal is not simply teaching students to use AI tools, but teaching them how to think critically about them.

“This is just a different type of information literacy. It’s AI literacy,” Hughes said.

Hughes said many of the same standards used in traditional information literacy apply to AI, including evaluating where information comes from and recognizing inherent bias in sources.

“Those same topics, when we teach that, we teach it to be critical the same way,” Hughes said. “It’s just a different way of doing it.”

He added that students must think critically not only about AI outputs, but about the data and sources that shape those outputs, including whose perspectives may be represented — or missing.

That includes helping students understand how to verify AI-generated information, recognize bias and approach outputs critically.

Rose Melonis, Research & Instruction Librarian for Social Sciences, said one major area of instruction involves helping students understand the limits of AI-generated answers, particularly hallucinations.

“Hallucinations are hard to detect because that’s the problem with AI is that it thinks it’s always right and it’s very much like this is the right answer, the end,” Melonis said.

“You just have to double check what the output is and make sure it’s real,” she said.

Melonis added that this is why AI should supplement, not replace, traditional research methods.

“You still want to use the databases, you still want to use the catalog,” Melonis said. “Those are real things in there.”

“It can be helpful as a tool, but not as the be-all and end-all tool,” Hughes said.

Melonis said librarians also work to distinguish between general generative AI tools and research-focused AI tools drawing from vetted databases.

“Keenious and Scopus AI are pulling from

official databases,” Melonis said. “There’s less of a chance of hallucinations for those than if it’s just pulling from the internet at large.”

Rather than promoting unrestricted AI use, librarians said much of their instruction centers on practical and ethical use, including when AI may be appropriate, how to use it responsibly and how to avoid academic dishonesty.

“I don’t know a single English teacher that would be fine with someone having ChatGPT write their paper for them,” Hughes said.

At the same time, Hughes pushed back on assumptions that students are uncritical users of AI.

“Students know more than some of them are giving them credit for,” Hughes said.

Beyond classroom instruction, librarians are also contributing to research on how students are engaging with artificial intelligence.

Hughes said Creighton librarians are working with a university in England on research focused on students’ opinions about AI, particularly among first-year students.

“We’re looking to publish research,” Hughes said. “One thing that I also noticed, students seem to be interested in how their careers are going to be impacted by AI.”

Beyond classroom instruction, the libraries are expanding access to AI through an Emerging Technologies Lab, part of a broader effort to grow AI-related services.

“We’re trying to be that bridge,” Dooley said, referring to the library’s role in helping students prepare for a workforce increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence.

“Students are expected to know how to use AI in the workforce,” Dooley said. “We want to help prepare students.”

That work, however, has not come without challenges.

Dooley said one major obstacle is integrating AI literacy instruction into already

crowded curricula.

“The biggest challenge is trying to really get faculty to let us in those classrooms,” Dooley said.

Librarians are also navigating the challenge of keeping pace with a technology that is evolving almost daily.

“Every day there’s a new advancement,” Dooley said.

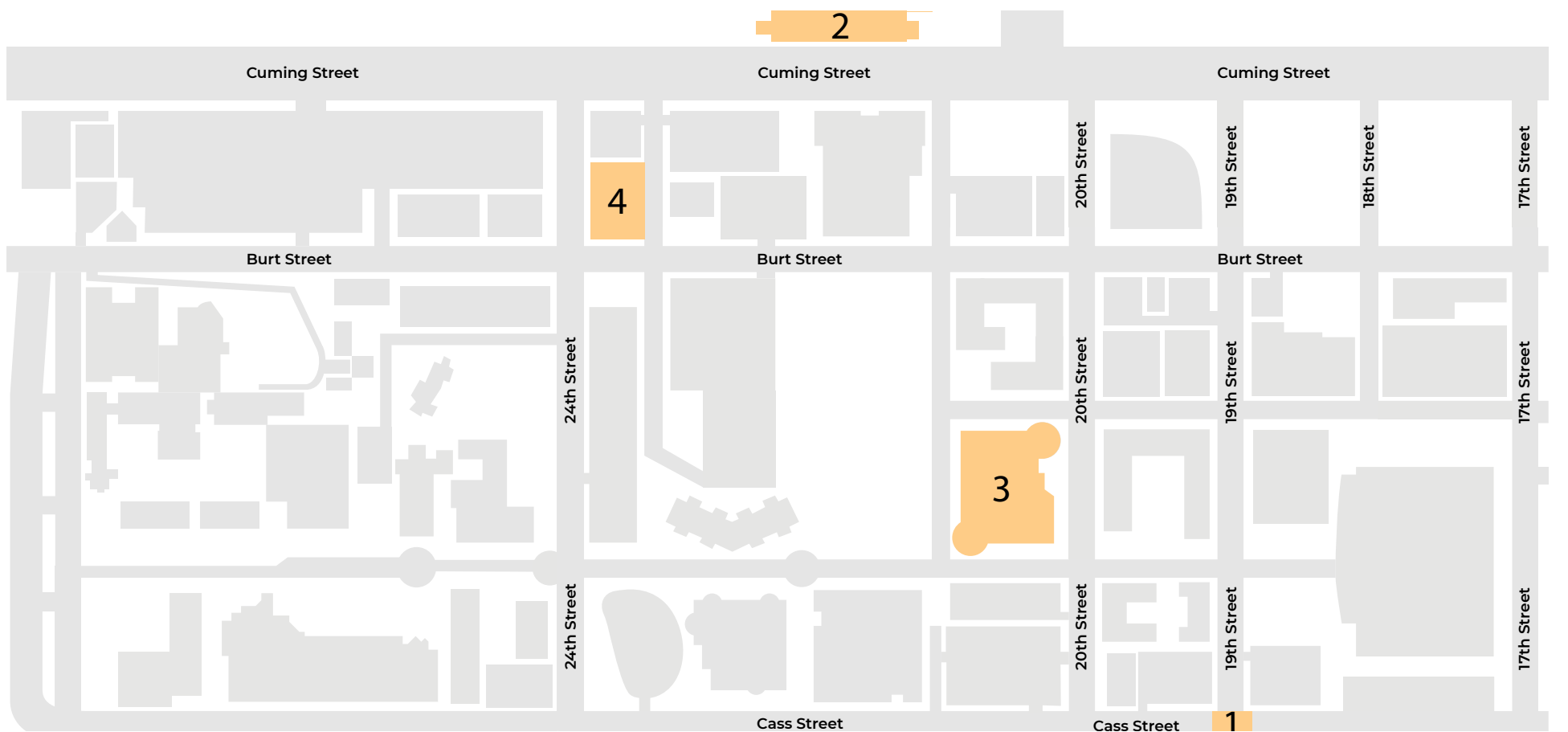
That rapid change, Hughes said, is one reason he sees AI less as a disruption that replaces work and more as a technology that changes how work is done.

“In the late 90’s, they told us the internet was going to take away a bunch of jobs,” Hughes said. “It just changed the way we did our jobs. And I feel that same way about AI.”

The initiative also aligns with the work of University Librarian Michael Paulus, whose scholarship and campus lecture, *The Place of AI in a Hope-Filled Future*, has helped shape the university’s broader conversations about artificial intelligence.

For Dooley, the goal in the coming years is to further establish the library as a central resource for students seeking guidance in a changing technological environment.

“Our goal in the next few years is to really solidify our literacy program around AI and really integrate ourselves into the curriculum,” Dooley said.

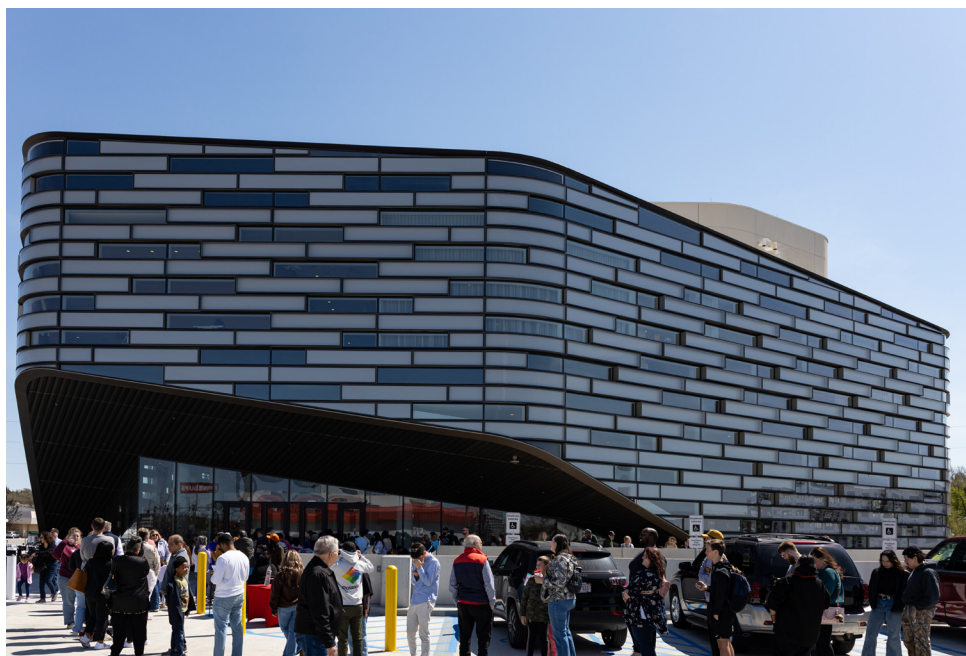


Weekly Campus Safety Report

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** April 14 - 11:45 a.m.
A student reported was struck by a vehicle while crossing Cass St. at 19th St. The vehicle then left the area without stopping. OFD and OPD responded, and Pub Safe transported the student to CHI CUMC.
- 2** April 17 - 3:29 p.m.
Officer observed graffiti on the hood of the Creighton Print and Post box truck parked in lot 19.
- 3** April 17 - 7:56 p.m.
Pub Safe responded to the Harper Center to assist with an intoxicated student who also fell and hit their head. Pub Safe transported the student to CHI CUMC for evaluation and entry into the TRAAC program.
- 4** April 19 - 2:10 p.m.
Pub Safe was approached by three non-affiliates who advised that they were going to “cause destruction” to Creighton’s campus. The parties were then seen driving around campus and departing prior to OPD arrival.

Ink, ideas and a new beginning



JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Community members explore the newly opened Omaha Central Library on Sunday, April 19 at the intersection of 72nd and Dodge Streets, browsing book stacks and gathering in common areas.

Continued from Page 1

members who have been part of this process as well," he said. "Great things don't happen like this without great leadership."

He added that the project represents a strong public-private partnership and praised donors for their role in making the library possible.

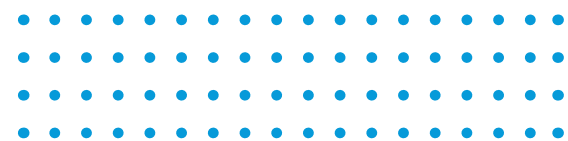
"I've had the opportunity to spend some

time in this space over the past few weeks, and it really is absolutely wonderful," Ewing said. "You'll be amazed by what you can create and discover in this building."

Following remarks, officials gathered for a

ribbon-cutting ceremony, officially opening the Omaha Central Library. Attendees were then invited to tour the facility, including reading areas, community spaces and interactive learning environments.

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'Nunsense' brings comedy to CU



COURTESY OF JIM WILLIAMS

Creighton's Department of Fine and Performing Arts' production of "Nunsense" featured comedic storytelling and crazy chorus lines, all while telling the story of the sisters of Hoboken.

CHLOE CARRILLO Scene Editor

The Creighton University Department of Fine and Performing Arts put on their spring production of "Nunsense," a musical comedy following 5 nun's and their journey to raise funds for their recently deceased sisters.

Upon walking into the theatre, pre-show, the Nuns from the show are walking around, welcoming people in and talking to them in character about the show. The creativity and fun atmosphere immerse the crowd as soon as they come inside.

The set was a beautifully crafted diner, which doesn't entirely make sense to the plot, but is explained quickly. Despite the initial confusion one might have, one cannot ignore the craftsmanship behind the design—it felt like one was transported through time. And, on the theatre walls were mock stained-glass art, that depicted a seemingly normal church window on the audience's left side, but look to the right, and notice a volcano erupting behind the woman depicted, now with a terrified look on her face. Set pieces and stylistic prop choices add immensely to the show and were impossible to overlook when watching the show.

The cast consisted of 5 nuns—one being the Mother Superior, Sister Mary Regina (played by Catherine Larson), Sister Mary Hubert (played by Emily Stover), Sister Robert Anne (played by Erin White), Sister Mary Amnesia (played by Eliza Neff), and Sister Mary Leo (played by Ava Welter). Together, they are the (surviving) sisters of Hoboken and are welcoming the audience to their variety show fundraiser.

Each nun had their own big personality, which added to the show. Mary Regina was the Mother Superior, in charge of the entire operation. Mary Hubert was the novice educator and was kind of second-in-line to the Mother Superior (regardless of whether she wanted to be or not). Robert Anne is rough-around-the-edges and sometimes overlooked

but brings a big personality (and an even bigger Brooklyn accent). Mary Amnesia doesn't get her name for nothing—for the majority of the show; she is trying to remember who she is (amongst many other things). And, last but certainly not least, Mary Leo is a novice Nun who is aspiring to be the first ballerina nun.

The audience quickly learns that they are at the show to support fundraising to help the sisters afford to bury some of their sisters after their cook poisoned the majority of their convent. Their show happens to be in a school auditorium, and that school is putting on a production of "Grease," hence the diner-themed set they perform in.

The beginning of the first act is full of backstory—and the audience should do well to remember the backstory, as Sister Mary Amnesia quizzes the audience on how they got to their circumstances. The crowd work done in the show exemplifies the amount of care and creativity that is cultivated by both the cast and staff involved in the show and ensures the fun atmosphere of the show. Seeing fellow students get yelled at for not standing while speaking to a nun, or for interrupting one was not something any audience member would soon forget.

The first act continues with the stories of each of the nuns—Sister Mary Leo's dance aspirations, Sister Mary Hubert's past dreams of becoming Mother Superior, Sister Robert Anne's acting and singing ambitions, and Sister Mary Amnesia's encouragement of becoming a nun and her struggle to remember who she is.

All while these stories are being told, it is revealed that the health inspectors will be coming to their convent, and that, unfortunately, some of their sisters are still unburied—and stored in a freezer, which increases the stress around their fundraising efforts.

As the conflict comes to a head, Mother Superior is made aware of a mystery bag containing a rather strong substance found in the locker room of the school. She gives the small bottle a whiff, and, well, one could say she was in a rather heightened state of reality and

was feeling the rush.

The embodiment of each character is something that also cannot be ignored, and every actress should applaud themselves for the sheer comedy and level of performance shown in the production.

In the second act, the stress continues, with an unhelpful Mother Superior. The act opens with a reminiscent song on "Growing up Catholic," with all the sisters, and go over rules of Catholicism—all with a humorous twist of course. They continue with their impending doom from the upcoming health inspection, and this leads to an unlikely truce between Sister Mary Hubert and the Mother Superior. While it seems, everything is looking down for the sisters, Sister Robert Anne finally gets her chance to "be a star," which is both comedic and heartwarming for the audience.

The biggest shock to myself in the second act was the reveal of Sister Mary Amnesia's memory resurgence—her real name is Sister Mary Paul, who was an aspiring country singer in Nashville. To make matters better, she was a recipient of a cash prize in a singing competition before the food-poisoning tragedy, which is the obvious resolve of the burial-funding problem.

The show reaches its conclusion with the song "Holier Than Thou" which says just that—one should "pick a saint to emulate," strive to be like that saint, and achieve being "Holier Than Thou."

In all, the performance was a delight—as someone who walked in not knowing at all what they were walking in to, or much about nuns at all, the show was full of shocks, gag-worthy one-liners, and even nuns carrying witches brooms and scythes.

The tech aspect of the show was also a phenomenal addition to production—the light design added to each mood or situation portrayed, and the creative and sometimes humorous use of the spotlight added an extra polish onto the show. The live orchestra on stage also did a wonderful job, and I am of the sentiment that live music always adds

to a production, and the choreography that accompanied the musicality expressed each sentiment nicely.

The creativity and community cultivated in the show is something that shines through production. Upon conversation with Eliza Neff and Erin White, College of Arts and Sciences Sophomores (played Sister Mary Amnesia and Sister Robert Anne), and Bella Loftus, College of Arts and Sciences Junior (Assistant Lighting Designer), it was evident that creativity, fellowship and artistic freedom was something that is heavily encouraged by the Fine and Performing Arts department.

"I think my favorite part of this production was the people. Getting to work on the show with some of my best friends was super rewarding, and it was really meaningful to be able to create art with people that mean so much to me," White responded when asked about her favorite aspect of the show.

"Amy Lane (Director) gave us so much free reign and so much room to experiment with our characters throughout... I felt like I very much had a space to experiment with the character and have fun with the character, and then later have fun with the audience," Neff mentioned of her experience.

Bella Loftus, when asked about what she wished Creighton students knew about the program, she emphasized accessibility and the ease of expression in the program.

"I would like to encourage people to learn more about our theater program — where it is on campus, and how to get involved because it is a really accessible program. Not a lot of programs allow for major non-major or minors to get involved...It's such a hidden gem. It's such a joy to be a part of," Loftus said.

For anyone who might have missed this year's production of "Nunsense," the season for the 2026-27 school year has been announced. "The Trojan Women" will run from Sept. 23 to 27, 2026; "Proof" will run from Feb. 17 to 21, 2027; and "Little Women: The Broadway Musical" will run from April 14 to 18, 2027.

The greatest yoga of all time

BEHLA SCHMIDT
Assitant Scene Editor

As the spring weather has finally been taking its course and classes are beginning to wind down, students are surely looking for ways to de-stress and enjoy the sunshine before final exams can fully sink their claws in. To curate such uplifting vibes, Creighton Student's Union (CSU) Program Board hosted their annual Spring Jam, spanning over the week of April 13 to 18, in which many exciting events and activities for students to enjoy were featured.

The festivities began on Tuesday with bubble soccer and other yard games in the Rasmusen Center to promote some friendly competition. The following day, for their weekly Wednesday's After Class (WAC) activity, a popsicle truck was parked in between Swanson Hall and Kiewit Fitness Center, enticing all that passed by to stop for a sweet treat.

Why go to Coachella when you can experience the next best thing? On Thursday, Program Board hosted their very own Creighcella, offering students and other music groups the opportunity to perform in Graves Courtyard. While enjoying the music, attendees were also able to craft their own bouquets from flowers provided by The Kindling Company Flower Truck, as well as munch on provided snacks. Additionally, Friday night featured bouncy houses on the courts of the KFC, granting participants an excuse to let their inner child freely rampage for a few hours.

On Saturday morning, the long-awaited event of the week had finally arrived: goat yoga. With only two classes offered, one at 10 a.m. and the other at 11 a.m., it was evident from the full sign-up sheet and running waitlist, as well as the packed bus on the way to the class, that all were eager to attend this activity.

Found in Douglas County, JAMS Goat Yoga

is located on a farm about twenty minutes outside of Omaha in the countryside. By combining therapeutic yoga and stretching practices with goats, the family-owned business strives to promote a relaxing experience in which all participants, human and animal, can interact and have fun. The classes are held outdoors in a fenced area, allowing the goats to wander around and even jump on individuals as the class is led. Such an immersive approach ultimately helps foster a sense of authenticity and contributes to the light-hearted atmosphere.

The session began with several deep breathing techniques to release any tensions. Shortly after, the instructor led everyone through a series of stretches, while encouraging us to focus on our surroundings: the cool crisp breeze, the faint chanting from birds perched high in the trees and the cloudless blue sky. During this time, the goats roamed around, skeptically observing from corners of the pen, until some gained the courage to come closer or were guided by the other employees. We were also able to hold several of the goats, notably the five new babies that had recently joined the herd.

The calming and whimsical ambiance continued throughout the session, as we transitioned from pose to pose, laughing and awing as the goats scurried around the yard. Overall, the class was very beginner-friendly, and the instructor did a great job of keeping everyone engaged, despite all the excitement from the presence of the furry participants. As things came to a close, everyone in attendance was reluctant to leave our new friends behind, giving them one last pat as we left the pen.

Unsurprisingly, this event was ultimately a hit and permitted students to reconnect with nature, decompress and enjoy one of the last weekends before the semester concludes. As we look ahead to the next few weeks, be sure to find the time to appreciate the small things or try something new.



BEHLA SCHMIDT/THE CREIGHTONIAN

The Creighton Students Union Program Board invited students to a plethora of spring-inspired events, including a trip to JAMS Goat Yoga to decompress with some fluffy goat friends.

April 24
Friday

Fushion Series- Bike & Burn

3:30 PM
KFC 135

KFC Wind Down

4:00 PM
Skutt 104

April 25
Saturday

Jay Journals

6:00 PM
Skutt 104

April 26
Sunday

Best Buddies Annual Spring Fling Dance

12:00 PM
Creighton University

Volunteering at Ronald McDonald House

3:00-4:00 PM
Ronald McDonald House

April 27
Monday

Belonging Chats

10:00 AM
LL Brandeis Conference Room

Spring Fever

4:00 PM
Skutt Ballroom

Mindful Monday- Blender Bike

5:00 PM
KFC Spine

Athletic Director Speaker Panel

5:30 PM
Harper Auditorium

Creighton Film Club Movie Discussion

7:30 PM
Harper 3006E

April 28
Tuesday

Letters of Love: Sundaes and Crafts

6:00 PM
Harper

Creighton in Common- Mamma Mia

6:00 PM
Orpheum Theatre

April 29
Wednesday

Denim Day Giveaway

11:00 AM
Skinner Mall Table

Wednesdays After Class (WAC)

1:30-3:30 PM
Skutt Student Center

Drop-in Spanish Tutoring

5:00 PM
Hitchcock 108

Finals Study Hall with Women in Business Club

5:00 PM
Harper

Entrepreneurship Club General Club Meeting

5:30 PM
Harper 2079

April 30
Thursday

Water Balloon Battle

3:30 PM
KFC Lawn

Let Consent Bloom

4:00 PM
The Mall

Destress and Create Slime

6:00 PM
Eppley 210

Earth Month Lecture- Public Health and Justice

6:30 PM
Harper Auditorium

Gut Feelings General Meeting- Pickleball

6:30 PM
KFC Court

Artificial intelligence in sports:

Do fans want precision or passion?

ABBIE GALLANT
Opinion Writer

The biggest mistake we as sports fans make today is thinking that the Artificial Intelligence (AI) debate in sports is about technology. It's not. It's about the fan identity crisis. We complain and shout at the TV when the referee or umpire makes a bad call, but we worry about AI's power, even when we assume the technology is making the perfect call. This debate of tradition versus innovation begins because we can't decide what we value most: accuracy or humanity.

Valuing accuracy means seeing sport as a science. It is the belief that the primary goal of sports is to find the true winner, leaning on AI to eliminate the issue of human error so that the game is decided strictly by performance, not a missed call.

On the other hand, those that value humanity see sport as narrative. The primary goal of sports is not to see complete accuracy, but to witness human struggle. It means that — though the fans might not like it at the time — an umpire's bad call or a bad bounce of the ball is a part of the collective experience.

Let's take the example of going to a baseball game. You and your friends are sitting shoulder to shoulder in the bleachers, hotdog in hand, watching the final inning. Your team needs

one run to tie as the best hitter on your team steps up to the plate.

The bases are loaded, there are two outs, and the batter is down two strikes to three balls. Stakes are high, as a strikeout ends the game and a ball brings in the tying run. On the next pitch, the umpire calls a strike when the ball is clearly wide of the zone. Unbelievable!

In today's MLB, this disaster would be a non-issue. Under the new challenge system, a pitcher, catcher or batter could simply signal the umpire to consult AI for the call. The technology would reveal the ball was wide, the call would be overturned and your team would walk in the tying run. Crisis averted, mathematically speaking.

But in this scenario, let's say this technology doesn't exist. It's game over, and you're yelling at the umpire, turning to those next to you on the bleachers to talk about the "botched" call. Yes, your team lost, but you've gained something else: the collective bond of a community united by the same "unjust" story.

This situation begs the question: is forming a connection with those next to you a quintessential part of going to a sports game? Or do we place more value on the AI umpire getting the call right?

TOP OF ZONE



TOP OF KNEE

tion: is forming a connection with those next to you a quintessential part of going to a sports game? Or do we place more value on the AI umpire getting the call right?

The public's hesitation to answer this question is reflected in the data, as a Sports Business Journal study found that nearly 70% of fans are either actively skeptical of AI or completely indifferent to its benefits.

On one hand, prioritizing accuracy trades the human drama of a "blown call" for simulation-like precision, potentially erasing the legendary outcomes that only happen when a game is allowed to be imperfect. It means losing the dialogue and innate connection when someone scoffs, "Did you see that call last night?" and you have something to bond with a near-stranger over.

But prioritizing humanity means accepting that sport can be inherently unfair. It means sometimes valuing the "human experience" — yelling at umpires and referees with the people around you — over an objective truth that the human eye missed.

Sports organizations like the MLB seem to be in the same stalemate as fans, as the ABS system makes the AI strike zone a limited resource in an attempt to find a desperate middle ground: they want to offer a safety net of accuracy — just in case — while desperately clinging to the traditional experience of a human umpire.

This compromise, however, is not sustainable. As AI continues its rapid development and looks to emulate high degrees of perfection, it's going to be hard for sports teams and organizations to turn down opportunities for line call accuracy in exchange for missed calls.

Before the "human element" is fully ousted from the game, we fans must stop debating about the technology and start addressing our own identity crisis, deciding what we value before the organizations make that decision for us.

On time is on time

MIA CASTRO
Opinion Writer

"Early is on time, on time is late and late is unacceptable."

Why have we normalized this saying? I don't understand the trend of needing to be 15 minutes early everywhere. I've always figured it was kind of a senseless saying, but as I become exposed to the business world, I feel surrounded by this early bird lifestyle more and more.

I blame the emerging hustle culture in both the professional and personal aspects of people's lives. Everyone is so preoccupied with making the most spotless impression that it's driven people to compulsively obsess over being the most perfect. Whether it's whoever's the most accomplished, most professional or most knowledgeable, the early bird phenomenon is definitely caused by this hyper-perfectionism. Being late is part of human nature. And outside of being late, I truly don't believe I should have to beat myself up just because I am arriving somewhere at the time I'm literally being told to arrive.

Plus, with the rise of technology like texts, calls, Find My, Life360 and more, we've all become hyper-sensitive to being on time to events. It's now so easy to see others' ETA and whereabouts that people have become oversensitive to being just slightly late. It's all just unnecessary. It's okay to have to wait a couple of minutes for a friend to show up; I promise the world won't end as you know it when your meeting starts two minutes later than it should. You'll be fine.

Also, I feel I must state the obvious: if there is a specific time to get somewhere, shouldn't that be the time we arrive? Because otherwise the event itself should be listed as the time 15 minutes before. Has this concept dissipated from all our minds?

I understand what the idea of being early is going for — professionalism and timeliness — and truly, I respect it, but I feel that it encroaches on the concepts of scheduling and planning. Without trying to sound dramatic, it undermines the very idea of our timing system if we have to plan to get everywhere 15 minutes early. It's unrealistic and much too demanding.

If it were up to me, I'd normalize the standard clock again. Bring back being on time.

Touch grass (seriously)

CECE SLADOVNIK
Assistant Opinion Editor

I love the first warm days of spring on campus. The fountain turns on, the rocking chairs roll out and everyone creeps from the depths of their dorms and desks to join each other on the mall. For a few days, everyone seems to recognize how much of a gift it is to be outside. I only wish we could continue this warm enthusiasm. As we head into the summer, there is no excuse not to spend more time outdoors.

Humans are designed to be outside. Studies show that only looking at the sharp right angles of the indoors can be harmful to both our creativity and happiness. Conversely, viewing the complex, repeating patterns found only in nature, including clouds, tree branches and rivers, reduces stress and mental fatigue. Living a sedentary lifestyle and inundating our brains with constant entertainment has sadly become far too normalized. Going outside, something that for ages was a natural part of human existence, is now something we must make a conscious effort to include in our days. Instead of recognizing



CECE SLADOVNIK/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Students get the chance to catch up with friends and thaw out after a long winter while sitting on the mall. Sunlight exposure is known to boost mood and creativity and reduce anxiety.



it as a need, we treat being outside as a hobby or something superfluous.

It is preposterous to me how overlooked outside time is by society because spending time outdoors brings us everything that makes our lives good and enjoyable. We find community through shared outdoor activities, or just through being in public and greeting the people around us. Movement and fresh air can heal a soul and bring a positive outlook to the worst days. You don't need special vitamins or a crazy morning routine to lower cortisol levels; you just need to be hit with direct sunlight for a few minutes.

I always hear people lamenting about how kids now, compared to when we were little, do not spend enough time playing outdoors. Instead, they are inside playing Roblox or learning new brain rot terms. But what about us? If we get into the habit of never going outside, the generations after us will have no one to learn from. Spending more time outside daily can have instrumental effects on the health, creativity and happiness of our society for years to come.

As spring turns into summer, I implore you to spend more time outside. Plan a sand volleyball or pickleball night with friends. Walk to the farmer's market. Park in a farther spot in the grocery store parking lot on purpose. Do your work on a bench on the mall. Even a ten-minute walk outside can do wonderful things for your wellbeing.

Softball stays hot, sweeps St. John's

ABBIE GALLANT Sports Reporter

The Creighton softball team is on a tear, winning seven of its last contests and outscoring its opponents by four or more runs in five of these victories. Their most recent victim? A St. John's softball squad, led by pitcher Ana Serafinko. Serafinko entered the beginning of the April 17-18 weekend series as the second-ranked pitcher nationally, with 214 strikeouts, and led the Big East with a 2.70 ERA.

In a three-game, two-day, one doubleheader weekend series, the Bluejays emerged with their first sweep of St. John's, completing a 2-0 victory on day one and following it up with 11-6 and 13-6 results on the second day.

Here are three takeaways from the Bluejays' series victory:

#1 - Freshman phenom Audrey Gilman served as a pitching anchor

Since coming to Creighton, freshman starting pitcher Audrey Gilman has made a splash. Her most recent outing against the Red Storm was no exception. Her collective 14 innings of pitching over two days yielded eight strikeouts and helped the Bluejays complete wins on the bookended games of the sweep.

In the first game, Gilman made her seventh complete-game appearance, striking out three batters, allowing just six hits and recording her second shutout of the season.

Her pitching performance set the tone for the entire series, allowing the Creighton batters to feel out Red Storm pitcher, Serafinko, while making those two Bluejay runs count by keeping St. John's quiet on the defensive end. Gilman also showed veteran poise in that game, as she worked herself out of a third inning jam in the opener and proceeded to throw four innings that allowed just two runners to get to base.

Then, after a brief hiatus from the first game of the doubleheader the next day, Gilman came back to the mound that evening and got her 13th win of the season by striking out five batters in seven innings.

Gilman's presence at the mound was critical for Creighton's success against their Big East opponent, as the freshman made plays at critical times and demonstrated veteran coolness under pressure to help give the Bluejays the win.

#2 - The youth movement showed underclassmen can help carry the load

The underclassmen's success didn't stop at the mound in this series. Underclassmen also ruled the day at other positions in Creighton's weekend sweep.

Sophomore Tara Vandewater was effective at bat, going 5-for-7 and racking up nine RBI over the two doubleheader games, where Creighton outscored St. John's 24-12 collectively. She also drilled a three-run home run in the second contest of the double header.

The nine RBI showing pushed Vandewater's season-total RBI to 52, moving the sophomore into third place on the list of Creighton single season RBI.

Freshman Keegan Mayhue also stood out as a heavy impact player in the first game on Saturday. The freshman infielder changed the game in the third inning, hitting a three-run home run that allowed the Bluejays to retake the lead, 6-5. Her RBI bomb marked the 11th for the freshman, a team high.

The relief pitcher position also saw an underclassman shine, as sophomore Landrie Harris secured the 11-6 win for the Bluejays with 6.1 innings of pitching. She allowed just one run on six hits and delivered three strikeouts in the outing.

The moral of the story? Creighton's underclassmen demonstrated their increasing comfortability at the plate and on the mound this series, making major plays for their team and turning heads while doing so. Having these types of clutch players so early into their Creighton careers is incredibly exciting for the present and future Bluejay rosters.

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#3- The Bluejays have a 'big inning' mentality

After the first game of the series where the Bluejays secured the win with two runs in the third inning and pitching effectively sealed the game, one of the biggest takeaways for Creighton was its ability to extend the inning.

The Bluejays had four momentum-shifting innings with more than four runs over the weekend. The first came in the second game

of the series, where Creighton trailed 5-1 heading into the third inning after St. John's got off to a hot start. The Bluejay squad responded in big fashion, tying the game with five runs in the third and then going on to score four more runs in the fifth inning.

This mentality not only showed itself when Creighton's got out of a jam in the second game and emerged victorious, but also when they made a splash in the next game from the first pitch.

In the second game of the doubleheader that afternoon, Creighton had a four-run first inning and followed it up with three more in the second. They ended the game with four more runs in the seventh inning, effectively demoralizing the Red Storm and allowing for a comfortable 13-6 victory.

The importance of this "big game" mentality lies in the fact that Creighton has won 55 of its 56 games when it has scored 10 or more runs. The Bluejays are also undefeated, 16-0, when they have run in at least eight runs in a game.

This means that the sweep at St. John's wasn't a fluke. The Bluejays just showed once again that when their batters can fall into rhythm and can turn a one run inning into a multi-run inning, the chances of success are significantly higher.

Now, with another set of road victories complete, the Bluejays will now look to continue their momentum this weekend, as the Connecticut Huskies play host to the Bluejays starting today at 6 p.m.

Bluejays dominate Wildcats in sweep

Creighton piles up runs behind big innings and consistent hitting in a three-game road sweep of Villanova.

AIDAN FLAIRTY Sports Reporter

A tough midweek loss to Nebraska in Lincoln didn't slow the Creighton baseball team's momentum as the Bluejays arrived in the Philadelphia area having won four of their last five games before starting a weekend road series against the Villanova Wildcats.

The Bluejays went into the game with an overall record of 18-16 and a Big East record of 4-2, while the Wildcats had an underwhelming record of 12-20 and were winless in Big East play at 0-6.

The first game of the series was played on Friday. This contest had a relatively slow start with the score being tied at 0 going into the bottom of the fourth, but the Wildcats quickly changed this. Villanova scored four runs in the bottom of the fourth inning, taking advantage of two hit-by-pitches and a Creighton throwing error. After putting two runners on, the error moved both into scoring position, and a subsequent hit-by-pitch loaded the bases. A two-run single up the middle opened the scoring, and after a sacrifice bunt advanced the runners, another two-run single grew the Wildcats lead to 4-0.

Creighton fought back and scored seven runs in the top of the seventh inning to take

the lead. Graduate student outfielder Teddy Deters led off with a single, and after graduate student infielder/outfielder Chris Baillargeon doubled to put two in scoring position, a walk loaded the bases after a Villanova pitching change. Sophomore infielder Nick Venteicher delivered a two-run single to get Creighton on the board, and after a strikeout, senior catcher Nate McHugh added an RBI single to cut the deficit to one. Graduate student infielder Ben North followed with another RBI single to tie the game at 4-4.

Creighton then took the lead on a fielder's choice that brought in one run, while a throwing error on the play allowed two more to score. Deters capped the inning with an RBI single, plating an unearned run to make the score 7-4 in favor of the Bluejays going into the seventh inning stretch.

Creighton put on a couple more runs in the ninth thanks to a two-run homer by Baillargeon. The Wildcats failed to answer in the bottom of the inning, and the Bluejays earned the win by a final score of 9-4.

Due to weather concerns in the Philadelphia area, the second and third games of the series were played in a double-header on Saturday. First pitch was at 10:30 a.m., and soon it turned into an absolute blowout; Creighton scored five runs in the top of the second inning. After an early out, Deters doubled to center field and scored on Baillargeon's two-run homer. The Bluejays kept things going with a hit-by-pitch and a single. After a walk loaded the bases, North cleared them with a three-run double to right center to give the Bluejays a 5-0 lead.

Creighton extended their lead to 7-0 in the top of the fourth due to a two-run home run by Venteicher. Despite recording just one hit, Villanova showed some life and scored two runs in the bottom of the inning, cutting the

Bluejay lead to 7-2. Creighton eventually responded when graduate-student outfielder Lew Rice had an RBI double that made the score 8-2 in favor of the Bluejays.

The top of the seventh is when the game got out of control; Creighton had five hits and nine runs which built the Bluejays' lead to 17-2.

Creighton continued to show their offensive prowess and added three runs in the top of the eighth inning. After Venteicher walked and moved to third on Rice's single, McHugh drove him in with an RBI double to left. Later in the inning, redshirt-sophomore infielder Jaxon Goldberg delivered a two-run single through the right side, scoring both McHugh and Rice. This gave Creighton a commanding 20-2 lead. Neither team scored in the ninth inning, and Creighton earned the victory by a final score of 20-2.

The third game of the series started at 2 p.m. on Saturday. Villanova took an early lead with a home run in the bottom of the first inning. However, Creighton built a decent lead by scoring five runs in the top of the second. After loading the bases with a walk, hit-by-pitch and a single, a hit-by-pitch brought in the first Bluejay run of the game. A sacrifice fly gave Creighton the lead, and later a ground-out drove in another run. With the bases still loaded, a walk and another hit-by-pitch each forced in a run to give the Bluejays a 5-1 lead going into the bottom of the second.

Creighton broke the game open with five more runs in the top of the fourth. After putting runners on and moving them into scoring position on a wild pitch, Capece cleared the bases with a three-run double to left center. Later in the inning, Venteicher added an RBI single to bring in another run, and an error by the catcher on a steal attempt allowed an additional unearned run to score. This

gave the Bluejays a commanding 10-1 lead.

The Bluejays had no mercy and added two more runs in the top of the fifth. North doubled to start the inning, and Wachsmann was hit by a pitch. The two then pulled off a double steal to move into scoring position, and Capece brought them both home with a two-run single to right field. This extended Creighton's lead to 12-1.

The Wildcats were not ready to give up, though. Villanova scored two runs in the bottom of the seventh, taking advantage of aggressive baserunning and a Creighton error. After putting runners on, freshman shortstop Larry Hotaling stole home to score the first run. Later in the inning, freshman outfielder Jack Roventini came around to score on a single by sophomore utility JoJo Montgomery, aided by a throwing error, resulting in an unearned run. This cut Creighton's lead to 12-3.

Even with a big lead, the Bluejays kept their feet on the gas. Creighton added two runs in the eighth. Gump led off with a triple and scored on a wild pitch, and later in the inning, McHugh drove in another run with an RBI single after Venteicher walked and advanced to third on Rice's single. This made the score 14-3 in favor of the Bluejays. Neither team would score another run, and Creighton earned the win and the series sweep.

The series improved Creighton's overall record to 21-16 and 7-2 in Big East play. The Bluejays host Butler this weekend at Charles Schwab Field. First pitch this evening at 6 p.m.



THOMAS ZIEGLER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Junior outside hitter Trinity Shadd-Ceres, sophomore outside hitter Abbey Hayes, and junior middle blocker Ayden Ames celebrate after winning a scrappy point against Nebraska on Friday.

Jays debut new talent in spring match

SUSAN BRUEGGEMAN
Sports Editor

Over the past few weeks, Creighton volleyball has held its spring matches to open up the 2026-27 season. While facing off against the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Kansas, Kansas State, Missouri and previously No. 1 ranked Nebraska, the Jays have shown promise of a strong season ahead.

This past weekend, the Bluejays took on the Nebraska Cornhuskers in front of a sold-out crowd at D.J. Sokol Arena. The fans were excited to see Creighton volleyball back in action and the potential for what the lineup may look like in the fall.

With strong seniors such as outside hitter Ava Martin, setter Annalea Maeder and middle Kiara Reinhardt graduating, there are positions up for grabs on the starting roster. Here are five takeaways from the spring season that fans will be seeing for the Jays in the fall.

#1 - The new addition of outside hitter Trinity Shadd-Ceres

Coming from University of Wisconsin, the Ontario, Canada native has already made an incredible impact on Creighton's offense even in her short time on campus. The 5' 11" junior is looking impressive in both the outside hitter position and offensively out of the back row.

In the match against Nebraska, Shadd-Ceres had seven kills with a .267 hitting percentage. Her presence brings a new, exciting presence to the Bluejay team. With a 10' 9" vertical according to the Joncast podcast out of Madison, Wisconsin, Shadd-Ceres is an athlete and force to be reckoned with.

"She may also be the best overall athlete in any sport to come through! Trinity is so explosive off the floor, has a great arm and ability to play six rotations," head coach Brian Rosen said.

#2 - Freshmen impressed in their first match at D.J. Sokol Arena

The two freshmen who arrived on campus early have already made their impact. Setter Rayna Christianson, a Lakeville, Minnesota native ran a 6-2 along with veteran setter Ivy Leuck. Christianson looked promising putting up 14 assists along with two service aces

in the match against Nebraska. She was also able to play a 5-1 in the fourth, running the offense by herself.

"Rayna did a really nice job running the offense in that fourth set which is something

eight-point serving run in the fourth set, she propelled the Bluejays to a 25-15 set win.

Carlson began her volleyball career in high school as an outside hitter but committed to Creighton as a defensive specialist and libero.

open to change, [the] tempo is really different for me compared to my high school. I think I just want to be ... more open to coaching and know that I have way more to improve on," Christianson said.

#3 - Veteran liberos shape a polished defense

The back row appears to be a major strength. Senior Sydney Breissinger served as libero for the first two sets, while junior Saige Damrow took over for the next two, signaling that the Bluejays may rotate the role between the two throughout the season.

Last year, Damrow opened the season as a libero before moving to defensive specialist in late September against Kansas, with Breissinger handling libero duties for most of the year. Together, they form an impressive passing tandem. Both are also particularly skilled at serve receive, giving Creighton a strong defensive unit.

#4 - Middle blockers will dominate the offense

Creighton has always been a dominant middle blocking team, and this year will be no exception at that position.

Eloise Brandewie, who is entering her senior season, has continued to make an impact on the offense. Starting frequently last year, Brandewie blocks strongly on the other side of the net no matter who she is up against. In the Nebraska match, she earned herself a solo block against middle Andi Jackson, who is one of the best in the country.

Junior Nora Wurtz will also be returning for the Creighton offense. Wurtz who is known for her killer serve, earned an ace in the third set. Her height and float serve bring a new look to the team and make her serve nearly impossible to receive.

The newest middle for the Jays is junior Ayden Ames. Coming from the University of Texas, Ames led the Longhorns on their Elite 8 run with 109 blocks on the season. Against Nebraska, she finished the match with seven kills and experienced her first time in the Creighton atmosphere at D.J. Sokol Arena.

"Creighton fans really showed up, and our team had a great fight. It was just awesome to see the gym look like that," Ames said.



THOMAS ZIEGLER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Junior Trinity Shadd-Ceres rises to lay down a tip in the match against Nebraska. Shadd-Ceres, a transfer, from Wisconsin had 10 kills on 21 attempts during her first match at DJ Sokol.

new for her at this level," Coach Rosen said.

The second new recruit, Peyton Carlson, a defensive specialist, got her time on the court in the second and fourth sets. Going on an

Both freshmen seem that they will be playing integral roles on the team come fall season as they continue to find their footing.

"I just noticed that I have to be a lot more