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Creightonian

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Hendrickson shares campus vision

LILIAN GARDNER
News Editor

Creighton University President the Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, S.J., Ph.D., discussed the university's enrollment growth, campus development projects and future priorities during a town hall hosted by the Creighton Students Union on Wednesday, Nov. 11, in the Harper Center.

Hendrickson began by highlighting the university's enrollment, noting that Creighton had reached its largest overall enrollment to date. The Omaha campus has nearly 8,000 students, while the Phoenix campus has approximately 1,000 students and is at full capacity.

"We're just thrilled that Creighton continues to be a real source of attraction to folks like you who add so much to this community year in and year out," Hendrickson said.

He also discussed the university's continuing education programs, which offer professional badges, credentials and opportunities for those looking to develop new skills. Although the College of Professional and Continuing Education has a smaller traditional degree enrollment, Hendrickson said it has more than 6,000 additional engagements through these programs.

"Sometimes people need to reskill or upskill or just keep moving on in their careers in different ways," he said.

Hendrickson then moved into Creighton's campus master plan, which began shortly after he became president in 2015. He said the university started by examining how campus functions and what students need for learning and living.



CHAD ROHRER/THE CREIGHTONIAN

CSU President Andrew Nelson leads a Q&A with Fr. Daniel Hendrickson during the town hall.

The university has relocated much of its student housing toward the center of campus, with approximately 1,300 students now living in the area. Graves Hall opened three years ago, followed by Magis Hall this year. Hendrickson also discussed plans to bring intramural sports, recreation and athletics together in a central recreation corridor.

"We started almost immediately just thinking about how does this campus function? What do the students want and need for learning and living?" Hendrickson said.

He reviewed several projects completed during his presidency, including the Werner Center for Health Sciences, the School of Dentistry, the pedestrian bridge and improvements to 24th Street. He also highlighted the redevelopment of the former university hospital property, which was reportedly sold for $1 and redeveloped by Atlas Partners through a $110 million investment.

Hendrickson said the redesign of 24th Street was intended to make the area more recognizable as part of Creighton's campus. He also highlighted improvements to campus housing, the Jesuit residence, the campus fountain and athletic facilities.

One of the newest additions to Creighton's campus, the Creighton Quad, opened the following day, Nov. 12. Hendrickson said the project was designed to give students more green space and a place to gather. It also serves to advocate for the campus sustainability values, with 189 new trees.

The presentation then shifted toward future infrastructure plans. Hendrickson said the university received approximately 11 blocks of Burt Street from the city of Omaha and is working on financing to transform the area into a greenway with a bike path connecting campus to downtown.

"We asked the mayor, we said, 'Mayor, we own both sides of Burt Street,'" Hendrickson said. "We'd like to either vacate Burt Street to Creighton and give Creighton the ownership of the rights of Burt Street, and we don't want to pay for it. We'd like it as a gift. And they did [give it to us as a gift]."

The university is also considering improvements to 19th and 20th streets, including updated sidewalks and pedestrian features. Hendrickson presented additional possibilities for campus dining, including whether to combine two dining locations into one larger facility. A next-generation library and a new fitness center are also being considered.

Hendrickson then discussed development happening east of campus in the Builders District. He said developers have promised a Trader Joe's location, although the project has taken longer than expected.

"I announced to the public and staff like three years ago we're getting a Trader Joe's. It's not here yet," Hendrickson said.

He joked that he has to apologize for the store's continued absence each year, adding, "We're working on it."

He also pointed to a proposed Marriott Tribute Hotel in the district, which he said

TURN TO "CSU" PAGE 3

Behind campus safety at Creighton

This article is a corrected version of a news story about the Public Safety office that originally appeared in the issue on Nov. 6, 2026.

MAX BURBACH-DOMEYER
News Reporter

Creighton University Public Safety operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week to maintain visibility and rapid response across campus, emphasizing direct collaboration with students and local law enforcement.

Operating out of the Schneider Building at 2222 Burt St., the department follows a community policing model focused on proactive patrolling, emergency preparedness, crime prevention and campus safety education.

Kathy Gonzalez, senior director of Public Safety, said officers maintain a consistent presence across campus, including high traffic pedestrian areas near campus boundaries, while also responding to calls for service, safety concerns, and emergency situations.

"Our patrol strategies are designed to promote visibility, provide assistance when needed, and support timely response across the campus environment," Gonzalez said. "Students can expect to regularly see Public Safety personnel engaged throughout campus as part of our ongoing commitment to safety and service."

Because Creighton Public Safety is a nonsworn agency, it coordinates closely with sworn local law enforcement agencies, including the Omaha Police Department.

"These established partnerships help ensure that incidents affecting the campus community are addressed appropriately, efficiently, and with the resources necessary to support the safety of students, faculty, staff, and visitors," Gonzalez said.

On campus, Public Safety officers are trained in CPR, AED, and first aid, and selected officers are trained and certified to carry firearms under Nebraska Statute 28-1204.04, allowing them to provide a rapid armed response in the event of an active threat, according to the department's website.

Gonzalez encouraged students to familiarize themselves with available campus safety tools, including the 24/7 dispatch center, walking escorts, Peace of Mind (POM) personal safety devices, and the campus security system that aids in investigations and situational awareness.

Students looking for safe rides around campus can also take advantage of the Transportation Department's Bluejay Shuttle service, which includes expanded on-call shuttle options. Gonzales encouraged students visit the Bluejay Shuttle website and add it as a favorite on their phones. The website allows users to have access to shuttle schedules, service area boundaries, holiday service hours, and key contact numbers whenever they may need a ride.

"One thing students may not always realize is that maintaining a safe campus is a shared responsibility," Gonzalez said. "Public Safety is an important resource, but safety is most effective when students remain aware of their surroundings, look out for one another, report concerns promptly, and utilize available resources."

Beyond daily patrols, Public Safety works directly with student organizations like the Creighton Student Union (CSU) and the Inter Residence Hall Government (IRHG) through meetings, educational programming, and outreach activities and discussion related to the safety of Creighton's campus and overall community well-being.

"Student input helps us better understand concerns, identify emerging issues, and continuously improve the services and programs we provide," Gonzalez said. "Open communication is an important part of maintaining a safe and supportive campus environment."

On the Omaha campus, students and employees can reach Public Safety's 24/7 emergency dispatch line at 402-280-2911 or the non-emergency business line at 402-280-2104.

"Our goal is to provide a safe, welcoming, and supportive environment where students can learn, live, and thrive," Gonzalez said. "Public Safety is committed to being accessible, responsive, and engaged with the campus community, and we encourage students to reach out whenever they have questions, concerns, or need assistance."

Jesuit tradition inspires PTSD research

SHELBY SEU
Assistant News Editor

In a recently updated version of the veteran data regarding Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) made available through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, it is projected that 7% of U.S. veterans will experience PTSD. A team of Creighton University (CU) faculty and student-researchers are working to create a mobile app, which builds on the Jesuit traditions of the Examen, to help veterans mitigate these symptoms, with the app's pilot period set to begin in 2027.

"My grandfather fought in Vietnam, and my mom grew up living in many places around the world. I also know plenty of people who are veterans or currently serving ... I realize how sacrificial and special their dedication to our country is, and that is a gift. Rev. Krall is also a navy chaplain, and he has been all around the world, too. He has a unique perspective to offer. I also want to go into medicine, and I have seen it from the patient perspective and from the perspective of healthcare workers, and I think that it is delicate, difficult and important work," College of Arts and Sciences junior Katherine Pansegrau said via email.

Rev. Christopher Krall, S.J., Ph.D., serves as a College of Arts and Sciences assistant professor of theology with a secondary appointment in neuroscience. He is also the principal investigator for the project. According to Pansegrau and Krall, the foundations to the app's research were derived from part of Krall's dissertation, which began in 2022, that examined the theological and neurological concepts of suffering.

"Research [for the app] began around Fall 2025, when I reached out to Rev. Krall inquiring if I could get involved with his research. I went in with an open mind, and I am very grateful I did that," Pansegrau said via email.

In the summer of 2026, Pansegrau was awarded a Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) and was funded by the Kripke Center for the Study of Religion and Society. Current funding for the project was also awarded through the Dr. George F. Haddix President's Faculty Research Fund at the university. As for the team, Pansegrau works alongside various other Creighton faculty members and students, both undergraduate and graduate, across various fields of study.

"Our research group is composed of my-

TURN TO "CU" PAGE 3

'My Omaha' screening sparks discussion

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

On Nov. 10, the Creighton Intercultural Center and Kingfisher Institute hosted a screening of the documentary "My Omaha," complete with a panel featuring community organizer Leo Louis II, former Omaha pastor Cynthia Ramirez Lindenmeyer and director Nick Beaulieu.

"My Omaha" premiered at Film Streams last October and was later acquired by PBS's Independent Lens, an Emmy Award-winning series that features independent documentary films. The film grapples with the impact of political and racial divisions across Omaha as Beaulieu attempts to navigate his relationship with his terminally ill father, a staunch conservative and supporter of the Trump Administration.

The political differences between Beaulieu and his father, and their love for each other despite it, form the emotional and thematic crux of the film. Speaking to Forbes this October for their article, "My Omaha' Is A Son's Journey To Understand His Dad - And His City," Beaulieu stated that "My Omaha" is about finding a way to respect and tolerate those with different political views.

"That's where the heart of a lot of these conflicts [are], right? They want someone to be different; they want them to change, instead of finding a way to love them," Beaulieu said in the Forbes article.

At the screening Tuesday, Beaulieu said that "the thesis of the movie, I really think, is about this idea of how shared experiences with one another are really what helps bridge divides and bring people together. It's about doing the work so you don't see someone from a different background as another."

This theme is exemplified by the friendship between Beaulieu and Louis, who initially rejected Beaulieu's request to appear in the documentary. Louis explained that an outsider looking to tell a story would have to demonstrate real dedication and commitment.

"He started showing up to meetings. If you notice in the documentary, I flip through the book and there's Nick in the background. Those were the meetings where he was just sitting in the background, learning and listening. And he did that for a couple of years," Louis said. "And after he did that, I said, 'Man, this dude is really dedicated.' So, when he came to me and said, 'Hey, do you mind if I get an interview?' after a couple of years, I said sure."

Audience members at the screening were asked to consider the importance of discussion and shared experience in building community via reflection sheets that were handed out before the film. The sheet implored the audience to contemplate moments that resonated with them, or to identify people in their lives that they would like to share a difficult discussion with.

Creighton associate professor the Rev. John Francis Shea, SJ, BS, PhD, who attended the screening, said his biggest takeaway from the movie was that solutions to political polarization must emphasize open-mindedness.

"Having conversations with people is good, but I think a big barrier to that is when you're talking to someone who thinks they have the truth, and so they don't have the ability to be open to change," Shea said.

The panel members also emphasized that real change takes time and dedication as well as flexibility.

Reflecting on the progress the city has made since her first appearance in "My Omaha" 10 years ago, Lindenmeyer, said she "wish[ed] there was more involvement between North Omaha, South Omaha and West Omaha, as far as people just getting together, and having people over and evolving our community."



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 11 - 10:26 a.m.

Public Safety was called to 18th and Cuming street for a reported stolen cart from Swanson Hall. Public Safety was unable to locate the stolen cart.

2 November 12 - 12:23 a.m.

While on rounds RA's noticed the odor of burnt marijuana coming from Davis Hall. DPS requested for potential room search. Several items of THC related products and paraphernalia were located along with alcohol.

3 November 12 - 4:06 p.m.

A student reported a potential break in of their vehicle at Heider Hall. (Not Pictured).

4 November 15 - 6:25 p.m.

Public Safety responded to the Kiewit Fitness Center for a raccoon that was in the ceiling. Nebraska Humane Society was contracted for animal control; however, they were unable to locate it.

Creightonian

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Creighton develops app for veterans

Continued from Page 2

self, Rev. Krall, Dr. Steven Fernandes, Dr. Amy Badura-Brack, four other Creighton undergrads (Leah Ambrosy, Lauren Kmetz, Madeline Mullen and Campbell Woodbury), three M3s [CU School of Medicine third-year medical students] (Bianca Widjaja, Tyler Cunningham and Ali Mauritsen) and Dr. Ramaswamy at the VA (and his residents!),” Pansegrau said via email.

The app is geared towards providing a reflection-based coping mechanism based on an ancient Jesuit prayer tradition, the Examen. Krall also serves as a Reserve Naval Chaplain, and it is through his nine-month deployment in 2025 that he recognized the deep correlation and potential the Examen has toward aiding veterans with PTSD.

“There’s this whole history of Jesuit spirituality founded by a soldier, St. Ignatius of Loyola, who had a pretty traumatic experience of a cannonball injury, and he started putting these different prayer practices together that have been passed on from generation to generation for the last 500 years. There’s something important about these ... now, that we have all this technology and ability to do research on this, we [can] study the effects of [the prayer practices], especially when we’re finding with people coming back from these ... military engagements with more and more symptomatic issues with post-traumatic stress, as well as moral injury,” Krall said. “And it’s a kind of a question [of], ‘How do we deal with this’ and they’re trying to find different drugs. Psychedelics is a big area. But what I’m trying to develop is going to be a substance-free version of treatment. The [Examen] ... goes [back] 500 years ago to a soldier who had trauma. And maybe we should explore, instead of reinventing the wheel or trying to figure out something new, to bring out the wisdom of the ages, especially of the Jesuit Catholic value and the Christian value; kind of wrestling [with] and recognizing suffering, but that we’re not alone in the suffering.”

Steven Fernandes, Ph.D., a College of Arts and Sciences assistant professor of computer science, was approached by Krall to assist in the building of the application as his research specialized in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its inclusion in healthcare.

“The app will assist veterans with PTSD through Ignatian spirituality, i.e., the five steps of the Examen. It guides users through one session a day for 42 days, and AI helps select the questions,” Fernandes said via email.

The five steps of the Examen, according to Krall, correlate to a physical component of reflection that incorporates the usage of the individual’s hand.

“We use each finger as a kind of a pneumonic device for these five steps of doing an Examen ... we are encouraging our participants of our study to do [the Examen] once per day ... it should take about 10 to 15 minutes when doing it. But it’s the idea of a self-reflective, intentional, kind of engag[ing] kind of mental exercise or spiritual practice of focusing one’s thoughts,” Krall said.

Each finger represents a specific prompt that an individual will answer during this daily reflection exercise. The thumb prompts reflections of thankfulness, the pointer finger prompts the individual to point out areas for desired growth, the ring finger prompts for areas in which the individual wishes to seek covenant or dedication to goodness and the pinky finger prompts prayer for strength and grace as the individual work towards healing. As for the middle finger, which prompts reflections of where the individual finds the greatest sense of meaning in life, Krall also recognizes that there is another mainstream meaning of the middle finger.

“Now the idea is instill[ed] in the context of gratitude and with this desire to grow from the pointing out, but the sad reality is many of us can go through life and ‘flick the bird’ to people or ‘flick the bird to life.’ So, that middle finger can have multiple different ways. So, we become more pessimistic of our life or of all these bad things [that] started happening, [in] some ways [we] almost see life is meaningless ... [and] can just [get] caught in this grind [of] all these bad things have happened and I don’t find meaning,” Krall said.

With the structure of these exercises rooted in the Catholic Jesuit tradition, there is some worry regarding possible discouragement of users of the app who are of different faiths. However, according to Krall, the act of reflecting through thankfulness is a practice that transcends religious boundaries.

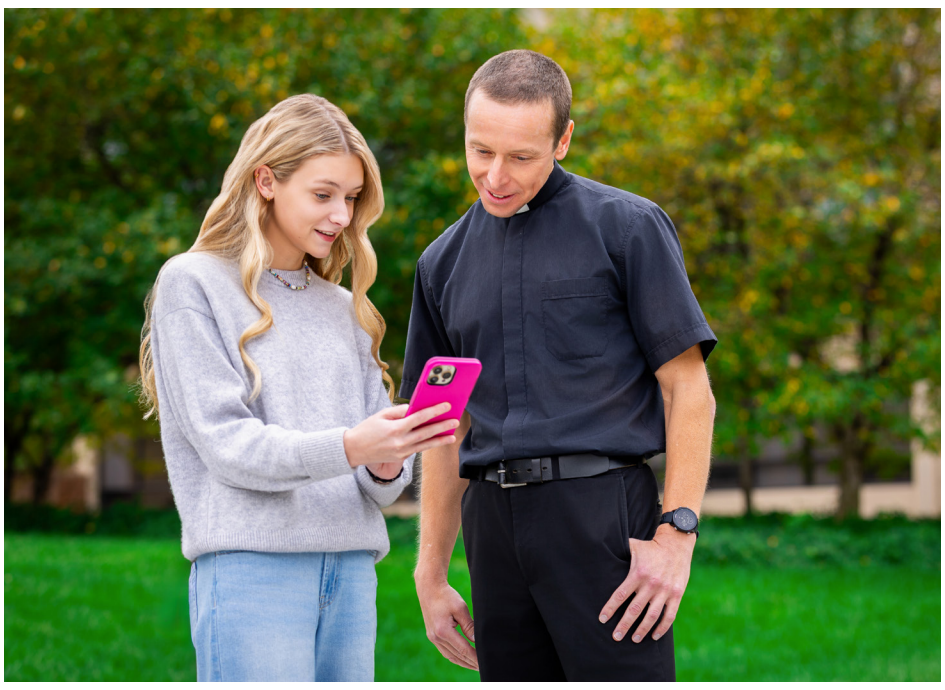


PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE SCHULTE & KELLY CHASE

Creighton University faculty and students, both in the undergraduate and third-year medical school programs, team up to create a new app that allows veterans with PTSD to utilize the Jesuit tradition of the Examen as a means of healing and reflection.

“The basic principles are about gratitude. That’s pretty human ... it’s human [to] point out our past flaws, finding meaning in life, recommitting to something that you find valuable in your life and then having that kind of having this desire to move forward for a next-best step and having some guidance of how to do that in,” Krall said. “You don’t have to have a deep and intimate and profound relationship with God or Jesus himself, but it’s the fact ... that there are these traditions that we can pull from and glean wisdom from, and that there could be this element of something [or someone] beyond yourself that cares about you and wants you to be at your best and can offer the gift of grace to guide in that process.”

Fernandes also believes that this app has the potential to reach wider audiences as well.

“Much of the wording is broad. It speaks of ‘the source of life’ and ‘your source of peace,’ so people of any faith can use it. Gratitude, meaning and hope for tomorrow are for everyone,” Fernandes said.

As the app still awaits further approval to begin its formal pilot program, the team hopes that the application, along with its AI features to further cater the app-experience for each user, will allow for a more accessible alternative for all individuals who are in need of self-reflection to get the help they need from the palm of their hand.

“Resiliency, gratitude and self-improvement are all skills that we have to practice over time. It is not instantaneous, and it can be difficult at times, but having this growth is important to live a happy, healthy life. This growth also is correlated with more positive mental health outcomes for everyone. Other treatments can [be] and are useful, but the Examen is a non-pharmaceutical option that is backed by surviving centuries, as well as neuroscience research that shows the benefits of prayer and meditative practices,” Pansegrau said via email.

CSU President leads Town Hall discussion

Continued from Page 1

could serve students’ families, prospective students, visitors and Creighton’s athletic programs.

Additional athletic facilities are under construction on campus. Hendrickson showed plans for a baseball and softball operations facility that will include locker rooms, offices, conference rooms and batting cages. He also discussed a separate facility intended to serve approximately 300 Division I student-athletes, excluding men’s basketball, which already has its own building. The facility will provide resources for nutrition, weight training, academic support and other services.

“We’re excited to get this up and standing,” he said.

Hendrickson next addressed Creighton’s sustainability efforts, including solar panels, geothermal wells, electric vehicle charging stations and the university’s J-Pass program, which allows students to ride Omaha Metro buses at no additional cost.

“I’m all in on sustainability, sustainability and energy conservation and issues related to that,” Hendrickson said.

He also discussed the university’s partnership with Cordia on a chilled-water system, which he said helps reduce carbon emissions by approximately 50% in participating buildings. Hendrickson acknowledged that although the university has made progress, more work remains.

“We’re exceeding our targets. We’re not at the aspirational levels,” he said. “So, we have a bit of work to do with the university to get to that.”

The presentation then turned to academic programs and university initiatives. Hendrickson highlighted the Institute for Adaptive Intelligence, announced the previous spring, which is intended to help students understand artificial intelligence and prepare to use it in their careers.

He said Creighton also has a responsibility to address the ethical questions surrounding the technology.

“We are Jesuit Catholic and we need to ask the important questions, the ethical issues, the other inquiries, the guardrails of AI so it doesn’t exploit you or us or people anywhere,” Hendrickson said.

Other programs highlighted included the Bright Center for Enterprise Value, Career Personalization Services, undergraduate research opportunities, legal clinics and the Kamen Center for International Criminal Justice and Holocaust Studies. Hendrickson said more than 1,000 students had already used Career Personalization Services during the fall semester.

He also discussed the university’s fundraising and global initiatives. Hendrickson said Creighton raised approximately $270 million for scholarships over the course of a decade-long campaign. He highlighted the Global Initiative, which has supported approximately 117 projects and involved about 1,500 faculty, staff and students.

Following the presentation, student body President Andrew Nelson moderated a question-and-answer session with Hendrickson.

Students first raised questions about campus buildings that are no longer in use, including Deglman Hall. Hendrickson said the university has not made a final decision about the building’s future. Options include demolishing it, repurposing the space or potentially using the area for additional parking near the university’s advancement offices.

Parking was another concern. Hendrickson acknowledged that new construction has taken up some existing parking areas but said the university has added spaces in other locations. He also said Creighton would like to build another parking garage, although the cost makes the project difficult to fund.

“We would love to build a new parking garage,” Hendrickson said. “Those are high-priced items. It’s hard to fundraise for them.”

He acknowledged that parking can be especially difficult during peak arrival times, such as 9 a.m., and said the university continues to look at ways to address student concerns.

Students also asked about the possibility of mobile student identification cards. Hendrickson said the university’s card access team is researching mobile credentials but would need to replace existing card readers across campus, creating substantial costs.

When asked about opportunities to expand campus ministry, Hendrickson suggested increasing the number of Encounter retreats offered each semester.

Students also asked about the future use of the new Creighton Quad. Hendrickson said the university is considering possibilities such as concerts, student orientation, alumni events and potentially hosting future graduation ceremonies in the space. He emphasized that the quad will also be available for students to study, relax and gather with friends.

“It’s also for your use and recreation,” Hendrickson said. “You know, to go out with a blanket on a nice day to be able to hang out and study or just circle up with friends.”

Questions about enrollment growth and class sizes followed. Hendrickson said the university has been able to maintain its faculty-to-student ratio and focus on smaller classes despite increasing enrollment, although some science and pre-med courses have larger class sizes because of demand.

Later in the discussion, students raised questions on whether Creighton planned to reduce its pre-professional pathways, expressing concern that other universities had moved away from similar programs. Hendrickson said Creighton has worked to strengthen those pathways while following accreditation requirements.

“There’s nothing that I’m aware of that we want to dial those back,” Hendrickson said.

A final student asked whether the university would consider expanding its pathways to include additional graduate programs, specifically physician assistant studies. Hendrickson said he would look into the recommendation.

“It’s a great recommendation,” he said.

As the town hall concluded, Hendrickson thanked students for attending and encouraged them to continue sharing their ideas and concerns with university leadership.

Chloe Carrillo
Scene Editor

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Can I call Fallapalooza tonight?







JONAH LAGRANGE/THE CREIGHTONIAN

Creighton students took a break from the books Nov. 13 for CSU Program Board's annual Fallapalooza concert at the Admiral Theater featuring performances from Kids That Fly and Dayglow.

CHARLEY HECHTL
Advertising Manager

This past Friday, Nov. 13, the Creighton Students Union (CSU) Program Board hosted its annual Fallapalooza concert, a free off-campus event for graduate and undergraduate students featuring live performances from professional artists and a much-needed break from academics.

The CSU Program Board is dedicated to providing multicultural, social, recreational, educational and entertaining programs that enhance the Creighton experience. As the concert coordinator, Heider College of Business sophomore Vivian Le began planning Fallapalooza months in advance, researching artists and coordinating with agents to bring this year's lineup to Omaha.

"There is at least one Program Board event each week," Le explained. "It helps give students a break from just studying and get to experience something new. They're all free, and a lot of college students are trying to save money, so it's not always easy to go out and do things."

Preparing such a large event can come with challenges. Le admitted she initially experienced "serious imposter syndrome" and worried about attendance. However, those concerns quickly faded as Creighton students filled the venue.

"Getting to meet the artists, hearing their soundcheck, and seeing all the students coming, I'm just really excited for all the students to enjoy the music and have a great time," Le shared.

Just ten minutes from campus, students arrived at Omaha's historic Admiral Theater and were greeted with foam glow sticks that illuminated the crowd throughout the evening. Beneath crystal chandeliers, a spinning mirror ball and the venue's elevated balcony, concertgoers packed the floor in anticipation of performances from this year's opening act, Kids That Fly, and headliner Dayglow.

Coined as "your mom's favorite rock band," New York-based indie alternative group Kids That Fly kicked off the evening, marking the band's first-ever appearance in Nebraska. As electric guitar riffs echoed throughout the theater, cheers erupted from the crowd, signaling the start of an evening filled with high energy and excitement.

Despite admitting they were students at the University of Connecticut, drawing playful boos from Bluejay fans, the four-piece band quickly won over the audience during its nearly hour-long set. The band played songs inspired by its hometown, including "Highline," before closing with "Dead Beat City," which has more than nine million streams on Spotify.

Throughout the electric performance, the band's playful personality shone just as brightly as the stage lights. Kids That Fly's lead vocalist, Nick Smeriglio, decked out in a shirt featuring an airplane-wing patch on his sleeve, kept the audience engaged through his crowd interactions — cracking jokes and even singing a rendition of "Happy Birthday" for a student celebrating that evening. At one point, Smeriglio acquired his own foam glow stick and encouraged audience members to enthusiastically wave theirs, creating a lively atmosphere that carried throughout the song.

After a brief intermission, singer-songwriter Sloan Struble, better known as Dayglow, took the stage to roaring applause. The indie-pop project enamored the crowd with its infectious energy and upbeat stage presence.

As a warm welcome to Omaha, students taught the band Creighton's "Roll Damn Jays (RDJ)" chant, prompting the singer to join in and lead the crowd. Screams echoed across the floor as Dayglow performed one of its most popular hits, "Hot Rod," an infectious summertime groove from its 2018 debut album, Fuzzybrain, that feels like sunshine itself, warming up us Nebraska residents as winter quickly approaches.

Struble also introduced each member of the touring band, sharing fun facts about bassist Eric, drummer Brady and keyboardist Oliver. While introducing himself, Struble joked about dropping out of college. The comment drew enthusiastic reactions from students, though he quickly advised against following in his footsteps.

For College of Arts and Sciences senior and elementary education major Stella Kneidel, the opportunity to see Dayglow perform was one she could not pass up.

"I really enjoy concerts," Kneidel said.

She also emphasized the value of free events offered through CSU Program Board.

"We're college students, and a lot of students here don't even have the time to work because they're so involved with their major," Kneidel shared. "It's a really good opportunity to get out and actually be able to attend things like concerts and just have fun with one another."

Kneidel said she especially looked forward to hearing "Hot Rod," a song that reminds her of spending time on TikTok during the COVID-19 pandemic. Her favorite moment of the evening, however, came when students waved their foam glow sticks together.

"It was really cute, and I enjoyed it," she said.

College of Arts and Sciences freshman Ashlynn Bland echoed similar sentiments.

"I like that there are events for us to have fun and take a break from school," Bland stated.

For Bland, the highlight of the night was simply spending time with her friends. She added that she would gladly attend similar events in the future because she wants to take advantage of each opportunity provided to students.

As the final songs played and smiling students filtered out of the Admiral Theater, Fallapalooza once again demonstrated why it remains one of Creighton's most anticipated traditions. Whether attendees arrived as longtime fans or first-time listeners, the evening brought students together for a memorable experience.

‘Dancing with the Stars’ delivers drama

CHLOE CARRILLO
Scene Editor

On Tuesday, Nov. 17, “Dancing with the Stars” aired the series’ semi-final for the 2026 season.

This article will contain spoilers regarding who made the finale, so if you haven’t watched the semi-finals yet, go watch and come back afterwards.

This season has been a wild ride for many viewers, with shocking eliminations and exciting celebrity and pro-dancer pairings. With contestants ranging from reality tv stars and internet personalities to top-tier actors, the season has been extremely entertaining.

Semi-finalists for this season, if you aren’t caught up already, were contestants from all different backgrounds. They consisted of Amber Glenn (Olympic Figure Skater), Ezra Frech (Paralympic Track Athlete), Connor Wood (Internet Personality), Maura Higgins (Reality TV Star), Tatyana Ali (Actress), and Harry Shum Jr. (Actor).

In true semi-final fashion, each dance couple performed two different dances during the night, illustrating the celeb’s widened range of talent and technique.

The first dance of the evening was Connor Wood, who some could call ‘America’s Sweetheart’, who danced a Jive with his partner Rylee Arnold to Elvis’ “Blue Suede Shoes.” During this dance, I think you can see the true improvement Connor has had during the season. The fast paced and fun nature of the quickstep was a good choice, and he ended up with 8’s across the board.

Harry Shum Jr. went next, dancing a Paso Doble with his partner Jenna Johnson to Rihanna’s “We Found Love.” Harry’s skill was undeniable, and Jenna’s choreography skills left the dance floor on fire (literally), earning Harry a perfect score of three 10’s.

Next was a Samba done by Maura Higgins and Mark Ballas to “Samba Vocalizado.” And, despite the injury troubles that Maura has faced throughout the season, her first dance of the night was executed extremely well—and it earned her a perfect score as well.

Ezra Frech was up next, dancing a Quickstep with his partner Daniella Karagach to “Kryptonite.” His improvement and dedication this season have been undeniable, and he is always someone who executes his choreography well. His quickstep earned him straight 9’s across the board.

Olympic Figure skater Amber Glenn was the next dancer, doing the Salsa to “Bemba Colorá” with her partner Pasha Pashkov. This was her chance to show off some show-stopping tricks in dance and earned her a perfect score.

The last of the first dances for the contestants of the night was Tatyana Ali with her partner Jan Ravnik, dancing the Viennese Waltz to “Open Arms.” Tatyana has been remarkably graceful this entire season, and this dance earned her three 9’s on the board.

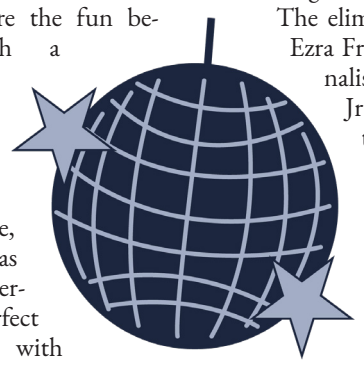
From the first round of dancing, the competition is shaping up to be close. However, as many “Dancing with the Stars” fans know, scores aren’t everything. Voting is continuously promoted, and viewers play a big role in deciding who stays, and who goes home.

Connor danced again, this time a Quickstep to “Dance, Dance.” Again, he illustrated his improvement and commitment to Rylee’s choreography, but again, he ended with 8’s across the board, putting Connor in last place so far.

Next was one of the most anticipated dances of the season, where Harry Shum Jr. payed homage to the television sensation “Glee,” which he had previously acted in. The dance was a nod to his own scene in “Glee,” where he dances to “Valerie.” Jenna Johnson choreographed a Quickstep to the song, and the professionalism and talent illustrated earned Harry another perfect score.

Maura was next, representing her home country (Ireland) for the second time this season with a Viennese Waltz to Hozier’s “Shrike.” The graceful performance earned Maura an almost-perfect score, with just one 9 on the board.

An electric Jive from Ezra Frech was next, to the tune of “Footloose.” A nod to the pairing’s team name, this dance was clearly choreographed to capture the fun behind the song, earning Frech a perfect score.



Amber Glenn was the next contestant, dancing the Viennese Waltz to “Dangerous Woman.” The dance was executed with grace, and it was obvious that it was choreographed for Amber herself, earning her a second perfect score for the night—tying with Harry Shum Jr.

The last dance of the night was done by Tatyana, where she danced a Cha-Cha to “I Like It Like That.” The dance highlighted Tatyana’s progress in dancing very well, and earned her one 10, and two 9’s on the board.

At the end of the night, Connor Wood and Tatyana Ali were at the bottom of the leader board, and Amber Glenn and Harry Shum Jr. tied for first.

To say the end of this episode was shocking would be an understatement. In true “Dancing with the Stars” fashion, those making it to the finale were announced in “no particular order” (according to the hosts), and anticipation grew.

The first name heard on the ballroom floor definitely stirred up the competition, because Connor Wood—the last place contestant after the night—was announced as a finalist first. He clearly isn’t given the “America’s Sweetheart” nickname for nothing.

One by one, Amber Glenn, Tatyana Ali, and Maura Higgins were announced as finalists, leaving Ezra Frech and Harry Shum Jr. as “not necessarily the bottom two,” but the last two to know who would stay and who would go.

The elimination was shocking, but Ezra Frech secured his spot as a finalist, eliminating Harry Shum Jr. and Jenna Johnson from the competition. This outcome was certainly not what many had expected, especially with Harry’s dance and musical background, and definitely devastating for all of the “Gleeks.”

Whether you agree or disagree, those contestants will be in the finals with their dance of choice and freestyles next Tuesday, Nov. 26. I personally look forward to Jan Ravnik’s first time in the finals and first live freestyle with Tatyana, and hope for a down to the wire win.

Whoever your favorite is, don’t forget to vote for them next week by texting their name to 21523.

IN THE MAKING

A SHOWCASE OF THE CREATIVE WORK OF CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY'S SENIOR DESIGN STUDENTS



FEATURING WORK BY: ABBY MILLS • ALLY SEEVERS • EVAN JOHNSON
ISABELLA TADDEINI • MARISSA COSTELLO

DECEMBER 4, 2026
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Give your past self some credit

Growing up doesn't mean leaving your old self behind

CECE SLADOVNIK
Opinion Editor

With Dayglow headlining Fallapalooza this past weekend, a lot of my friends were reminiscing about how they used to listen to Dayglow in high school. They talked about discovering him in their bedrooms and how hearing his music provoked memories of quarantine and teenage indie angst. Similarly, this past Saturday, John Mulaney hosted Saturday Night Live with Phoebe Bridgers as the musical guest. Watching my two idols from when I was 16 on a show I was equally obsessed with at that age, got me thinking about the girl who came before me.

I have never been one to ponder on the past. I aim to accept what I have learned and constantly look towards the future, priding myself on how much I have changed over the years. There are countless periods of my life that hold amazing memories I am happy to look back on, but I have never aspired to grab on tight to what once was. I always fear that reminiscing too far or focusing on the past too much will somehow knock me back and stunt my personal growth. I look forward because I think there is nothing to gain from looking back. But after this weekend, I began to wonder if I was wrong in this assumption.

Constantly focusing on evolving, growing and what's next has its benefits, but this weekend reminded me that it is okay to occasionally regress into who you were before. While I was watching SNL, I remembered staying up late in my childhood bedroom to watch it on my iPad, memorizing Phoebe's songs, and comparing my favorite John Mulaney bits with my friends. The show reminded me of the passion I used to hold for the things I was a fan of and how much creativity and excitement they stirred in that younger version of me. It made me think about how passively I consume things now, rewatching shows, listening to the same music I have listened to for years and dismissing going to see any new movies at the theater because I "don't have the time." Looking at my old self did not make me cringe or regress into bad traits as I always feared but instead helped me look at my current self and remember something that used to be an important part of me. We get so scared to go back to our old ways that we fail to realize when we may have had it right.

Over the upcoming breaks, I encourage you to embrace slipping back into your old self when you go home. Wear your old clothes. Listen to your old playlists. Reach out to your old friends. Look into the old versions of yourself, and you just might find things you don't want to lose. When I go home, I love to take walks around my neighborhood after dinner. Walking the same routes I have traced since before I could drive makes me think of every version of myself, my dreams, my worries and my interests that have changed over the years. On these walks I get to reacquaint myself with every past me and get to know myself better.

Especially as a senior agonizing over the future, it is nice to find comfort in my past. I can look back in my camera roll and see how the college senior who spends her free time running, reading and making up silly inside jokes with her friends, is not that different from the high school senior who ran, read and put old presidents' pictures into Facetune during AP U.S. History. That senior figured it out, so I think this one can too.

What if we stopped treating getting older as constantly reinventing ourselves to improve? Maybe the ideal version of yourself already exists. Maybe they aren't some optimal future you ten years in the future but rather the you who is able to be exactly who you are. Look into your past and you'll find you're ideal self in all the mistakes, laughs, interests, dreams and passions. Honor your past self, and you may find just who you're looking to be.

When the tool becomes the crutch

As students use Artificial Intelligence, they should be aware of the danger of overreliance on the tool.

CLARA JOHNSON
Opinion Writer

How many of your professors encourage the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in their courses? Some of them are sticking to their roots and outlawing it in every way and some of them want you to use it to inspire ideas and get to the end point faster. It's an odd mix of instructions, and it results in an odd mix of support.

Lately, I've been hearing complaints about data center construction sites from the same people who use Claude to generate their daily to-do list, resume updates and meal plan. On one hand, they bash the idea of artificial intelligence, but on the other, they use it so much, their day-to-day structure depends on it.

One of the bigger struggles scientists have identified with AI usage in education is the idea of outsourcing your thinking. When you're studying and you use AI to solve a problem, are you actually reading every step or just seeing the answer and convincing yourself you know how to get there? We're getting rid of the imagination and brainstorming skills that made us unique, and we're skipping right to the end.

Whether you're for ChatGPT-generated lab reports, or you strongly dislike when Google gives you an AI summary, here's something to think about. Artificial intelligence is trained on the data that we provide for it. Currently, it can use your past essay submissions and scrape word patterns from available sites to help you on your English essay, and it can get you a decent enough score.

However, if we start outsourcing all our thinking, if we stop letting our imagination run wild, then all of a sudden, there's no unique information for AI to scrape. It recycles information it's already processed, corrupts it and the whole system suffers. This isn't a set destination for the path we're on, but it's certainly a possibility.

When you're using AI to generate all aspects of your life, try to remember that you are the unique factor in this equation. Your schedule, your likes and dislikes, these are things that AI can't decide for you, even if it'd like to try. I'm not here to tell you to unplug and get rid of it forever. Use it for what you really think is necessary, but be aware of the background. It's learning from you as much as you think you're learning from it, so be careful that you maintain your unique edge above the machine.

Stop turning your life into a database

AINSLEY SMITH
Assistant Opinion Editor

I've kept a journal since I was very young. They come and go in different iterations, some featuring covers with pink ponies and others simply cardstock bound, but I've tried to maintain the hobby. I have a notoriously bad memory, and journaling helps me return to parts of my life that I thought were inaccessible and reflect on the ways I've changed and grown in the time since.

Another thing I love about journaling is that there are no rules. I've kept diaries in the back of chemistry notebooks, on the pre-installed word processor on my computer and sometimes on single sheets of paper. A composition book from Dollar Tree can serve as a journal as well as a 30-dollar Moleskine.

So, I've been increasingly frustrated by the surge of people building "journal ecosystems" around exceptionally pricey items and stationery. If you're unfamiliar with the term, a journal ecosystem is a system of several notebooks, each dedicated to a specific task. An ecosystem may consist of a planner, a personal diary, a commonplace book, a media log, a junk journal and so on.

On its face, there's nothing wrong with keeping a journal ecosystem. If you are forgetful and highly disorganized like me, I'm sure it helps with staying on top of things. But the emphasis on using, and more importantly purchasing, more notebooks than I can count on one hand reeks of overconsumption and feels highly performative.



It's the age-old story we've all been told: with just one item you can change your life! With just another purchase, you can finally begin a series of good habits and self-improvement! The commodification of journaling is no different, but it feels especially sinister to frame the world's most accessible tool for self-reflection in terms of what can be bought and sold.

Additionally, engaging with journaling via consumption stymies its effectiveness. When influencers or stationery enthusiasts insist that the best planner is a foreign import with the world's highest quality paper and cutest collection of stickers, the practice of journaling becomes outward facing – the purchase and aestheticization reflects your preferences, tastes and hobbies to others rather than the self.

I don't mean to throw stones from a glass house. I've often felt that I could not start a new journal until I acquired the right materials or convinced myself that I would really stick with a planner if I spent enough money to feel guilty about not using it. I think these desires had little to do with providing myself with avenues for growth and self-reflection and more about seeming like the kind of person that would keep an immaculately organized journal, complete with stickers that perfectly communicate my immaculate aesthetic taste ... something I could take pictures of in a cafe.

And the whole point of journaling is that you keep it to yourself! Dropping 40 dollars on a genuine leather journal cover can certainly make you happy, but I highly doubt it lends itself to more effective discernment or understanding. You never need an ecosystem to start journaling or get organized; you can just start writing anywhere, on anything.

WBB splits road results, beats UNO

LAUREN GAEDING
Sports Reporter

Creighton Women's Basketball fell short against South Dakota on Wednesday, Nov. 11 in Sioux Falls, S.D., but bounced back with renewed energy in their matchup against the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) on Sunday, Nov. 15, earning a 72-50 victory.

The Bluejays opened against the Coyotes with a slower offensive start, scoring just five points in the first quarter compared to South Dakota's 12. Sophomore guard Ava Zediker and junior guard Allison Heathcock combined for three points from the free-throw line, while sophomore guard Neleigh Gessert added a jump shot. Creighton responded in the second quarter with 14 points, holding the Coyotes to just eight. The Jays entered halftime trailing by only one point, 20-19. However, South Dakota extended its lead in the third quarter, bringing the score to 40-34 heading into the final ten minutes.

In the fourth quarter, the Jays added 15 points to their total. Zediker contributed four points, along with another four from freshman guard Jayla Williams. Freshman wing Kate Amelotte added three points, while sophomore guard Kendall McGee scored two on a layup. Gessert rounded out the quarter with two successful free throws. Despite their efforts, the Jays ultimately fell to the Coyotes 54-49.

Head Coach Jim Flanery noted that, although Creighton recorded 18 steals, the team struggled to capitalize on the turnovers. He also pointed to the team's offensive rebounding percentage as an area for improvement and a learning opportunity for the players.

"We got a little greedy on offense, we took quick shots and tried to make plays too early. Our decision making just has to be better," Flanery said. "You have to work to build trust. If we move the ball enough, something's going to be better later in the shot clock than earlier."

Staying on the road, the Jays traveled to Cedar Falls, Iowa, ready to make a statement. The UNI Panthers started out with seven points before Zediker countered with a layup, followed by a three-pointer from Heathcock and two more points from Zediker at the free-throw line. Freshman guard Mya Moore added three points with a free throw and a layup. Williams also scored a layup, Gessert chipped in a jump shot, and Zediker ended the quarter with a three-pointer. The Panthers continued to challenge the Jays' offense, ending the quarter with a tied score of 17-17.

During the second quarter, the Jays widened the score gap to 38-24. The offensive upside was highlighted by Moore, putting up seven points off a jump shot, a layup and a 3-pointer. She also accounted for four defensive rebounds. Zediker continued her strong offensive performance as well with five points scored.

The Jays continued to maintain their lead in the third quarter, extending the score to 52-39. Zediker opened the quarter with a three-pointer, followed by a layup from Gessert and a 3-pointer from McGee. At this point, the Panthers began to close the scoring gap, bringing the score to 46-36. Heathcock helped the Jays maintain their lead, contributing two layups in the final minutes, including one at the buzzer.

The Jays carried their momentum into the final quarter, securing a 72-50 victory. Amelotte especially stood out, scoring all eight of her points in the fourth quarter. Moore also continued her strong performance, adding eight points of her own. Neleigh contributed a free throw, and Williams added a three-pointer near the end of the game. The team ended with 41 total rebounds, 11 of those on the offensive side, 14 steals, six fast-break points, and four blocks. Moore led the day with 18 points, followed by Zediker's 17 points and nine rebounds.

Flanary praised Moore for stepping into a decision-making role. He also highlighted Williams' defensive performance, which included five steals for the day.

"I think our offensive movement was better," Coach Flanery observed. "I also substituted a little more liberally in part because I trust our freshmen. They've done such a good job in practice and they've earned the time on the floor that they're getting."

After opening play at home Wednesday against Omaha with a 74-53 win, Creighton will host No. 23 Nebraska at Liberty First Credit Union Sunday at 1 p.m.

Jays fall to K-State, edge Iowa 70-69

JAKE BOND
Sports Reporter

In their first games away from the friendly confines of the CHI Health Center, Creighton men's basketball suffered its first defeat of the Alan Huss era in an 89-82 loss to Kansas State before bouncing back to edge Iowa 70-69 in Des Moines. BJ Davis led the way for the Bluejays with a 25-point showing against the Wildcats, while Austin Swartz paced Creighton with 18 points in the narrow win over the Hawkeyes.

After a back-and-forth opening frame at Kansas State, Creighton went cold from the field in the second half, shooting a mere 36%. By contrast, the Wildcats shot the lights out of Bramlage Coliseum, connecting on 14 3-pointers at a blistering 47% clip. The starting guard tandem of Brandon Rechsteiner and Jaden Schutt did heavy damage for the home team, combining for 16 of K-State's first 20 points.

After an offensive explosion in the first five minutes of the second half saw a combined 30 points tallied between the two squads, including a pair of back-to-back 3s from Davis to pull the score even at 55 apiece, the Wildcats ripped off a 16-2 run after Davis was subbed out due to his third personal foul.

"I thought we compounded that with a couple of poorly timed turnovers [and] shots," Huss said of the run.

Oakland transfer Brody Robinson, who was granted a temporary injunction restoring his eligibility hours before tip-off, scored his 1,000th Division I point with a free throw to pull the Jays within three points with 6:20 to play, but K-State never yielded its lead.

The Bluejays forced 22 turnovers and scored 30 points from those extra chances, but K-State regularly found open looks at the rim and from distance. Creighton played smaller lineups for much of the contest, with starting center Oswin Erhunmwunse playing just 13 minutes, while frontcourt partner Jackson McAndrew exited with a lower-leg injury.

"Our defense was completely feast-or-famine tonight," Huss said.

"We didn't have the poise we needed to," Davis added.

The loss left the Jays looking for a response against Iowa on Sunday, and Huss made clear that the performance in Manhattan had not met the team's standard.

"There's an incredible lesson for our team to learn from this," Huss said.

Four days later, Creighton appeared to have learned that lesson.

In Des Moines, Iowa, the Jays raced out to a 13-2 lead before the Hawkeyes clawed back to tie the game at 22, but an 18-4 run gave Creighton a 42-30 halftime advantage. Swartz, who had struggled from distance to start the season, connected on three first-half 3s and finished with a team-high 18 points on 4-of-8 shooting beyond the arc.

"We came in here focused. Like, we hated that last loss," freshman guard Katrelle Harmon said.

Much like in Manhattan, though, the second half proved troublesome. Iowa responded with a 15-2 run to take a 47-46 lead as the Jays were whistled for eight fouls in the first eight minutes after the break. Creighton shot just 2-of-14 from the 3-point line after halftime, while the Hawkeyes attempted 33 free throws to the Jays' 18.

Despite the offensive struggles and foul trouble, the Bluejays managed to stay within striking distance. After Iowa grabbed a 62-60 lead, Swartz buried a three, Harmon scored inside and Jasen Green hit a short jumper to swing the score back in Creighton's favor.

"Instead of folding, this time we got more together," Swartz said.

A Kael Combs layup tied the game at 69 with 1:35 to play, setting the stage for Harmon to split a pair of free throws with 27 seconds remaining. Peyton McCollum missed a potential game-winning 3 on the final possession, and Harmon hauled in the rebound to seal the win.

Coming off a rough outing against Kansas State, Harmon finished with eight points, six assists and no turnovers. Though the Jays were outrebounded 41-26 and had five players finish with four fouls, they managed to get stops when it mattered.

"We weren't very good at basketball, but we were much tougher," Huss said.

The Bluejays returned home Wednesday night, defeating Bethune-Cookman, 88-65. Creighton now heads to the Players Era 16 tournament in Las Vegas, where a bout with defending champion Michigan looms.

Creighton earns NCAA Tournament bid

ALLY SEEVERS
Editor in Chief

Ten minutes into the Big East Tournament semifinal, No. 8 Creighton men's soccer found itself facing a deficit it hadn't encountered all season.

The Bluejays, who entered the match as the nation's No. 2 scoring offense, surrendered three goals in the opening 10 minutes against No. 4 Akron on Nov. 12. Despite chances to work its way into the match, Creighton couldn't overcome the early deficit, falling 4-0 in the semifinal.

"Unfortunately for us, it was a sluggish start ... in the first 10, 15 minutes, and we found ourselves chasing the game," head coach Johnny Torres said in an ESPN+ halftime interview. "It's that time of year where you have to come out ready, and we were sluggish. We were lethargic, and Akron made us pay for it."

Akron's Jack Sullivan opened the scoring in the sixth minute before Jack Roman doubled the lead just over a minute later. Remi Agunbiade added a third goal in the ninth minute, putting the Bluejays in an early 3-0 hole.

In a matter of minutes, Creighton was left facing an uphill battle. The Bluejays struggled to generate offensive opportunities in the opening half, managing just three shots compared to Akron's nine.

When the teams first met on Oct. 11 in Akron, it was Creighton that struck early. Senior Matthew Reed's shot was tipped in off the shoulder of senior Edward Morales to give the Bluejays a lead just three minutes in. Despite controlling much of the match, Creighton couldn't capitalize on Akron's second-half red card, conceding a late penalty kick to settle for a 1-1 draw.

Unlike the first meeting, Creighton couldn't find an offensive breakthrough, marking the first time all season the Bluejays had been shut out. Akron added a fourth goal with five remaining to secure its first Big East Championship appearance, while Creighton finished with just five shots to the Zips' 12.

Despite the loss, Creighton's season continued with an at-large selection to the 48-team NCAA Tournament field on Nov. 16. The bid represented the program's 27th NCAA Tournament appearance and third under Torres.

The Bluejays entered the selection show with a No. 14 RPI after finishing the regular season 12-2-5 and earning a share of the Big East Midwest Division Regular Season title. However, the Bluejays were left without a first-round bye, earning the No. 5 seed in the Georgetown region.

"I am a little disappointed in the fact that we didn't get a bye being that we put together a pretty good season throughout the entire year," Torres said. "But it is what it is. I know in the last eight games, maybe not the best form."

"We know there's more that we could have done ... that was under our control so that we don't put ourselves in a position where we're having to rely on a committee to decide our fate," Torres added.

The Bluejay's first-round opponent would be a familiar one. Creighton hosted cross-town rival Omaha Thursday night at Morrison Stadium, marking the first NCAA Tournament meeting between the two Division I programs.

The teams previously met Sept. 29 at Caniglia Field, where Creighton scored twice within the last ten minutes to earn a 4-2 victory. The Bluejays hold a 11-4-2 advantage in the all-time series, winning five of the last six meetings.

Omaha entered the tournament 11-4-3 after hoisting its third Summit League Tournament championship trophy with a 4-2 win over St. Thomas.

For Torres, the matchup represented an opportunity beyond the postseason bracket, bringing two Division I programs from the same city together on a national stage.

"I think it's great for the city, great for our community," he said.

"To be able to say that we have two Division I programs that are going to take part in the national tournament speaks volumes on what we have here in Omaha," Torres added.

Waiting in the second round is UCLA, with the winner of Thursday's matchup set to travel to Los Angeles for a Sunday contest against the No. 4 seed. Georgetown sits atop the region as the No. 1 overall seed, setting up the possibility of a third-round meeting with the Bluejays. The Hoyas handed Creighton its first loss of the season in a 5-3 decision on Oct. 30, ending the Bluejays' unbeaten start through 16 matches.

Pittsburgh claimed the No. 2 seed on the opposite side of the region, while Rutgers earned the No. 3. Akron, Indiana and SMU claimed the other No. 1 seeds in the tournament.

Creighton was set to host Omaha Thursday night at Morrison Stadium, with a place in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on the line.



ALLY SEEVERS/THE CREIGHTONIAN

VB sweeps Wildcats for 13th straight title

SUSAN BRUGGEMAN
Sports Writer

The Creighton volleyball team faced off against the Villanova Wildcats for their senior day matchup. With a win in this match, the Jays would take the Big East title for their 13th straight year and have the No. 1 seed in the tournament next weekend. The Bluejays needed to leave it all on the court.

Creighton got off to a strong start in the opening set and junior Trinity Shadd-Ceres led the way with 13 kills. The standout of the day was senior Ava TeStrake who had a career high eight kills.

The Bluejays closed out the match in three sets with scores of 25-15, 25-20, and a nail biting third set with a score of 33-31.

"You can't teach 33-31 in a practice, so creating those situations that we're going to need in the postseason is great for us," head coach Brian Rosen said.

After the match concluded, the Bluejays held a ceremony for the seniors, who continue to be leaders on and off the court.

Whether seniors joined the team this year through the transfer portal or have been at Creighton since their freshman year, each of them has made their own impact on the program.

"To go through what we went through this season, as far as the ups and downs and the tough preseason schedule, to be conference champions right now means a ton to us and to our program," Coach Rosen said.

"To go through what we went through this season, as far as the ups and downs and the tough preseason schedule, to be conference champions right now means a ton to us and to our program."

-Brian Rosen
Volleyball
Head Coach

Senior setter Katie Dalton was the newest addition to the team, transferring this year from the University of Kansas. Dalton helped the Bluejays reach the highest hitting percentage in the conference during league play.

"It's been such a fun experience, and these girls have been so welcoming since I came here in the summer and it's honestly flown by. My dad always says time flies when you're having fun, so I think I've had a really good time here," Dalton said.

Dalton was a three time Big East Setter of the Week this fall and owns more than 1,700 assists in her college career.

Senior Ivy Leuck was also recognized after transferring in from the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO) her junior year. She has helped Creighton to 47 victories since becoming a Bluejay and has served primarily as a defensive specialist and setter.

Leuck also has the unique distinction of playing in front of the largest regular season indoor volleyball crowds through her time at Creighton and the largest outdoor volleyball crowd playing in Memorial Stadium in Lincoln during her time at UNO.

"We always talk about bringing the joy, and that's when we play our best and what this team is about," Dalton said.

The three remaining seniors have been at Creighton all four years, which is rare in the world of the transfer portal.

Senior Ava TeStrake has made her impact on the team battling through injury and adversity but still remains positive and an integral member of the team.

A nursing major, TeStrake not only puts in hours on the court, but also off the court in her studies. Many schools do not allow Division I athletes to be nursing majors because of the time commitment.

"She's in 12-hour clinicals every single week and still putting in the commitment to be a Division I athlete. She hasn't always had the role she's wanted and never lets that take away from the kind of teammate she is," Rosen said.

Losing her father during her time at Creighton, TeStrake has found faith to be the most important part of her college career.

"It's been a lot of ups and downs. I've really relied on my faith a lot and grown a lot closer to God; just trusting that even in the highs and lows he's still with me and his plans are far greater than my own," TeStrake said.

Senior right side and middle Jaya Johnson has also been an important fixture on the Bluejay roster.

Johnson's best moment came in the Sweet 16 win against Texas her sophomore year, in which she had 12 kills to help put Creighton into the Elite 8. As another player who spent all four years at Creighton, Johnson has built relationships with her teammates that will last her a lifetime.

"That's what really makes a team: you go through the bad days, the bad games, the bad practices, but then you also go through the great wins and the great practices," Dalton said.

Finally, senior defensive specialist Sydney Breissinger has left an incredible impact on the Creighton community. With more than 1,100 career digs, Breissinger has been an important piece in wins over Top-25 teams including Minnesota and Texas.

Breissinger also ranks third in school history in aces and has contributed to 9-0 scoring runs in the fifth set over highly regarded teams.

"It's been so special to be here with Jaya and Sydney, we graduated high school and two days later we came to Creighton and were going to Europe. So, the turnaround was so crazy, and they've been with me every step of the way and I'm so grateful for all of them," TeStrake said.

Creighton's season started off slow, but the Bluejays have found their footing at the right time heading into the Big East tournament on an eight-match win streak.

"I've challenged them to have a lose-and-you-go-home kind of mentality, and they've responded ever since," Rosen said.

The Jays aren't done yet, and will face off against Xavier this Saturday at noon for their first match of the Big East Tournament which will be played at D.J. Sokol Arena. Creighton will hope to hear its name as it becomes one of 7 teams in the country to make the last 15 NCAA tournaments.





