



# The Ferris State Torch

NINETY YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Sept. 1 - 7, 2021

www.fsutorch.com

## Everything you need to know about the third dose



Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Editor

Those who are immunocompromised are first in line for the third dose of the vaccine.

## COVID-19 booster shots receive emergency approval from the FDA

**Rebecca Vanderkooi**  
Opinions Editor

On Aug. 18, public health and medical experts from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a statement recommending booster shots for the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

Ferris is currently offering COVID-19 vaccines to students, faculty and staff and is looking into offering booster shots to students when it becomes available.

“Pop-up vaccine clinics will be held throughout campus during move-in week, and additional vaccine clinics will be scheduled if the demand is there. Students, faculty and staff can receive the vaccine by calling Birkam Health Center at x2614, op-

tion 2, to schedule an appointment,” said Michelle Rasmussen of the Ferris COVID-19 re-entry committee.

Additionally, Rasmussen explained that while Ferris doesn’t require individuals to get vaccinated, they’re encouraging faculty, staff and students to do so.

“The University announced a new vaccine incentive for students, #VaxxUp and Cash In! Daily and weekly prizes will be awarded to students who confirm their vaccination status in the MyFSU Healthy Dog portal,” Rasmussen said.

Pharmacy professor Michael Klepser pointed out that current data shows the vaccines work well for at least eight months. This figure coincides well with the federal recommendations for the booster, which

state that starting the week of Sept. 20 and eight months after an individual’s second dose is when they can get a third.

“We do know that if someone has been infected with a previous strain of SARS-CoV-2 they do get some natural immunity that way[,] but it’s less effective and goes away faster than with the vaccine,” Klepser said.

Because of this fact, it’s important for people who’ve gotten COVID-19 to also get vaccinated to have a longer and stronger immunity.

Klepser also noted that America is currently only offering the third dose to people who have gotten the mRNA vaccines from Pfizer and Moderna, not the Johnson and Johnson vaccine.

“We also anticipate booster shots will likely be needed for people who received the Johnson & Johnson (J&J) vaccine... we will keep the public informed with a timely plan for J&J booster shots as well,” HHS said.

Rasmussen explained that the Ferris COVID-19 re-entry committee continues to monitor the federal, state and local guidelines for information about the third dose of the vaccine. When the time arises, Ferris and federal, state and local officials will work together with other university leaders and medical professionals to decide the best way for students, faculty and staff to receive their recommended vaccine.

## HEERF III Grant arrives

### Overview of distributed aid for students

**Jerry Gaytan**  
News Reporter

Ferris has received HEERF III grant funding to provide further aid for students this upcoming fall semester.

The American Rescue Plan (ARP) authorized the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III (HEERF III) to support students and ensure learning continues during the pandemic.

According to Dean of Student Life Joy Pulsifer, Ferris received \$14,442,305 from HEERF III. Ferris provided students HEERF III grants of \$1000 for college expenses, including tuition, food, housing, course material, technology, health care and childcare.

Sophomore Samantha Rodriguez stated that she used her grant to aid in tuition payments, and it offered support.

To be eligible for a HEERF III grant, students must be in a degree program, registered for at least six credits for the semester and not be dual-enrolled with a high school. Ferris gave grants to students regard-

less of whether they completed a FAFSA or are eligible for Title IV.

HEERF III distribution prioritized students enrolled at least half-time in a degree program who have the highest financial need based on Pell Grant eligibility.

Pulsifer stated, the \$1000 grants Ferris distributed ensured they could provide to all eligible students. And ensure that Ferris can provide students with similar grants this upcoming spring semester as well.

According to the Ferris HEERF III FAQ page, students don’t need to repay the HEERF III grants as the funds are federal stimulus, which never requires repayment.

The ARP requires that institutions both receive and provide funding in financial grants to students, per Pulsifer.

According to the U.S. Department of Education, the ARP was signed into law on March 11, 2021, and distributed \$39.6 billion to higher education institutions.

According to the Ferris grant page, the ARP possesses federal grant dollars that go straight to students in the case of an emergency.



Photo courtesy of the Ferris State Torch archives

Students with up-to-date direct deposit info should’ve gotten their grant on 8/27

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# NEWS

Noah Kurkjian | News Editor | kurkjin@ferris.edu

## Relationships, respect and resources



*Photo courtesy for the Ferris State Torch archives*

Relationships, Respect and Resources in Williams Auditorium or via Zoom at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16.

### FSUS students to attend an informative seminar on consent and sexual violence prevention

**Jessica Oakes**  
Special Editions Editor

Ferris is inviting first-year FSUS students to attend Relationships, Respect and Resources for a sexual misconduct presentation.

On Sept. 16, University counselor Andrew Slater and Violence Prevention Coordinator Raven Hills will be co-hosting this informative event. Students may attend virtually or in person.

"The presentation will be presented in a hybrid format with students able to attend in-person in the Williams Auditorium or view the presentation virtually on Zoom simultaneously," Hills said.

Slater and Hills aim to familiarize new students with Ferris' efforts to foster a safe environment on campus.

"It is a requirement from the state that all first-year students go through some sort of training around what resources are on cam-

pus, and then information about consent and sexual misconduct," Hills said.

Along with members of the Title IX Office, Anti Violence Alliance and Personal Counseling Services, every Ferris student plays a role in cultivating a safe and supportive campus setting.

"I hope students feel hopeful and empowered [by this event]. This training isn't meant to shame or scare anyone," Slater said. "We hope that students will leave with a sense of responsibility and a box of tools and strategies they can use to look out for one another. I hope to inspire students, letting them know that they can make real change on their campus through their actions."

According to Hills, teaching students about the concept and surrounding nuances of consent is especially important as the new school year begins.

"This time of year on a college campus, especially for first-year students, is what's

known as the Red Zone. So, this is when the incidence of sexual misconduct is really high," Hills said. "The [overall goal] of this presentation is to help reduce some of those incidents on campus by providing information about what healthy relationship communication looks like."

Alexandra H. Solomon from Psychology Today explained that the 'Red Zone' begins when students first arrive on campus in late August and ends as students leave for Thanksgiving break. During this time, female first-year students make up the demographic most at risk of sexual violence.

Outside forces that make this time of year more dangerous include newfound freedom from parental supervision, the lack of cohesive and protective friend groups and inexperienced use of drugs or alcohol.

The Student Well-Being Blog of John Hopkins University insists that, despite these contributing factors, no incident of sexual violence is the survivor's fault.

"Sexual violence is always...the fault of the person who chose to interact with another's body without that person's express consent," it reads.

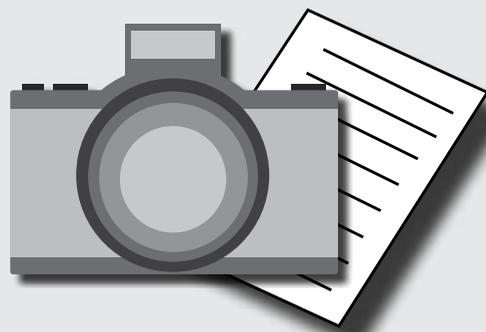
Slater believes that students, with the proper information, are fully capable of helping guide one another throughout this dangerous period.

"I know when I came to college, I had no idea that sexual violence happened so frequently. I was pretty sheltered...I think this training is valuable because it shows a more realistic landscape of the problem," Slater said.

FSUS students may attend Relationships, Respect and Resources in Williams Auditorium or via Zoom at 11 a.m., 3 p.m. or 7 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 16.

For further information about this event, students may contact their FSUS instructors. More resource information on sexual misconduct and counseling is available at all AVA events.

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# MICHIGAN

## NEWS UPDATE

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**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

MICH. - As Michigan exits its most recent barrage of heavy storms, residents are noticing more than just flooded basements. Over 150 million gallons of raw sewage overflowed into south eastern Michigan is water sources. This is happening due to outdated and overwhelmed pipes and water systems. "The big part of the story here is that, in Detroit and an a lot of other cities around the great lakes and around the country, the infrastructure that we have for handling storm water is getting very old," Andrew Gronewold, associate professor at the University of Michigan school for Environment and Sustainability said to the Detroit Free Press. These outdated water management systems paired with rapid climate change

causing more and more as well as heavier storms are causing increased strain on the system. This doesn't have to be the case though. There are short term and long term solutions in the works for Michigan. In the short term, cities are still updating their sewage systems to be split into stormwater and sanitary waste pipes. Already 83% of Michigan cities have made the change, but the last 17% are still in the works. Their delay can be attributed to the location of the piping as in older areas, these pipes can be quite far down. "The approach that we take to designing water management infrastructure, and how we interact with coastlines or water levels really needs to change, we really need to have a new, updated approach." Gronewold said.

# - ON THE RECORD -

A roundup of this week's crime at Ferris State University

## Lost loot from lot one

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

### Lost loot from lot one

Aug. 27, 10:01 p.m., officers responded to a report of theft of personal property from a student vehicle

**Better Bird**

Aug. 28 10:01 p.m., at the intersection of South State Street and Fuller Ave. officers pulled over a motorist and issued a citation for driving without a license or driving on a suspended or revoked license.

**Brophy Woes**

Aug. 28 12:32 p.m., officers were dispatched to Brohpy Hall after the smell of marijuana was reported. The student in question was issued a minor in possession civil infraction ticket.

## Torch Corrections

Last edition, in *Traditional & unique Ferris*, Cassidy Jessup was credited for the photography.

Angie Rosenthal should have been the credited photographer.



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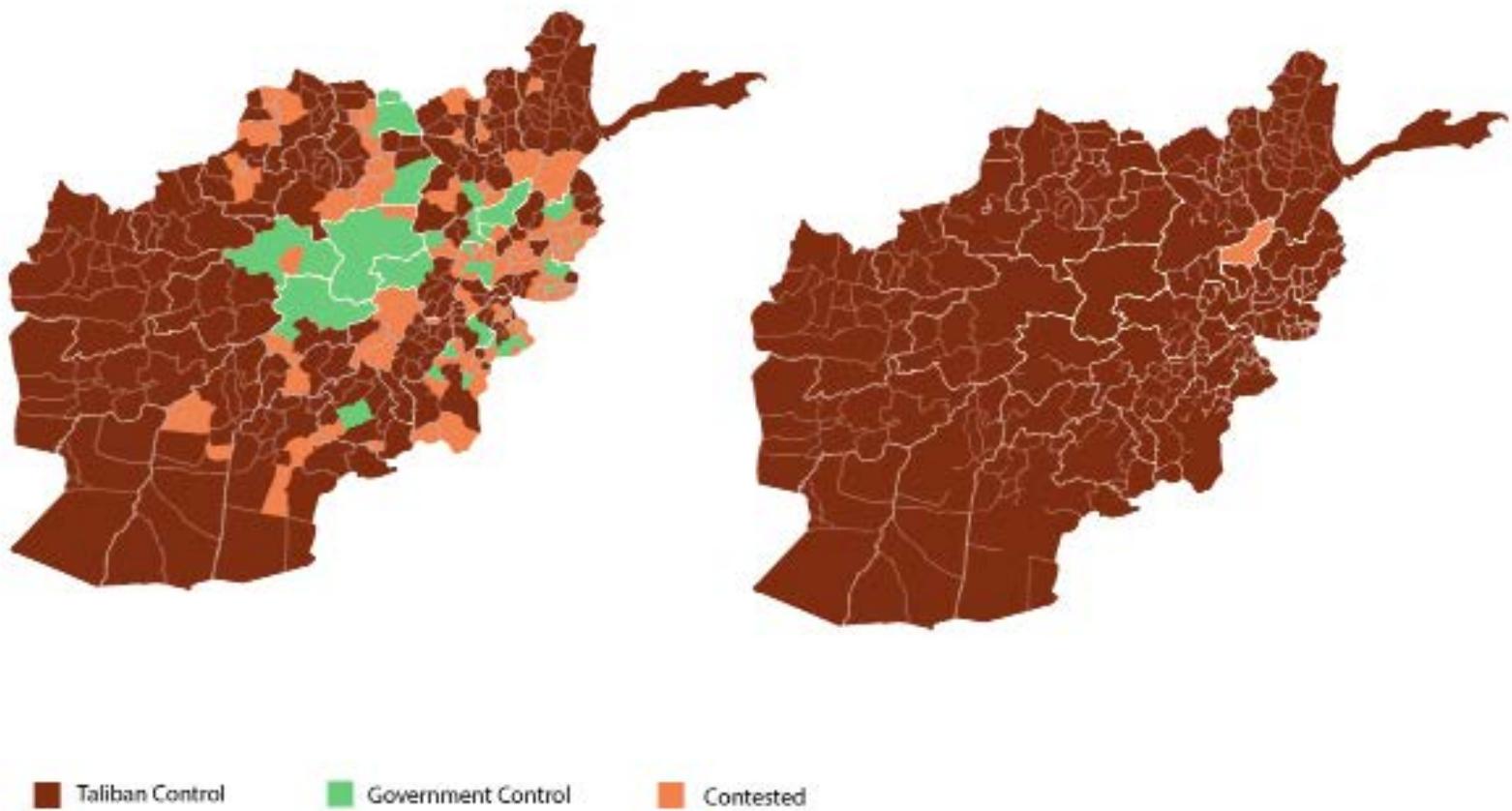


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# United States and Afghanistan



Graphic by: Sienna Parmelee | Production Assistant

The map on the left displays conditions from Aug. 16. The map on the right shows the current conditions as of Monday, Aug. 20.

## US troops withdraw as the Taliban gains control of the desert nation

**Rebecca Witkowski**  
News Reporter

The United States expects its troops to be evacuated from Afghanistan by Aug. 31, with other countries also evacuating their officials.

The withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan is because of an agreement signed by the Trump Administration in February 2020. The Doha Agreement ordered the removal of all US troops in 16 months; President Biden extended the deadline to the end of August. As a result of the withdrawal, the Taliban within Afghanistan have taken over the Afghan government.

“The Afghani government fell as quickly as it did because it simply did not possess the will to fight,” said David Takitaki, professor of social and behavioral sciences and majoring in political science. “Afghani troops and government leaders conducted

negotiations with the Taliban and accepted cash payments for the surrender of arms and territory. The culmination of those deals and the resulting capitulation by the Afghan government is what we’ve been witnessing.”

As the US and other nations moved to remove troops and citizens from Afghanistan, the Taliban moved forward with taking over the country. The Associated Press reports that the Taliban successfully entered the capital on Aug. 15. US officials burned important documents before being evacuated; Afghans also attempted to flee the country in fear of Taliban rule.

The reason many Afghans are attempting to escape Taliban rule is because of the extremist beliefs of the Taliban. Professor Takitaki explains that “their social reforms will be strictly conservative” and have “an extremist view of the Islamic faith.” He also explained how the Taliban is hostile towards the LGBT community and women.

“During their previous rule from 1996-2001, the Taliban were actively destructive of non-Islamic cultural artifacts and historic sites, and many observers fear that they will return to these practices,” Professor Takitaki also explained that the majority of Afghans do not support the Taliban.

The US presence in Afghanistan began after the terrorist attacks carried out by al-Qaeda on Sept. 11, 2001. Al-Qaeda operated in Afghanistan under the consent of the Taliban, who was in control of Afghanistan at the time. The US remained in Afghanistan to try to maintain peace and help build a strong government.

Professor Takitaki explains that it is too soon to tell how the Taliban will control the country.

“There is no guarantee the Taliban will be able to reassert the kind of control they had during the years between 1996 and 2001,” he explained. “We also do not know

what sort of Taliban has emerged from 20 years of war, nor do we know how the Afghani people will respond after 20 years of change and constitutional government. It is too early to say how the international political landscape will change.”

With Taliban resistance still present within Afghanistan, it is unlikely they will attempt any attacks on outside countries. There may be a rise in Islamic extremist groups in the country, but there is little to no immediate threat to American citizens.

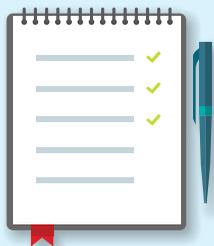
“The Americans most immediately impacted will be those who served in Afghanistan over the past 20 years, and the families of those who never came home,” concluded Professor Takitaki. “We need not be scared or nervous for our own safety, but now is the time to rally around those who have served and lost loved ones in this conflict.”

## Want to write for the Torch but don't have the time every week?

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# LIFESTYLES

Marissa Russell | Lifestyles Editor | russem22@ferris.edu

## Breaking the ice



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Editor in Chief

As classes start on campus students prepare themselves with getting back to having to introduce themselves to new people.

### *With the new semester comes a familiar process for all students*

**Chales Buckle**  
Lifestyles Reporter

The beginning of a new semester is different for everyone, some people start it off smooth, others have a bumpy road ahead of them. There is one thing that stands in everyone's path at the beginning of a new semester though, the icebreaker.

The icebreaker is a method used by professors or other staff to get students to introduce themselves. Icebreakers often involve some sort of activity that is supposed to make the process fun, usually not living up to that expectation. In fact, it seems that most of the time icebreakers make students more nervous on the first day of class than if they just had to introduce themselves in an ordinary manner.

While many icebreakers can be an unpleasant experience for students to go through, sometimes they can also seem odd. There is one method of icebreaking in which students tell each other what they would take to a deserted island as a way to help introduce themselves. Although, that can lead to having to think of whatever item is going to be taken, on top of, how you're going to introduce yourself which can double the stress.

Other somewhat unconventional icebreakers include two truths and a lie, scavenger hunts, even games of hot potato in which whoever gets the "potato" has to introduce and

provide a fact about themselves.

Faculty and staff that actually have to use icebreakers to get to know students feel different about the experience. To them, icebreakers are a great tool when it comes to getting to know a large number of people.

"I think they are a good way to get people out of their shells," said Olivia Adams, an SSA in Ward Hall and former RA, "being an RA I found it helped my residents to get to know me and welcome an open communication."

Although she has used ice breakers in order to get to know students, Adams has still had her own fair share of odd experiences with them.

"An RA found these "conversation sticks" and used them during a meeting. They were very specific and touched on sensitive topics that aren't really talked about or brought up when the relationship is still new," said Adams, "some of them included "Do you believe in god?" "Are you afraid of death?," and "Do you want kids?"

The ice breaker probably is not going to be phased out of student lives any time soon, in fact, it will most likely be around long after current students have graduated and moved on with their lives. Perhaps the one thing students, both current and future, can hope for is that some of the activities used in ice breakers become a little less odd and a little more comfortable.



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## Move in week

As new students prepare to start their college life, Bulldogs gather at Wink Arena to welcome them to campus.

*Photo by: Cassidy Jessup | Multimedia Manager*

# 10 Things To Keep In Your Backpack

Things you might want to think about having in your bag

**Meghan Hartley**  
Lifestyles Reporter

With the school year beginning it's good to be prepared for the day, whatever may come. Here are ten things you might want to keep in your backpack.

### 1. Facemasks.

With the university trying to keep students as safe as possible by continuing to ask students to wear masks when in official university buildings, it's a good idea to always keep a mask on hand. If you walk out the door, forgetting to grab a mask, you can simply grab one from your backpack if you've put one there.

### 2. Hand sanitizer.

Just as it's a good idea to keep a spare mask in your bag, it's also a good idea to keep some hand sanitizer in your pocket. There will be many surfaces and door handles you will come in contact with that hundreds of others have also touched. It's good to try your best in keeping your hands clean by using an anti-bacterial gel to kill off those pesky germs.

### 3. A water bottle.

It's important to stay hydrated throughout the day, as it can give us a little bit more energy. Keeping a water bottle on you is a good way to easily get a sip of wa-

ter instead of having to go buy a bottle of water. There are also many areas around campus in which you can refill your bottle. Plus, more people using water bottles means fewer plastic bottles being thrown away.

### 4. A notebook.

A great way to keep on top of your schoolwork and understand what you are learning in class is by taking notes. Making sure to have a notebook with you can help you to remember things and be a reminder of what your professor has said in class.

### 5. Writing utensils.

As the saying goes, you never know when you'll need a pencil. Make sure to always have a pen and pencil on you, not just for the in-class moments, but for any out-of-class writing you may want to do.

### 6. A Binder.

Your classes will most likely give you a lot of papers and you'll want to keep them for future studying. A good way to keep all the papers together and organized is in a binder. Putting your latest papers behind one another, lesson after lesson, so nothing will be out of order.

### 7. An agenda.

With your classes and the activities around campus,

you'll want to remember the days and times that these events are taking place. Having an agenda can keep this organized, and remind you of upcoming events and due dates.

### 8. A portable charger.

Technology is being used more and more every day, including in our classes to complete our school work. It's important that our devices are fully charged and running, so keeping a portable charger with you in your bag is helpful when your device's battery becomes low.

### 9. A laptop.

Almost every college student knows that the best way to get any work done for class is online. Having the right technology is usually known as having a laptop that you can type on, submit documents and take tests.

### 10. Earbuds.

In our generation music is life. We are constantly listening to it, so having a good pair of earbuds can really make a long day a bit easier to handle. Making sure to have this in your bag is a go-to, especially if you are a music lover.



# Media Minute

**Noah Kurkjian**  
News Editor

Obviously, spoilers, lots, and lots of spoilers. The review will cover everything from season one to season 17 so if you are not caught up, or don't want to have any aspect of the show spoiled, consider yourself warned.

Grey's Anatomy has been on the air since 2005 and since the new season starts in just a few short weeks, now is a better time than any to look back at the series as a whole.

As the show has been on for almost two decades, there are several distinct eras of the show, usually broken up into about five season blocks. The first five seasons I consider the MAGIC era, these seasons host the original main cast of interns, Meredith, Alex, George, Izzie, and Cristina.

The MAGIC era is considered by most to be the gold standard of Grey's Anatomy and for good reason. The original cast had such amazing chemistry and that's unfortunately not a thing I can say about many of the later seasons. The comedy is fresh and the one liners are always perfect. The drama also feels authentic whereas in the later seasons it definitely plays as if it were written.

This is also what I'd consider the golden era of medical gore for the show, there are interesting cases every episode, a myriad of tumors, once-in-a-career transplants, out of this world traumas, and so much more to keep viewers hooked on something other than the insanely attractive doctors.

Moving onto these insanely attractive doctors, I have already mentioned the interns, so let's talk attendings. The show starts with chief of surgery Dr. Richard Webber, general surgery, Dr. Derek Shepherd, neurosurgery, Dr. Preston Burke, cardiothoracic surgery, and added in season two and three, Dr. Addison Montgomery Shepherd OB-GYN and fetal surgery and Dr. Mark Sloan, plastic surgery. All portrayed by 2005 heart throbs.

The chemistry didn't stop with the interns, though. The aforementioned attendings all have fantastic on-screen chemistry, this shows a lot in the race for the next chief of surgery, all of them are tripping over themselves to impress but they're just making fools of themselves, and it makes for some entertaining TV.

We can't talk MAGIC era if we don't talk MerDer. Our lead character Meredith unknowingly falls for the hotshot neuro attending, Dr. Shepherd, the night before her first day as an intern. They both find out they will be working closely with each other in a big moment where they lock eyes from across the room in the hospital and as much as I don't want to say it, the rest was history.

There were obviously bumps to get to their happily ever after, and it doesn't stay so happy for long, but the MAGIC era showed the best of them and gives me hope that not all is dead.

As we close the MAGIC era, we must discuss write offs. The first major exits were Isiah Washington's character Dr. Burke and Kate Walsh's character Dr. Addison Montgomery. Burke left Cristina at the altar and just disappeared. This exit wasn't shocking as news broke that he has been using homophobic slurs towards fellow cast member T. R. Knight who played George. Walsh "left" to her own spin-off Private Practice.

Not all these exits were written to be neat and tidy though. This show can just reach into your chest and rip out your heart one vessel at a time. Like for instance, at the end of season five, George was hit by bus and died, and the MAGIC era died with him. This also is sadly just where the deaths begin.

MAGIC slim down even more when mid-season six, Izzie takes her and her stage four brain cancer and leaves the show. Season six is what I would consider the end of the MAGIC era and I would say we are entering the MerDer marriage era that I would suggest spans from season six to the end of season 11.

This is also a good era of Grey's, it's definitely no MAGIC but this era has some amazing episodes like season six's "I Saw What I Saw", the episode after we meet the Mercy West residents, we're throw into a clip show woven within interrogations of doctors after a patient died from a mistake. Or Sea-

son eight's "Put Me in Coach" where the Seattle Grace Mercy West softball team goes again Seattle Presbyterian hospital.

This era has a very fuzzy ending. To me, the golden era of Grey's truly ends with Derek's death, however a lot of fans called it quits when pseudo-main character Cristina left at the close of season 10. These two major exits really changed the tone of the show, we now have to watch our main character Meredith rediscover herself outside of Derek and Cristina and we have to welcome in their replacements.

These replacements usher in what I like to call the "sister era". I would say this era extends from season 12 until the close of season 16 and it's just okay. This era has oodles and oodles of love triangles. Meredith being pursued by Andrew and Nathan then Andrew and Link and then Andrew and Cormac. It's hard to keep up with but she's not the only one.

Then you have Amelia, who replaces Derek, her older brother is being pursued by Link and Owen (more replacement characters), and Teddy and numerous love triangles and so on and so forth. This era is very annoying as we rarely see any of the main cast in happy, stable relationships.

As for the characters themselves, I think we see most of them grow for the most part, however, there are a lot of times where the writers torpedo several seasons worth of character development in one episode like when Alex attacked Andrew or when Cristina kept stealing Meredith's 3D printer.

The writers spent so much time showing Alex growing and learning from his past mistakes just for him to throw away over a decade of development over a misunderstanding. It was just a very irksome decision. I won't even get into how poorly written I feel his exit was because that would be a whole article in it of itself.

Then with Christina, right before she was supposed to leave, the writers have her start acting like a total child towards her best friend and essentially reduce them to school children in their pettiness. These single episode character reductions just feel like they are in such poor taste.

The sister era introduces two new main characters, Amelia, Derek's younger neurosurgeon sister and Maggie, the love child of Meredith's mother and Chief Webber.

While I like these characters, I don't think Meredith needed any more surprise sisters after Lexie.

These three women honestly run the show well, but it's a different show, just set in the same hospital. We lose the magic of MAGICs training as they have all either grown up, left, or died and the show doesn't really focus on the interns regularly if at all anymore let alone the residents. It's just turned into the manufactured drama of poor decision making and love triangles.

Finally, we land on the current era of Grey's Anatomy, I haven't really heard of or coined a great name for it yet so for now I'll refer to it as the post Alex era. This era of the show spans from the end of season 16 to current day.

Season 17 is honestly good television with a huge asterix. If you're a health care worker who had to deal with the pandemic in virtually any capacity, I recommend just reading some spoilers, hopefully pick up at season 18 and circle back to season 17 when the pandemic is long over.

This past season showed Grey Sloan Memorial Hospital in the thick of the COVID-19 pandemic and honestly it was hard to watch. I personally don't have much direct experience with the virus aside from having a rather mild case myself, so I wasn't fully aware of the extent of the situation in all the ways the show laid it out for the viewers.

I personally wish that Grey's would have handled the pandemic like "The Resident" did, a couple episodes about it and then everyone was vaccinated, and we were back to the normal show. I know that's not how life goes but I honestly don't want to turn on my TV every week to watch my escape show just for the world's problems to be jammed down my throat through yet another medium.

The later seasons of this show are growing more and more tedious and boring to watch, however, I have already committed to 383 episodes, so what's one or two more seasons, right?

## TUNE IN TO OUR PODCAST: THE FIRE PIT

HOSTED BY:

MARISSA RUSSELL, BRODY KEISER & NOAH KURKJIAN



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# OPINIONS

Rebecca VanderKooi | Opinions Editor | vandr122@ferris.

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## EDITOR'S COLUMN: Setting a team up for success

By: Brendan Sanders



Photo by: Brendan Sanders | Editor-In-Chief

A close up of the car that I have been helping with over the course of this summer.

There's a reason why I go back to Lowell every week.

It's not about seeing old friends, though I do see them. It's not to help out around the house, though I do that also. No, every Friday night in the fall, most of the night comes out to watch one event. The Lowell Red Arrow football team.

It has been a program that has usually been one of the best in the state. With a state championship appearance in 2015 and a state semi-final appearance in 2016. Other than one year in 2018, the team had made the playoffs since the late 1990's.

Starting in 2015, I began filming for the football team. I couldn't contribute on the field due to lacking any physical trait worth using in that sport. (My physical skill traits consist of me being slow, skinny, short, weak). I wanted to help, and when I was offered a chance to film and observe how the team interacted with one another.

I watched as these players treated each other almost as family, with the coaches being the guiding parents. They reveled in their success together, and they shared their losses as well. The entire time, the coaching staff pushed one thing. That this was a team effort, not just one person.

Being able to help out with a racing team is a whole other challenge. Since my mechanical knowledge of cars is very limited, I've had to resort to other ways to help out the team. I relied on two things on know best, filming and using data.

Doing camera work for this team, I had the job of turning on the in-car camera as the driver stepped in, and getting shots like this picture above. Beyond that, I've offered up my data collection for qualifying data.

Being in the pits allowed me to observe as teams worked frantically on their cars, trying to get fractions of a second. When the car was damaged, not only would the car owners work on the thing, but sometimes other competitors would jump in from other divisions to help.

In both cases, being able to just observe how these two teams worked together to achieve a significant result proved to me how fostering an environment that focused on more of a collectivistic ideal than an individualistic can lead to a much better result.

In other words, when on a team, the goal isn't about just you, but instead about the goals of your team. Whether it is to win a championship in football, or to win a race at your local short track.

Now, a personal challenge to me in this environment has been the issue of micromanaging. For my entire life, I've felt that projects always began and ended with me. The only times I felt like my project was going to get an A, was if I did at least 75% of the work.

Leading this paper, I'm learning that it is not healthy, nor smart to do 75% of the work. I know I have one of the best staffs an Editor-In-Chief can ask for, so stepping back from having total control over the situation has been a daunting but necessary step for me.

I know it can work because I've witnessed team success firsthand.

## Move-in blues

A satirical outlook on moving into the dorms

Angie Rosenthal  
Torch Photographer

It is your first day at Ferris. You drive up to the entrance of your dorm, ready to move into your new home. You have spent all summer waiting for this moment. What you do not realize is that you are about to spend the next two hours experiencing a form of hell you didn't know existed: Move-In Day.

Let's start with the first issue you face as a newcomer: parking. You want to park right in front of the entrance for easy access to your building. The issue is everyone else is thinking the same thing. Not to mention, some residence halls have no options for parking near their doors. You ultimately find yourself parking in a lot far away from the front door; making your move in an even more time consuming process.

You park your car and carry some of your possessions through the entrance and into the building. You now face your next obstacle: the ever-gloomy stairs. Some of you might be lucky enough to get a room on

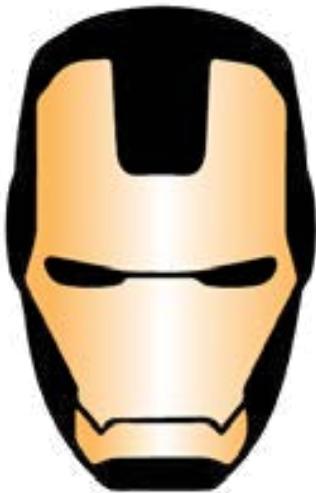
Mini fridges, loft beds, televisions, microwaves; these are just some of the things you might have to lug up in the summer heat.

This will not be the final issue you face, but it will be the last one listed here: moving furniture. You enter your dorm room and immediately take in the layout of your new home. This issue does not apply if you like the layout of your room, but if you do not, you may find yourself moving some things around in pursuit of the perfect layout. You will break into a sweat, you will have to keep things from toppling over and you will have to be careful not to scratch up the floor because that would get you fined for property damage.

These are issues that plague college students around this time every year, and they will continue to plague us for years to come. If you or a loved one had to deal with this hardship recently, you should be entitled to a hug or at least a pat on the back. We understand your pain.

# What if: Thoughts on Marvels latest series

## Marvel's multiverse stories are just starting



Graphic created by Sienna Parmelee



Many streaming services and movie studios have debuted Marvel television shows and movies, but Disney Plus has taken the franchise to new heights.

"What If", Disney Plus' newest release, is a show that reimagines the Marvel stories we all know and love. It has peaked my excitement and I am excited for all the possibilities that come.

This is your official spoiler warning. Continue at your own risk if you have not seen this show.

The reason I am so excited for "What If" is because it handles everything possible that could happen in the multiverse. With this series there are no limitations on what can be created. There are so many stories that inhabit the multiverse and "What If" could tell them all.

I believe the decision to create this series in an animated form was the best choice. Animation allows the series to create more storytelling opportunities

in a shorter time. This means that the full story can be told without skipping parts or assuming that the viewers will pick up pieces, like on the big screen.

In the first three episodes of "What If" they mentioned scenarios that have already played out in the Marvel cinematic universe, however, the trailer reveals that there is much more to come of these stories. The first three episodes focused primarily on Steve Rodgers not becoming Captain America and all the changes that would've caused, as well as T'Challa being abducted and becoming star-lord. In the newest episode, the avengers are all killed and they never become Earth's mightiest heroes.

As a huge Marvel fan I am really enjoying this new series. I appreciate how it tells new stories and provides a different thrill. I hope to see upcoming episodes that include Spider-Man, as he is and always has been my favorite hero. I truly think this new series will reach a big audience. It has the potential to continue for many seasons because of how much material the show runners have to choose from.

Each of the first three episodes touched on the small aspects of what could happen in the multiverse. It helps to show that anything can happen. In each time



Graphic created by Sienna Parmelee

frame the biggest thing that hits home is how one small change can lead to future ramifications. For me, the best part of this series is how the show takes one single choice and highlights how it can branch out into all sorts of different realities.

# Clickgait: news in the age of social media

## Thoughts of a journalist in the digital age



Jessica Oakes  
Special Edition Editor

In a recent conversation with a family friend, I was told that news today is "all propaganda." As I assured them that the Torch would most certainly not fall into that category, I wondered what sources this person uses to obtain information. My curiosity only expanded upon finding out that this non-believer of my vocation was a practicing Scientologist.

Passing judgments on other people's ideologies is not in my job description. Understanding what makes people believe the information that is presented to them, however, is a crucial part of every journalists' journey through this era of media skepticism.

When writing about things that I believe to be of the utmost importance, such as the COVID-19 vaccine, it is disheartening to think of how many people may disregard the work as "fake news." Of course, I do not take it personally. To center myself in the greater story of news media would be improper and unethical, so it does nothing to my ego. Instead, it deflates my hope for the future.

My reporting has connected me with several people in the healthcare field who are seeing the effects of this distrust, in both media and science, firsthand. One of the most impactful conversations I have had with a source involved the realization that journalists and public health professionals share the responsibility of protecting the masses during the pandemic. As public informants, it is our professional

and moral obligation to spread the truth to everyone who will listen.

I must confess that I understand the appeal of writing off today's news as fiction. Most headlines I see read like a dystopian novel. With the twenty-four hour news cycle made pocket-sized by social media, we are always carrying around the heaviest information wherever we go. By keeping our faces buried in a digital news feed, we insist on constantly thinking about the world, but never experiencing it. Never working to fix it. Sometimes, denial feels like the only escape.

Not to say that the internet is anything less than rife with misinformation. Indeed, media literacy is an exceedingly important life skill for everyone alive today. Current events never stop updating, regardless of whether or not the public is ready, or if it will make them happy. In fact, stories become more widespread if they make people extremely sad or angry.

According to a recent study conducted by researchers from DePaul University and Harvard Business School, negativity is more frequent and impactful for news organizations than positivity. Information spreads faster and farther through Twitter when it can evoke rage, no matter what side of the political spectrum an issue may fall in. For reasons not entirely understood, negativity is contagious.

Perhaps anger is productive. Clinical psychologist Schekeva Hall, Ph.D, sees anger as one of the most misunderstood emotions. It is not only erratic, he explained. It can also be an emotional fuel for making stances and taking action. The speed and consistency with which



Graphic created by Dylan Bowden

social media news moves, however, leaves little time for a proper response. Or any critical thinking, for that matter. People's interest peaks high and fades away as quickly as it appeared. This leaves us with a new, open-ended problem every week.

I believe remedying this rift between the press and the readers is a wide responsibility. It is not only my job as a reporter to tell legitimate stories to my Ferris community. It is also our job as citizens to consume media wisely. The internet's equalizing nature tends to prioritize shock value over expertise, but it is within all of us to find the bona fide truth. There are plenty of people out there who work so hard to share it with us.

## GOT AN OPINION?

### HOW TO SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

Deadline for submissions every Friday by 5 p.m.  
Brendan Sanders | Editor-in-Chief | Email: sandeb16@ferris.edu

1. Think of a topic that you feel strongly about.
2. Write out your thoughts in a coherent and respectful manner.
3. include a headshot and some information about yourself (location, age, etc.).
4. Email your opinion to the editor for a chance to have your work published in our next issue!

Brody Keiser | Sports Editor | keiserb1@ferris.edu

# A new face from a familiar place

## Ferris golf hires former Bulldog player as new head

**Brody Keiser**  
Sports Editor

Bulldog alum Sam Stark is set to lead Ferris's men's and women's golf teams after being hired as the newest head coach.

Stark, who started his coaching tenure with Ferris July 1, golfed for the Bulldogs from 2010-2015. After his time as a player at Ferris, Stark became the head coach at Alderson Broaddus University from 2017-2019 and then at Coker University for two seasons after that. Now the newest Bulldog head coach, Stark is happy to be back at Ferris.

"It's a great feeling," Stark said. "This is a place that I have a lot of pride in and a program that has had a lot of success, and I got to be a little part of that success. It's good to be back here and trying to bring us a little more success in the future."

Stark feels that the experience he garnered from his previous coaching jobs will help him here at Ferris as a young coach.

"Having those four years of experience as a young coach really made this a rapid process when it comes to gaining experience," Stark said. "Not having an assistant coach meant I had to do a lot of the little things myself and get into the nitty-gritty of the job. All of it was leading up to finding my way back home, and now that it's happened, I'm just happy to be here."

"It's important that at both those places, I used Ferris as a framework for what we were going to do," Stark continued. "Everything I did at those two places led me back home."

Athletic success is vital to any coach, but Stark also firmly believes in academic success for his players. He stressed the importance of efficiency when balancing time on the course and in the classroom. He plans to build Ferris's program around efficiency, saying that he will "be here for a while" and time management will be a focal point for his Bulldogs "for the next decade or so."

Stark and his previous teams have found success academically and on the golf course. As a player himself, Stark had four top-15 tournament finishes, made the Dean's List, and won the President's Award for having the team's highest GPA.

As a coach, Stark led Coker's men's team to its first tournament championship since 2017, and the women's team posted a 3.87 GPA, good for eighth highest in the nation. Stark feels he can lead the Bulldogs to the same sort of success.

Last season, the men's team won the GLIAC Championship and competed in the NCAA tournament. The women's team had a strong season overall, with a fifth-place finish in the GLIAC tournament.

Junior women's golfer Alayna Eldred hopes to build off last year's strong season.

"I'm hoping that as a team, we can continue to build on the momentum we had from the spring season," Eldred said. "I saw a lot of personal growth both on and off the golf course from my team in the spring, and I am looking forward to building on that this fall. Personally, I'm looking to build on my spring season and continue to be a competitive player not only in the GLIAC but in the region as well."

Eldred thinks Stark will be an essential part of building the program's success and can provide consistency at the head coaching position.

Coming in as a new head coach to a successful program does not have Stark worried. Instead, he is excited about the opportunity at Ferris.

Stark mentioned a quote from former Michigan State University basketball player Aaron Henry where Henry talked about what it is like to play for a winning program.

"Don't applaud a fish for swimming," Henry said in an interview following a victory over Ohio State University. "Fish swim all day, and Spartans have won before."

Stark used that quote to lay down what his expectations are for the Bulldogs. The Bulldogs are successful on the golf course, and Stark expects them to continue finding success. Even though this is his first season with Ferris, that expectation does not change.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Sam Stark golfed for Ferris from 2010-2015, and will now coach the Bulldogs.

## Changes off the lines

### Bulldog Hockey looking to thrive with new conference and updated facilities

**Brandon Wirth**  
Sports Reporter

Despite a one-win campaign last season, Ferris State Hockey has many reasons to be optimistic about the upcoming 2021-2022 season.

The Bulldogs come into the new campaign with more experience and confidence than last year. After only losing a few players and gaining more in recruiting, many players are feeling hungry to change the narrative from a year ago.

"We have something to prove this year," senior forward Ethan Stewart said. "We are excited about the opportunity ahead of us."

One of the changes providing the excitement is a shift in conference. After 70 years

of hosting some of the finest collegiate hockey, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association officially announced the league would be disbanding on July 1 due to over 80% of the teams deciding to jointly leave the league.

With the WCHA disbanding, the seven teams that left league ultimately decided to re-brand and join a former conference that dissolved in 2013: the Central Collegiate Hockey Association. The CCHA began in 1971 and operated for over 42 years in the Midwest region. With the Bulldogs having played in the former conference, Head Coach Bob Daniels is excited for the CCHA's return.

"I coached my first 25 years in the CCHA, so to me, it's a "new-old" conference," Daniels said. "It's kind of like a welcome home."

Joining Ferris State in the CCHA are former WCHA competitors Bemidji State, Minnesota State-Mankato, Bowling Green, Lake Superior State, Michigan Tech, and Northern Michigan. Rounding out the eight-team conference is the University of St. Thomas, who are making their division one debut after previous competing in the division three Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference.

"I know as a team we are excited for the change into the CCHA," senior Forward Jake Transit said. "It's been fun seeing the culture change already in such a short amount of time."

Along with new conference opponents, the Bulldogs will also be facing new competitors outside of the CCHA in the upcoming campaign. This includes a series with Cani-

sius College, a division one program with a familiar face leading the team. Trevor Large, a former Bulldog player from 2000-2004, is entering his fifth season as the head coach of the Golden Griffins.

"We wanted to get them on the schedule as soon we could," Coach Daniels said regarding Canisius.

With the return of the conference comes an upgrade in their branding. The conference has made several changes including adding a new logo, website, and media network. With all the hard work, these updates have caught the attention of many supportive players.

"We've all seen how active they are on representing the conference on social media," Transit said. "Us players are very appreciative of that."

**Jump Word** | see page 11

# Fantasy Football Preseason

In a continuation of last year, we will have a weekly fantasy football column again this year. We are just over a week away from kicking off the NFL 2021 season, and before we can get into our weekly start/sit column, we have plenty to talk about in preparation for fantasy drafts. Let's begin with some players we think will do exceedingly well this season, followed by some players we think are being drafted too high. The participants in this column are Sports Editor Brody Keiser and Sports Reporters Austin Arquette and Brandon Wirth.

Brody  
Players I love this year:

## James Robinson

The Jaguars will be a much better team this year, at least offensively. With rookie running back **Travis Etienne's** season ending injury Robinson should return to the bell cow he was a season ago. Currently, he's being drafted in the back end of the second round, but he has legitimate RB1 upside.

## Lamar Jackson

I love Lamar this year. This might seem obvious, but most fantasy experts have Lamar ranked as a mid to back-end QB1. Of course, Lamar is being drafted as a starting quarterback, but I think he has a chance to be the top scoring QB again this season. Remember, he is only two years removed from an MVP season. With the elite rushing upside Lamar has, he is my top quarterback pick outside of **Patrick Mahomes**.

Players I hate this year:

## Justin Jefferson

I think Jefferson will have another solid season in the NFL. Do I think he will repeat as fantasy's number six wide receiver? No, I do not. In fact, I think that is his ceiling, at least until **Adam Thielen** is out of the picture. Currently being drafted as a top 10 WR, I just don't think Jefferson could get any better than that, and he's simply not a guy I'm willing to spend a top 20 pick on in fantasy.

## Kyle Pitts

Rookie tight ends are so hard to predict in fantasy. I get it, the guy is crazy talented and probably already **Matt Ryan's** second-best target. But he's being drafted ahead of guys like **TJ Hockenson**, **Logan Thomas** and **Dallas Goedert**. Those guys are proven players in the NFL, albeit with some question marks. I still think Pitts will flirt with TE1 numbers but give me any three of those other guys before a rookie, even one as talented as Pitts.

Austin  
Players I love this year:

## Matthew Stafford

Now that Stafford finally has a good defense to keep him off the field so long, a strong receiving core, a decent backfield and a good offensive line, I think this is finally the year he goes crazy. While Stafford has had good receivers in the past, he has never played with the caliber offense that the Rams have. I think Stafford will have one of the best outings of his career and be in contention as a top 10 fantasy quarterback.

## Mike Williams

I think this is Mike's year. I say this because the Chargers have expressed that they need to get Mike involved more, and even his quarterback, **Justin Herbert**, said that they need to feed Williams. I think that even with **Keenan Allen**, Williams will be amazing and complement one another perfectly for an amazing offense.

## JUMP

Continued from page 10

Not only will the Bulldogs have new opponents on their home ice this winter, but they will also have an updated locker room to prep for those teams. According to Coach Daniels, the new renovations and additions will be made for this upcoming season.

"(The locker rooms) were new to us 25 years ago, but now they are starting to age," Daniels said. "This project will give them a more contemporary look."

Some of the notable locker room changes include new LED lighting, vinyl artwork, and locker stalls with new seats. Coach Daniels believes the changes will provide a "contemporary facelift" to the facility.

The renovations aren't the only changes occurring within team facilities. Along with the locker room modifications, the Bulldogs have also obtained a new nutrition station and team weight room. The nutrition station, named the Sarah Collins room, provides proper nutritional snacks and hydration for all the teams' student athletes. The new satellite weight room allows for the athletes to train throughout the school year and summer at their convenience.

There is no doubt the new facilities will make a huge impact. Many players like Stewart believe the new additions are going to be a huge resource for training moving

forward.

"The new facilities have been extremely helpful," Stewart said. "The implementation of the nutrition center was huge for us players. The coaches and trainers have done an amazing job providing us different foods before and after workouts."

Not only are the new changes beneficial for the current team members, but they will also be crucial for future players at the university.

"Facilities are always important when it comes to recruiting," Stewart said. "The future recruits are going to be in a great spot with everything we have going on now."

With all the new tools and a clean slated conference, the hockey program is looking to make a jump this season. Many players, including Transit, believe these changes have already provided motivation towards the improvement.

"We're all excited to have a fresh start," Transit said. "This preseason has been very good for us and guys have been working super hard. I think we are going to surprise a lot of people this year."

The Bulldogs open the season Oct. 2 at home vs. Miami University-Ohio. For tickets or more information, visit [www.ferris-statebulldogs.com/sports/mice](http://www.ferris-statebulldogs.com/sports/mice).



Graphic by Charlie Zitta

Players I hate this year:

## Antonio Brown

I say Brown is a hated wideout in fantasy this year because for starters he has a terrible attitude problem. While this isn't the first time we have heard about Brown and his issues on and off the field, Brown also plays on the Buccaneers which has so many mouths to feed and in fantasy football that hurts your value. At this point with all his drama I'd rather spend my pick on a player who will play and be available for me every week instead of trusting in a guy who could be kicked off the team due to his poor attitude any moment.

## Kenny Golladay

Do I think Golladay is a rising star sure, but do I trust his value in the Giants offense especially when **Daniel Jones** is his QB? The answer is no. With a terrible quarterback and the return of **Saquon Barkley**, plus all the offensive additions, I think Golladay is going to struggle with his new team. Not to mention he already is battling injuries and will only be a guy that is thrown to, if he gets thrown to, when it's a 50/50 ball. I'd pick the Giants defense before anyone else on the offensive side other than Saquon from the Giants.

Brandon  
Players I love this year:

## Darnell Mooney

As one of the most talented players on the Chicago Bears roster, the former Tulane standout had what many consider a 'great' rookie season in the Windy City despite dealing with the accuracy woes of **Mitchell Trubisky**. With the eventual leeway to the strong-armed **Justin Fields**, the possibilities with Mooney's improved route-running and his 4.38 'forty' speed bring no limits for the Bears offense. With the ability to take the ball deep and top coverage swaying to **Allen Robinson**, "Mad-Eye" Mooney should be able to exceed his 61 catches, 631 yards, and his 11th round draft projection.

## Jonnu Smith

Assuming **Cam Newton** is the starter in New England, there is no better target on paper than the 6-3, 248-pound tight end. Smith had plenty of explosive plays in Tennessee with **Ryan Tannehill**. Despite only accruing 448 receiving yards on 41 catches, he found the endzone eight times. Throwing to his tight ends worked for Newton in Carolina, and I see Smith getting a ton of targets.

Players I hate this year

## David Johnson

Despite being listed third on the Texans depth chart, the 29-year-old still cracks the top 40 RB rankings according to ESPN Fantasy. After a prime breakout season in 2016, Johnson has not been anywhere near that level recently. Johnson has only played in 42 games over the last four seasons due to various wrist, knee and back issues. As a franchise looking for a complete reset, bringing in an upstart **Phillip Lindsay** and veteran leader **Mark Ingram** means much less opportunity for Johnson.

## Jalen Hurts

Do I love Jalen Hurts' opportunity? Yes. Do I love his surrounding cast? Not enough. Adding **DeVonta Smith** was a step in the right direction but having **Jalen Reagor** and **Dallas Goedert** as your next best targets shows there is a lack of playmaking ability on paper. With the defense and offensive line depreciating from 2020 and a new head coach in Nick Sirianni, the unknowns have me concerned in Hurts' potential as a surefire top-10 quarterback this season.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

Bob Daniels is excited to return to the CCHA.

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