

# THE STATESMAN

INFORMING STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS

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LOOK  
INSIDE FOR

## HOOPLA 2017



## Budget cuts draw concern at diversity town hall

By Gary Ghayat  
Contributing Writer

As Stony Brook University moves forward with its plan to promote diversity and representation on campus, some are questioning how budget cuts could impact this initiative.

At a diversity town hall meeting on Wednesday, Nov. 8., University Provost Michael Bernstein was asked why faculty layoffs seemed to be most prevalent in departments with large concentrations of women and people of color.

For instance, in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, more than half of the 20 instructors whose contracts were not renewed are women, and many of them come from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

"It's not about targeting particular segments of the faculty," Bernstein said to the crowd at the Charles B. Wang Center on Wednesday. "We are also eager to make sure our deployment of resources, where we're



GARY GHAYAT / THE STATESMAN

**On Wednesday, Nov. 8, President Stanley held a town hall to promote diversity on campus. He said that approximately \$1.5 million is set aside to support the initiative.**

putting our funds and what programs, aligns with student interests and student needs."

Bernstein said that a systematic review has been undertaken to assess the quality and impact of academic programs. Eugene Hammond, former director of the Program in Writing and Rhetoric, claims this review was inaccurate.

"The idea that there was a qualitative evaluation is totally wrong," Hammond said. "And we've told

them that many of our adjuncts are as good as any lecturers and as good as any professors. That's why we hired them."

Dean of Admissions Judith Berhannan said her office's enrollment outreach team visited 169 targeted schools with significant populations of African American and Latino students, a practice they plan to continue in the future.

Aside from pledging to give a voice to underrepresented demo-

graphics the diversity plan also promises to support a wide array of academic programs.

Shantia McCarthur, a senior multidisciplinary studies major, told panelists at the town hall that she felt it was unfair for the plan to claim that Stony Brook will promote arts and humanities majors when in reality these programs are being neglected.

*Continued on page 4*

## Missing student Courtney Murphy found

By Mahreen Khan  
News Editor

Stony Brook University student Courtney Murphy, who had been missing since Sunday, Nov. 5, has been found, Assistant Chief of Police Eric Olsen confirmed in a phone conversation on Thursday, Nov. 9.

"She was found safe," Olsen said, asking that everyone "respect her privacy." University Police also sent out a mass text message that afternoon to students, staff and faculty, which read in part: "This afternoon University Police Investigators were able to locate the student reported missing on November 6th."

This official notice came about an hour and a half after Haitian Student Organization (HSO) member, Destiny Hernandez, posted about Murphy's safety in a GroupMe chat. The chat, referred to as "Static Brook" and in other instances, "Shady Brook," is designed to help individuals from campus clubs and organizations promote their group events, Hernandez said. She wrote in her message, "Courtney Murphy has been found. I do not have any details at this moment," adding in a later message, "Her family reached out to let me know but has not given details yet." Hernandez clarified in an email that she has not been in any sort of direct contact with Murphy's family, but learned of Murphy's safety through "someone who claimed to be a family friend."

An HSO-hosted conference was held in the Student Activities Center on Wednesday, Nov. 8, in relation to the then-active investigation. Murphy is a cultural officer on the HSO e-board, Hernandez said.

Representatives from the University Police Department and Counseling and Psychological Services were present at the conference, as well as Assistant Dean for Multicultural Affairs Dr. Jarvis M. Watson and Associate Dean and Director of Multicultural Affairs Cheryl Chambers.

## SBU students in Madagascar safe from recent plague diagnosis

By Ian Passe  
Contributing Writer

Ranomafana, Madagascar – On Aug. 23, 2017, a 31-year-old Malagasy man began experiencing malaria-like symptoms while in Ankarondra District, Madagascar. Over the next few days he planned to travel across the central plateau to his home in Toamasina. He traveled by taxi brousse, an often overcrowded minibus and the country's most common form of transportation. This route took him through the capital city of Antananarivo, where he had to spend time in a transportation hub while waiting to switch to a new taxi brousse. On Aug. 27, he died on that taxi brousse shortly before arriving in Toamasina.

Three weeks later, on Sept. 11, a 47-year-old woman who traveled in one of the taxi brousses with the initial victim, was admitted to and later died at Soavinandriana Hospital Center in Antananarivo. She, along with everyone else who was in a taxi brousse with the first victim, was diagnosed with pneumonic plague.

There are currently 17 Stony Brook University students studying abroad at Centre ValBio in Ranomafana, Madagascar. While some of the study abroad activities

have been altered to limit contact with the disease, the university is confident about their safety. Alicia Lamb, the teaching assistant on the trip, said, "I think that the precautions that the university has taken are extreme but understandable. I am not worried about my health or the health of the students at all. In the unlikely chance that one of the students were to contract the plague, it is very treatable and the medication is readily available to us."

Plague is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*. There are three forms of the plague: bubonic, pneumonic and septicemic, that are differentiated based on where in the body the infection occurs: bubonic plague infects the lymphatic system, pneumonic plague infects the lungs and septicemic plague infects the bloodstream.

Bubonic plague is the most common form of the disease, transmitted through infected flea bites. Pneumonic is the deadliest form, transmitted from person to person through bacteria-infected cough droplets. "Pneumonic plague in an urban environment can spread rapidly and that's really where they got unlucky this year," Dr. Peter Small, the founding director of Stony Brook



TEE LA ROSA / FLICKR CC BY NC ND 2.0

**Stony Brook students studying abroad at Centre ValBio, are limiting their chances of contact with the disease.**

University's Global Health Institute (GHI), said. Without treatment, individuals who contract pneumonic plague have almost a 100 percent mortality rate.

As of Nov. 6, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified 364 confirmed cases of plague in Madagascar and the Ministry of Public Health reported 143 deaths.

A major dilemma facing health care providers in areas outside of Antananarivo is a lack of access to rapid diagnostic tests. "Confirming a case of plague is an arduous process that requires either culture of the highly pathogenic bacteria or a combination of other labora-

tory assays," said Dr. Simon Grandjean Lapierre, an infectious disease specialist who works for the GHI in Madagascar.

"Tests that, due to biosecurity considerations, can only be performed in the Institute Pasteur of Madagascar, a WHO plague reference laboratory. In this context, community health workers and other healthcare personnel adequately diagnosing, empirically treating cases and tracing contacts in remote areas of the country are essential for adequate outbreak control."

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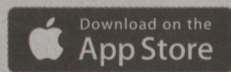


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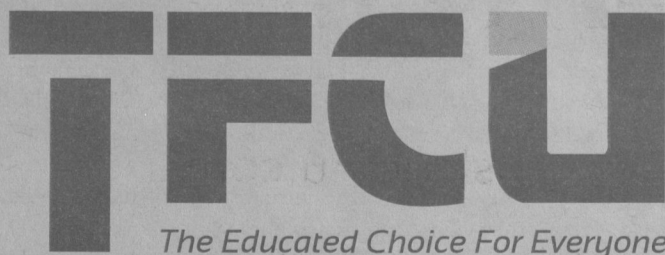
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# NEWS

## Plague: an ancient disease infiltrates modern Madagascar

Continued from page 1

In response to the outbreak, the Ministry of Public Health has stationed doctors and nurses at police road stops around the country to assess the health of individuals traveling in taxibrousses and other automobiles from affected areas. The ministry has also mobilized thousands of community health workers and hundreds of doctors and medical students to trace the path of this outbreak and to perform active case finding.

"With a response that focused heavily on awareness raising and contact tracing, the government and its partners achieved a decline in the incidence of pneumonic plague after the peak of the outbreak in mid-October," said Dr. Astrid Knoblauch, an epidemiologist at the Institute Pasteur of Madagascar. "However, each case of pneumonic plague could potentially start a new upsurge of cases."

The government has also asked people to not participate in the Famadihana ceremony, a tradition in some parts of Madagascar known as "the turning

of the bones." In this ceremony, people disinter and unwrap the remains of their deceased family members and dance with them, sometimes for multiple days, before rewrapping the remains and entombing them. Some news outlets have inaccurately reported that the ceremony has contributed to this year's outbreak. However, it is possible that disintering individuals who have died during this outbreak will infect participants in future years.

Connor Johnson, a Peace Corps health volunteer from the Toamasina area, said that despite the government's warning about the health risks, he witnessed a Famadihana ceremony last week. "Life hasn't been all that different since the outbreak. People are justifiably scared but haven't altered their day-to-day life, it's just another topic to talk about while having coffee or a beer," he said.

For many people in the western world, the word "plague" conjures up images of the historical outbreaks that occurred in Europe in the 14th century, killing an estimated 50 million people. In a conversation about the plague outbreak, Dr. Small ex-

plained that "there's nothing surprising about diseases of antiquity killing people who live in poverty."

In some places, health care systems and living conditions have advanced far beyond what they were in 14th century Europe. However, in places like Madagascar, they unfortunately have not. "Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world and despite their best efforts they simply don't have the public health system that we have in richer countries and so when you have a bacterium that is endemic it becomes a lot more difficult to control," said Dr. Small.

According to the Ministry of Public Health, there are approximately 400 cases of bubonic plague recorded each plague season that lasts from August to April. Most of these cases occur in small, remote villages far away from major population centers, leaving little room for an outbreak to occur. The WHO defines an outbreak as, "an occurrence of cases of disease in excess of what would normally be expected in a defined community, geographical area or season."

The WHO has issued a level 2 travel alert for Madagascar, the same level of travel alert that they have issued for Zika virus-affected countries. It recommends that anyone traveling to the country "practice enhanced precautions" and has deemed the international risk "low" because Madagascar is an island nation, the international mobility of the affected population is low and the incubation period of pneumonic plague is very short. They have advised travelers not to restrict any travel to the country and have expressed confidence in the safety of tourism.

Plague is endemic to numerous places around the world including the United States. According to the Centers for Disease Control and there are on average seven cases of plague in the U.S. each year; over 80 percent of those cases have been the bubonic form of the disease. "Be careful though," Dr. Small warned, "before the United States gets too smug about the situation, we should remember that the only difference between a plague case and a plague epidemic is a good public health system and ours is being eroded by the current federal government's budget cuts."

## Stanley pushes for diversity

Continued from page 1

"It's a little upsetting because I'm not a writing major or minor, but I actually do enjoy writing," McCarthur said. "And I have writing professors that have taught me more about life than Stony Brook professors have in other fields."

Bente Videbaek, an English department lecturer of 21 years, is one of the full-time faculty members who is being transferred to the writing department to teach writing. "I'm not very happy because when you teach writing you have a very specific skillset that you have been taught and trained in," she said.

Bernstein said that the changes being made in the Writing and Rhetoric program were done with a purpose in mind: to help reduce the University's dependence on part-time faculty. "We're reconfiguring the faculty deployment to increase the use of full-time faculty in writing and decrease the use of adjuncts and lecturers who are part time hire," Bernstein said.

He also emphasized that despite the layoffs, Stony Brook is still looking to hire more humanities professors. "In the overwhelming majority of those programs this year, we're hiring," he noted.

Some of the faculty have taken issue with this strategy. "Why under the circumstances, we're firing people and hiring people at the same time?" asked Hammond.

By implementing a hiring freeze, Hammond said the school could save roughly \$100,000 for every tenured faculty member who retires, freeing up more money to retain the existing adjuncts, who get paid significantly less. "You could hire five adjuncts for the price of one tenure track faculty member," he said.

President Samuel L. Stanley Jr. said roughly \$1.5 million dollars has been set aside specifically for the diversity plan, along with another \$650,000 from other areas that will be put toward related initiatives. "That's not as much as we would like – probably 10 times that would be a better number – but we're working very hard and very effectively, I think, and efficiently, with what we have."

One way they hope to do this is by using the Undergraduate College seminars as a tool for fostering discussions about multiculturalism.

"For the first time this fall, all new students including all first-time full-time students and transfer students were able to participate in workshops around issues of diversity and inclusion, as well as gender awareness and equity," Rachele Germana, assistant dean and director of the Undergraduate Colleges said.

Even in the face of budget constraints, Stanley stressed that promoting diversity needs to remain a top priority in order to ensure Stony Brook's success in the long term.

"It's a critically important point to understand we have to do a better job in this area," he said. "We have to change the culture on this campus."

## Local veterans look back on their time in the U.S. military

By Taylor Ha  
Contributing Writer

It wasn't easy for Duane Silvera to stay brave.

On the night of Feb. 23, 1991, the U.S. Marine Corps veteran and his comrades learned they would invade Iraq the following day. It was the beginning of the Gulf War ground offensive, a ground assault on Kuwait and Iraq after six weeks of bombing against Iraq and its armed forces. None of their family members – their wives, children or siblings – knew of these plans. It was a secret, Silvera said, to keep the Iraqis from discovering their plot. But there was not enough time to prepare him and his comrades for death.

"Tomorrow – and I'm not going to lie to you – some of us are going to die," Silvera remembers his master sergeant telling him and his comrades.

Silvera, 51, survived, and attended the 23rd Veterans Day Ceremony at Stony Brook University's Sidney Gelber Auditorium on Wednesday, Nov. 8. But he is also part of a dwindling population of U.S. veterans. In 1980, 18 percent of U.S. adults were veterans, according to census data. In 2014, that number shrunk to 8 percent. Now, perhaps more than ever, it is important to tell their stories – to save their disappearing memories.

More than 165 people paid their respects at the annual ceremony. Nearly 80 of them were veterans, from a 77-year-old man donning a baseball cap embroidered with the words, "Vietnam Veteran," to a gentleman sitting in a wheelchair, with a miniature American flag attached to its push handle. The ceremony was organized by the Office of Veterans Affairs, an organization that helps veterans,

service members and their dependents collect education benefits and transition to Stony Brook University. The university has close to 300 student veterans, said Christopher Joseph, vice president of the Veteran Student Organization, which is a club for student vets and anyone who want to raise awareness for veterans issues. University administrators plan to grant the organization an office in the renovated Student Union, set to open around 2019, said Matthew Whelan, vice president for Strategic Initiatives and interim vice president for Student Affairs, in his welcome speech.

Gennaro Anthony Cavalier, 77, said he spent nearly six years as a weapons controller in the U.S. Air Force. He remembers fixing not only a damaged airplane during the Vietnam War, but also soothing its pilot's nerves. "We got him hooked up with a tanker and got him home safely," Cavalier said.

One of the younger veterans at the ceremony was 27-year-old Marquis Cunningham – a former U.S. army medic, veteran representative from the Office of Veteran Affairs and the student speaker at the ceremony. Cunningham recalled a sweltering, 99 degree Fahrenheit day in Fort Polk, Louisiana. That afternoon, soldiers began dropping like flies. Cunningham patched them up and dozens of others, including soldiers who downed too much beer over the weekend and brawled with one another. His experiences as a military medic led to him to the post-baccalaureate pre-health program at Stony Brook, he said.

Veterans Day, observed annually on Nov. 11, is a national holiday dedicated to those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. For many of today's living veterans, with this dedication comes a continuing struggle with survivor's guilt.



TIM EVANSON/FLICKR VIA CC BY SA-2.0

### A path along the wall of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. The Office of Veterans Affairs will have an office in the new Student Union.

"We'd be sitting with these guys – and we were only in our middle 20s – all lean, mean fighting machines. Indestructible, so to speak," Cavalier said. More than a dozen of his friends were killed. "Then by lunch, he's dead. And you have to deal with that."

A week ago, keynote speaker Osbert Orduña buried his father, Alirio, with full military honors in Calverton National Cemetery located in eastern Long Island. Both father and son spent years in the Marines. They abided by the three key Marine Corps core values throughout their lives, like all veterans, Orduña said in his speech – honor, courage and commitment.

But veterans were not always honored, particularly Vietnam War veterans. Instead, some, including Cavalier, were denounced as "baby killers."

"When you go into the military, you sign a blank check to the U.S. and to the citizens that you will risk your life if need be to protect their rights. And sometimes, it gets disconcerting and discouraging when they're using the rights that

you try to protect for them to express outrageous indignities to you," Cavalier said.

The Vietnam War remains one of America's most controversial and divisive events in the country's history. The war that began to stop the spread of communism into Southeast Asia triggered one of the U.S.'s biggest anti-war movements and sparked widespread outrage across the nation. After more than a decade of ever-rising casualties and costs, many Americans were sick and tired. And the government, Cavalier said, did not have "an idea in hell of what was going on."

By 2043, most of the veterans from the Vietnam era and earlier will have died, according to projections from the National Center for Veterans Analysis and Statistics. Gulf War-era veterans, like Silvera, will probably make up the majority of all veterans. And then, a centennial later, the Gulf War veterans and their legacy will also fade into history's tapestry.

"The real heroes are the guys who didn't make it back – and the wives," Cavalier said. "Life is precious, fragile, and... just worthwhile."

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## Review: Swift's "Reputation" is confusing, uninspiring

Nick Zararis  
Contributing Writer

Joan Jett did not care about her bad reputation. Maybe it's time Taylor Swift stopped overthinking things. Swift's sixth studio album "Reputation," released on Nov. 10, is a clear departure from anything she has done and it results in a confusing, uninspired sound.

Swift rose to superstardom on a unique fusion of country and pop that worked pretty much only for her. "Red," and "1989," were both fantastic pop albums that still featured Swift trademarks: love, heart-break and clever songwriting. It was unique because it was different from the other pop music on the radio and it led to widespread success. Swift captured the range of emotions that love encompasses and made it her own.

"Reputation," is Swift jumping head-first into unexplored territory. She's more explicit with lyrics like "It's like your eyes are liquor," and "When you get me on, it's so simple." Swift's music has grown up since her debut album, where she just wished a boy would notice she exists.

The All-American girl image that was carefully cultivated through her five previous albums is thrown straight out the window for the sake of being mainstream. Swift just does

reputation

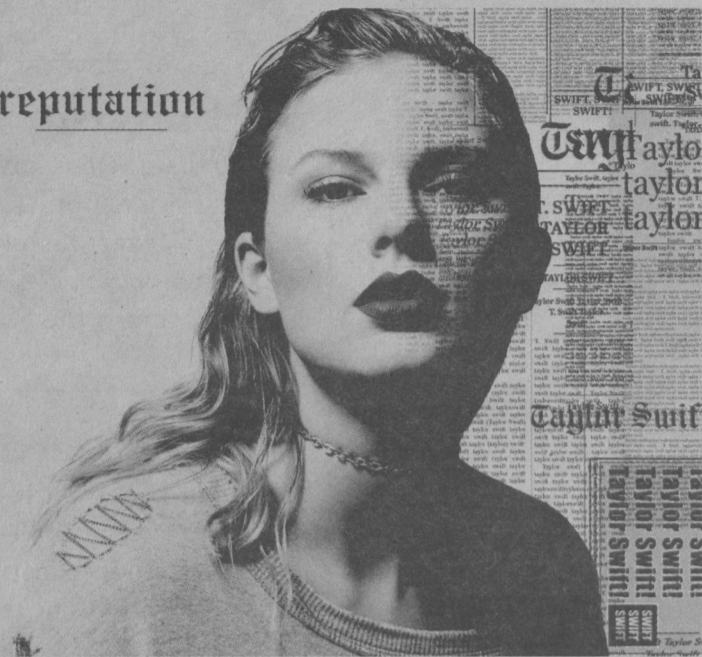


PHOTO COURTESY OF TAYLOR SWIFT/FACEBOOK

**Taylor Swift's newest studio album, "Reputation," sounds uninspired and confusing, even to a diehard fan.**

what everyone else does on "Reputation," which is a disservice to her creativity and talent.

The influence of producers Max Martin and Jack Antonoff has hampered Swift's talent. They've stunted an artist who is capable of much better pop music and is at her best on songs like "Style," "Blank Space" and "Out of the Woods." While both Martin and Antonoff co-wrote on

"1989," it still sounded like a natural progression of Swift's music. Now, the pairing has evolved into a detached, boring collaboration.

Swift has spent her entire adult life in the public eye and her music has traced her maturation as a person. Her debut album was hopeful and optimistic about love. The message was that everything eventually works out once you find yourself. Through

subsequent albums, her portrayals of love had more depth and examined the emotionally damaging side of the equation. Her lamentations were no longer about her crush on the boy on the football team; they shifted to topics like her real-life breakup with John Mayer.

This album places Swift in the driver's seat in her stories. She's no longer the anxious, wide-eyed teenager or the spurned lover or any other iterations of her persona. This is a completely new Taylor, determined and slightly darker. "Look What You Made Me Do," the lead single, is Swift's answer to all of the vitriol she's received in the wake of her feud with Kimye and her failure to get political in a culture where everything has become politicized. "I've got a list of names and yours is red and underlined and checked twice," is delivered like a warning shot to her enemies, something old Swift never would have done.

Higher up on the list of things Swift never would have done: rap. Taylor Swift is not a rapper, which should be an obvious statement. Yet, "Reputation," has way too much Swift rapping. I've never once in my life wanted to hear the singer of "You Belong With Me," try to be Drake. There is simply too much going on on the album. As recently as three

years ago when "1989," was released, it would've been unfathomable for rap star Future to feature on a Taylor Swift song. It is not that Future's verse is bad, it is just out of place on a Taylor Swift album. "Reputation" struggles so much to find itself—even an Ed Sheeran feature sounds out of place on the song "End Game."

The eighth track, "Gorgeous," is one of the few highlights among this muddled mess of stylistic exploration. This is the song closest to Swift's refined pop sound—the drum machine is reminiscent of "Blank Space"—and there isn't the awkward Drake impression she attempts throughout the rest of the album. "Gorgeous" takes the template of a classic Swift ode to unrequited love, soaks it in alcohol and adds the tension of the singer's infidelity to create an intoxicating radio hit.

Swift's willingness to experiment as an artist is commendable, but "Reputation," seems like an outright miss for an artist who can do better. An overproduced Swift loses her genius as a musician—there is scant an instrument to be heard on the entire album. Experimentation is part of learning as musician, but changing things just for the sake of change feels like a missed opportunity for a better album.

## Movie Review: "Orient Express" hurt by director's ambition

By Zoya Naqvi  
Contributing Writer

Director Kenneth Branagh attempts to reintroduce famed 20th century English mystery writer Agatha Christie's best-selling 1934 mystery novel, "Murder on the Orient Express," but his stubbornness to cling onto the last speck of cinematic nostalgia hurts the film in the long run. Branagh's "Murder on the Orient Express," which opened in American theaters on Friday, would run flat without Christie's plausible, puzzle piece plot.

The elegant ambiance and excellent casting seem to be the only thing that steers this train in the right direction. Curiosity is what keeps the viewer hooked in this suspense-filled, whodunit train ride where everyone on the train and in the theater is on the edge of their seats.

The journey begins in 1930s Istanbul, where the film's central character and world famous detective, Hercule Poirot, and his close friend the conductor, Bouc (Tom Bateman) are about to board the world's most luxurious train, the Orient Express, and travel to London. As the night unfolds, Mr. Samuel Ratchett (Johnny Depp) is murdered in his upper class bunk, narrowing down the suspects to the 12 passengers that also have access to first class. Poirot, portrayed by Branagh, is put to the test when he sets out to solve the one case he can't crack. The detective, torn between the 12 different suspects—played by an all-star cast from all cinematic backgrounds—has a matter of hours to cuff the hands of the murderer before the train arrives in Paris.

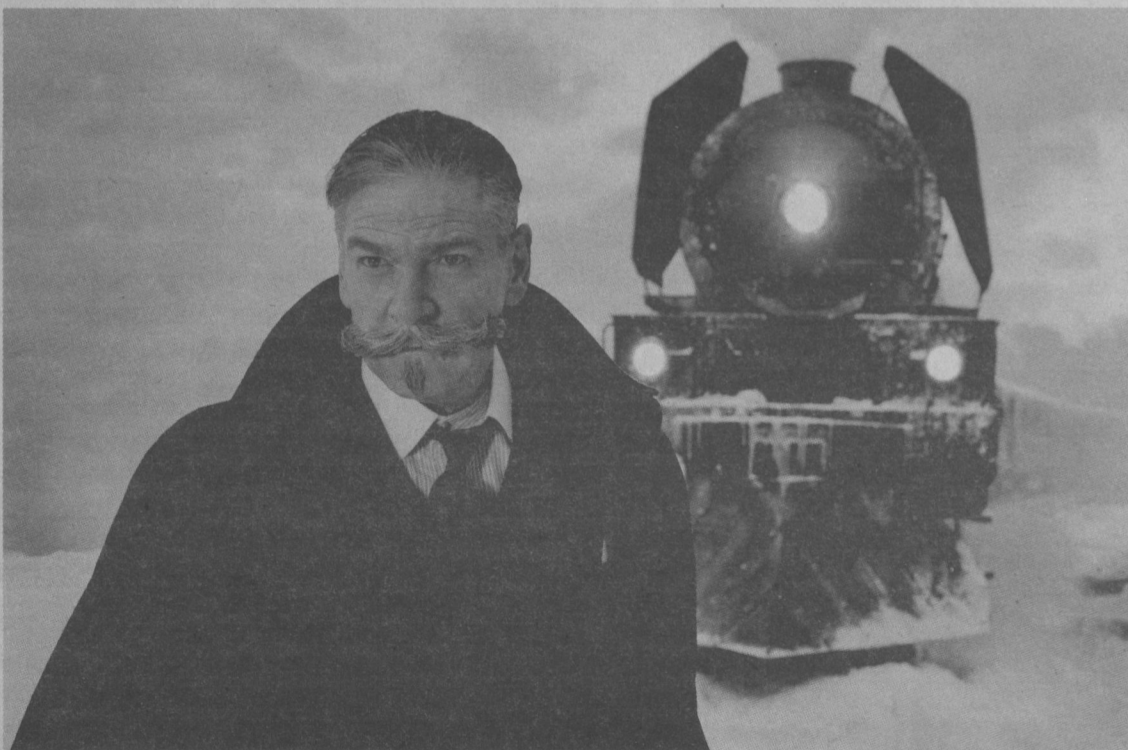


PHOTO COURTESY OF MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS/FACEBOOK

**Kenneth Branagh directs and stars as the lead character in the fourth movie remake of "Murder on the Orient Express." Branagh's ambition hinders the thrilling plot.**

A bird's eye view camera angle focuses on every suspect's cabin, leaving the viewers to play their own game of "I spy." Every spot of blood, nervous hand twitch or drop of sweat is in eye range of the viewer. The presence of the viewer grows stronger with camera pans over every passenger's face like a "Clue" video game.

Compared to the Sidney Lumet-directed version made in 1974 with stars such as Sean Connery and Ingrid Bergman, this 2017 remake has an ethnically diverse cast and a boosted awareness of racial and religious tensions in the mid 1920s. The new film embraces the idea of the Orient Express having in-

ternational passengers. Whether the movie is showing Muslims in Istanbul, Jews in Jerusalem or the romance between the African American doctor (Leslie Odom Jr.) and the Caucasian governess (Daisy Ridley), it is obvious when a new race or religion is introduced. Unfortunately, as each person of different ethnicity gets on board of the train, the director uses heavy-handed techniques to show this.

Branagh's emphasis on character development is hardly integrated and subtle. His strain on individualizing each character gives the film an incredibly slow pace. One-third of the movie lingers on Poirot interviewing each suspect, and de-

spite the distinctive attention each character gets, the focus is stuck on typical behavior that is nervous and defensive. The 12 actors find themselves on a repetitive exploration of character depth. Rather than showing any depth to their personalities while being interrogated, the actors have similar reactions to Poirot's accusations, defeating the purpose of the interviews being such a huge chunk of the film in the first place.

Despite the emphasis on individuality, all of them look lost on camera. While the abrupt CGI should have been enough, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley and Judi Dench's dusty faces and costumes practically

make you sneeze. The only one looking like half a decent person is Branagh himself.

The attempt at adding old-fashioned humor to this modern mystery movie clashes at several points. The silly, jolly humor only suits Poirot and his random chances at solving every murder case. Sadly, the incredible cast gets left behind, looking foolish masking the humor that does not compliment them or their places in the story. At times, Penelope Cruz tries so hard to be the funny and paranoid lady, which is an awkward combination to begin with, that she becomes the joke herself. Michelle Pfeiffer's expressions are so exaggerated, she looks as if she's getting her lines fed. It's a shame that the talented actors had to fall in Branagh's trap. The acting in the film is similar to your typical high school play gone wrong.

The film does not challenge you as much as it could. Branagh builds the film as a personal and comforting story for the viewer, which isn't your usual expectation of a thriller. It has been so long since a gritty crime movie has had a riddle-like style that it seems the viewers almost wait for the high anxiety-filled scenes this movie lacks.

If you brush the awkward sequences and faint contradictions under the rug, there's potential of overlooking the film's faults and enjoying this traditional tale. Of course with an outstanding plot from the mind of Agatha Christie, a mystery like "Murder on the Orient Express" will not fail to shock you with every in-depth twist and turn.

# Trap collabs reward with bangers

By Thomas James

Assistant Arts and Entertainment Editor

For the last month, collaboration albums have been dropped by some of the trap artists with the most clout in hip-hop. These pairings joined forces to do with they do best: make bangers.

"Super Slimey," a collab between Young Thug and Future, dropped on Oct. 20 and, for the most part, felt like a compilation of standard songs for both artists. The intro track, "No Cap," starts off strong with aggressive delivery by Future and wavy flow by Young Thug with lines like "Out in Beverly Hills, I adapt/But I still had to ride with that strap." From here, the album starts to get repetitive.

The interesting parts in the album come when Young Thug exhibits his strange yet bizarrely catchy lyrics and flows. In "Three," Young Thug hits you with lines like "Never lose like my motherf-ckin' McGregor, ya heard?/Inside the whips come red like ketchup." On these two lines, Young Thug's vocal intonation is as memorable as McGregor's own voice. Young Thug cleverly catches your attention in the first line. But then the second line referencing "ketchup" either makes you want to never listen to his lyrics again or make you more tuned into him than ever.

Surprisingly, "Super Slimey" also gives the listener small provocative moments of the struggle the two artists have had to face in their lifetime. In "Killed Before," Young Thug takes the track by himself and provides some of his most personal lyrics yet. In the catchy hook, Young Thug tells us "I been bent like a centerfold" and "Everyone knows I've been killed before." He hesitates from going in depth with this but his vocal performance on this song suggests there's more than he may be saying. The album closes with "Group Home," the most personal song for Future. "I got more money than I ever had, I can take some more pain."

This album also failed to really showcase any theme or specific sound that hasn't been done before. But there are not high standards for breaking new grounds before we listen to trap collab albums (or trap albums in general). If you're a fan, you just want bangers. Really these albums are meant for the beats and



KRYSTEN MASSA/STATESMAN FILE PHOTO

Future performed at Brookfest in 2016. On Oct. 20, trap artists Future and Young Thug dropped "Super Slimey."

the melodies, nothing that makes you think too much.

"Without Warning" by Offset and 21 Savage produced by Metro Boomin is the album that is basically as good as it gets in that regard. The album, which was released on Oct. 31, is an icy, grimy album that set the perfect mood for Halloween and the cold weather to come.

The songs "Ghostface Killers" and "Rap Saved Me" set the tone for the album with dark verses and grimy beats. Following these intro tracks is the heart of the order for the album. "Ric Flair Drip" is the main hitter with a catchy bell melody with a boomin' bass that is a certified banger. The song plays on 16-time WWE World Champion, Ric Flair and the lavish lifestyle he embodies that hip-hop stars frequently pay homage to. The next song, "My Choppa Hate" has a haunting instrumental that transitions smoothly to the Halloween-themed "Night-

mare" which features a bell melody that sounds like it came from a throwback horror movie.

The only song that sounds out of place in the vibes of this album is "Still Serving," which has a low tempo, somber guitar sound. The beat is not bad, but it does not mesh well with 21 Savage's lyrical style. His often-monotone voice keeps the song sounding flat. Offset helped the track with his usual smooth flow. But maybe somebody with Young Thug's vocal intricacies could have added something more interesting on this beat.

21 Savage and Offset compliment each other better than Young Thug and Future. 21 is as insulting to casual listeners as ever. 21 tells us on the hook "My Choppa Hate" that he calls his gun KKK because it hates black people. On the song "Disrespectful," 21 brags that he has a Hurricane Irma on his neck and Hurricane Irma on his wrist because his jewelry is flooded out. Offset counters 21's rugged irreverence with smooth flows and his entertaining ad-libs. He brings the swag to every song he appears on. But the real star on this album is producer Metro Boomin. Young Metro is an undisputed legend in the hip-hop world at only age 24 and there is nothing else to say about his production other than that we want more.

This album is not a successful collab album because these two artists are together on most of the tracks. What makes this a successful

collab album is the fact each duo of rappers have styles that compliment each other on a trap beat. When hip-hop fans think of collab albums, they dream of Chance the Rapper and Childish Gambino, Quavo and Travis Scott, or Kendrick Lamar and J. Cole. But for the time being, these two collab albums are slimey enough to keep them entertained.

## ARTSY EVENTS

Nov. 14

### University Orchestra

The 70+ student University Orchestra will open the 2017-18 season on Tuesday at 8 p.m. Featuring the works of Mozart, Schumann and Tchaikovsky and led by conductor Susan Deaver, the students of MUS 262 will perform on the Staller Center Main Stage. Tickets are \$5.

Nov. 17

### "The Search for General Tso"

The documentary film "The Search for General Tso" will be shown at 5:30 p.m. this Friday in the Charles B. Wang Center Theatre. Director Ian Cheney traveled the world to find out who General Tso was and why the famed American Chinese dish is named for him.

Nov. 18 - Dec. 30

### "A Christmas Carol"

The classic Charles Dickens story returns to Port Jefferson's Theatre Three in the theater's 34th annual production. Artistic Director Jeffrey E. Sanel has starred as Ebenezer Scrooge nearly every year since 1990 and continuously "rewrites and reimagines" the adaptation, according to Newsday. Student tickets are \$28.

Nov. 18

### Star Wars Day

In celebration of the film franchise's 40th anniversary, Port Jefferson Free Library is hosting a "Star Wars Day" on Nov. 18. The library is planning on holding lightsaber training sessions, story time for young kids and a fully operational R2-D2 replica. Costumes are encouraged.

Nov. 17 - 19

### "Macbeth: Android/Schizoid"

Stony Brook student-run theater troupe Pocket Theatre will be putting on a production of a post-modern rendition of the Shakespeare tragedy "Macbeth." There will be performances at 8 p.m. on Friday, Saturday and Sunday in Staller Theatre III. A matinee performance will be put on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$7 for non-students.

Nov. 19

### Baroque Sundays at Three

Graduate students from the Stony Brook Department of Music will perform vocal and instrumental pieces from the Baroque period in the Staller Center Recital Hall on Sunday at 3 p.m. The holiday-themed performance by the Baroque Players is free to attend.

Nov. 24

### The Rinx at Harborfront Park

The ice skating rink at Harborfront Park in Port Jefferson will open for the season on Friday, Nov. 24. Skates are available to rent and there are open skate hours every day.

Nov. 30

### Dinner with DiMaggio

The Center for Italian Studies at Stony Brook University is holding a book discussion with "Dinner with DiMaggio" co-author Dr. John Positano on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 5:30 p.m. in Frank Melville Library Rm. E4340. The memoir, written by Positano and his brother Rock, profiles the decade-long friendship between Rock and New York Yankees legend Joe DiMaggio.



PHOTO COURTESY OF 21 SAVAGE / FACEBOOK

The collab album "Without Warning" dropped on Oct. 31.



THE STATESMAN

HOOPLA 2017

# WOMEN'S BASKETBALL



## STURDIVANT, YEBOAH STEP UP

BY GREGORY ZARB

Don't ever count out the Seawolves.

Last season, the Stony Brook men's basketball team faced an uphill battle the likes of which it had not seen in years. Critics and reporters did not give the Seawolves the time of day, ranking them seventh out of nine teams in the America East preseason rankings just before the 2016-17 season kicked off.

However, the team stepped onto the court and proved the critics wrong.

"Last year, we were picked seventh out of ninth, and we finished second," head coach Jeff Boals said. "But this year, we were picked fourth, and it's one of those deals where it's a preseason ranking. Last year, it didn't mean much. If you look at everyone coming back this year from our league, we lost two key guys, it's going to be more of a 1-13 kind of deal for us."

The 13 men on the team look to head into the season, ignore what the critics say and just worry about playing their style of basketball.

The Seawolves' 92-62 exhibition win over the College of Staten Island on Friday, Oct. 27 was the first showcase of the new-look team in game action. Freshman guard Jordan McKenzie, senior guard UC Iroegbu, redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah, senior forward Junior Saintel and senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant were the five starters for the game. Saintel led the team in scoring with 17 points while grabbing seven rebounds.

Boals asserted that the exhibition's starting lineup was not the official starting lineup. Yeboah and Sturdivant are two key returning Seawolves who look to play substantial roles on the team this coming season.

Yeboah emerged as an offensive threat as a redshirt freshman for the Seawolves last season, knocking down 45 three-pointers while also showing he can attack the basket. He averaged 9.5 points per game and 5.1 rebounds per game last season, shooting 37 percent from the field while shooting 34 percent from beyond the arc. Boals expects the forward to build off last year's performance and become more of a focal point on offense.

"Last year, we depended on Lucas [Woodhouse] a lot when we needed a basket or to create a play, and I think we'll do the same thing with [Yeboah] this year," Boals said. "He had some growing pains and moments last year, but the last couple of weeks he played really well. We are going to depend on him a lot to do more this year."

Woodhouse played a major role in creating opportunities for Sturdivant to develop into a primary scoring option.

Sturdivant looks to play the mentor role for the younger players as the team's leading scorer among returning players. The forward, who averaged 10.6 points per game last season, second to Woodhouse, and led the team with 5.4 rebounds per game, is prepared to bring the team back to America East glory, one he tasted back during the 2015-16 season.

Boals was also able to bring in several recruits this year, but one stands out among the rest. Freshman forward Elijah Olaniyi, ranked as the 75th-best forward in the country according to ESPN, is the highest-graded recruit to join the Seawolves program since forward Jameel Warney joined in 2012.

A position to keep a close eye on throughout the season is point guard. Boals stated that both McKenzie and

junior guard Jaron Cornish will split time at the point guard position to start the season. Those plans have been derailed, as Cornish is dealing with a knee injury that should keep him on the sidelines at the start the season, according to Stony Brook Athletics.

Taking all of these factors into account, Boals believes the success of this year's team will not be dependent on a one-man show. Boals hopes the depth at multiple positions will help the team to make some noise this season.

"I think it's going to be an interesting dynamic because we can play a lot of guys and it'll be someone different on every night," Boals said. "[Yeboah] will obviously be a big part of it, [McKenzie] and our point guards have done a really good job so far in the preseason. If you look at [Sturdivant], he had a really good year last year, and I think [Saintel] has gotten better too. But I think our depth will really help us."

The team looks forward to achieving the goal they fell short of last year – winning an America East championship.

"The biggest thing for us is to win the [America East Tournament] and go to the NCAA tournament," Boals said. "It's a process and a journey and I always tell the guys that, through the process, there are ups and downs, and if you lose a game, you gotta learn from it and really continue to get better into January when the conference season starts."

The regular season kicked off in a non-conference game against Maryland at Nassau Coliseum on Nov. 10. The Seawolves lost 76-61.

The team will take on UConn in their next game on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

## ROSTER

### #0 JARON CORNISH

5'11" JUNIOR GUARD  
ABACO, BAHAMAS

### #1 UC IROEGBU

6'0" SENIOR GUARD  
SACRAMENTO, CA.

### #2 MICHAEL ALMONACY

6'1" SOPHOMORE GUARD  
BRENTWOOD, N.Y.

### #3 ELIJAH OLANIYI

6'5" FRESHMAN FORWARD  
NEWARK, N.J.

### #4 TIM DONOHUE

6'3" SENIOR GUARD  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

### #5 CORRY LONG

6'2" FRESHMAN GUARD  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

### #10 JORDAN MCKENZIE

6'1" FRESHMAN GUARD  
CONCORD, N.C.

### #11 JUNIOR SAINTEL

6'7" SENIOR GUARD/FORWARD  
MAYS LANDING, N.J.

### #12 TYRELL STURDIVANT

6'7" SENIOR FORWARD  
CHESTER, PA.

### #15 AKWASI YEBOAH

6'6" REDSHIRT SOPHOMORE  
GUARD/FORWARD  
CHIGWELL, ENGLAND

### #22 BRYAN SEKUNDA

6'6" SENIOR GUARD/FORWARD  
STATE COLLEGE, PA.

### #23 ANDREW GARCIA

6'5" REDSHIRT FRESHMAN  
GUARD/FORWARD  
HARLEM, N.Y.

### #32 JAKUB PETRAS

6'11" SENIOR FORWARD  
RAJEC, SLOVAKIA

### #35 ANTHONY OCHEFU

6'8" FRESHMAN FORWARD  
WEST CHESTER, PA.



# A LOOK AT THE AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE



## UMBC

The Retrievers will lean on Jairus Lyles, the leading scorer in the conference among returning players. But they will need to replace Will Darley's production.



## Vermont

The defending America East champions return four starters including AE Player of the Year Trae Bell-Haynes and last year's top defense.



## Albany

The Great Danes eliminated Stony Brook from the America East Playoffs last season and returns two 15 PPG scorers in Joe Cremona and David Nichols.



## Binghamton

The young Bearcats return most of their starting lineup. The team will rally around budding scorers JC Show and Willie Rodriguez to take the next step in the America East.



## Hartford

The Hawks lost Jalen Ross, the conference's leading scorer last season, to graduation. Replacing his production won't be easy. Jason Dunne can become the new focal point of the offense.



## New Hampshire

The Wildcats lost two of their three leading scorers, but Tanner Leissner and Iba Camara return. They helped make the Wildcats the top rebounding team in the America East last year.



## UMass Lowell

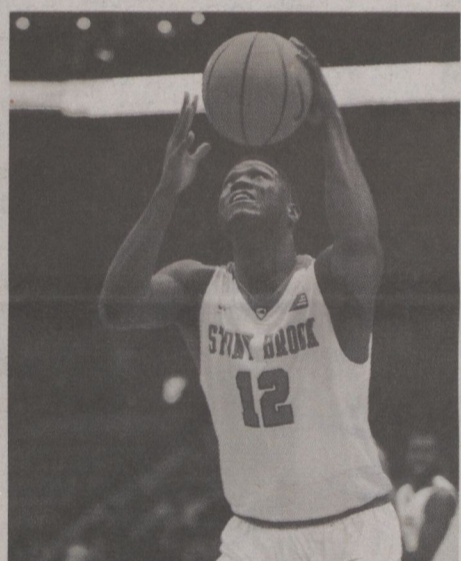
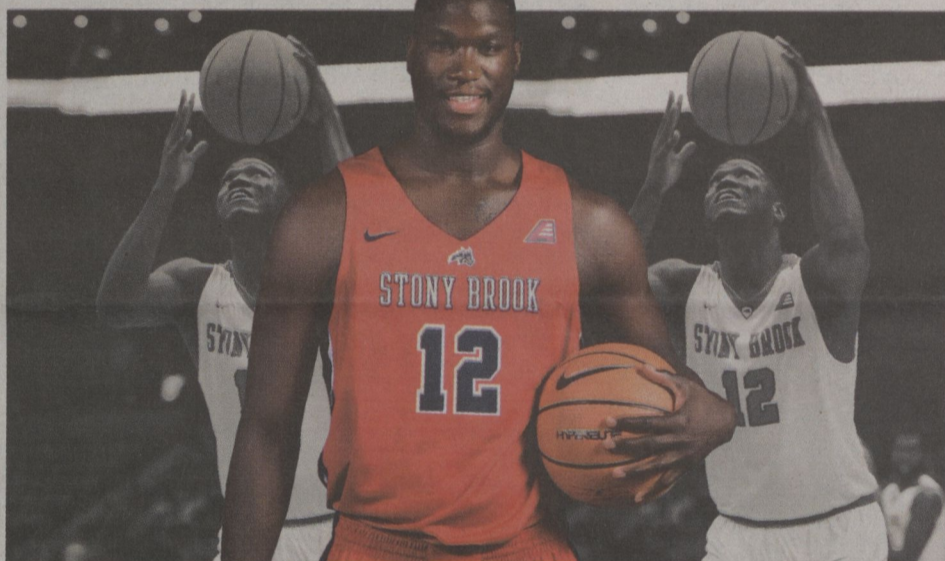
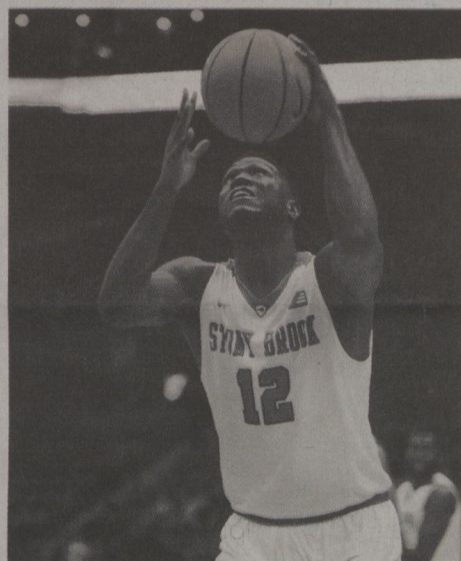
The conference's second-best offense last year is postseason eligible. The River Hawks return with most of its starting lineup, including Jahad Thomas, who was one rebound short of averaging a double-double.



## Maine

Wesley Meyers, the Black Bears leading scorer from last season, transferred to South Carolina this off-season. This is not a good sign for a team that was the worst team in the conference last season.

# STURDIVANT PREPARES TO CLAIM AMERICA EAST GLORY



BY RYAN PAVICH

When asked what his favorite moment as a member of the Stony Brook men's basketball team has been, senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant chuckled.

"It's cliché, but winning the conference tournament," Sturdivant said. "That'll be one of the best memories of my lifetime. That can never be taken away from us, and it's just something we worked so hard for."

Then a sophomore, Sturdivant was still developing as a role player off the bench on the team that brought Stony Brook its first America East Conference Championship. Now, as a senior, he's looking to take the reins and lead his team back to a conference title.

"Just want to get back to winning, going deep into the conference tournament," Sturdivant said about his expectations for the season. "Our main goal every season is to win the conference championship."

Sturdivant is a key piece of the Seawolves' offensive game plan. He led the team in rebounding last season and was

second on the team in points per game.

Sturdivant's skillset was on display in the Seawolves' first game of the season, a Nov. 10 match-up against the Maryland Terrapins.

He led all players with 17 points in 30 minutes, and recorded three rebounds and one assist. He also showcased an ability to shoot from deep, connecting on three of 10 attempts from beyond the three-point arc.

One of the major improvements he's still looking to make, however, revolves around helping his teammates.

"Really [working on] my feel for the game," Sturdivant said. "I also had, I think I was top three or four on the team in turnovers. Just making the right play, the right pass. That's something I've really been working on, even if it means less shots, less touches. Just making the right play."

His effort in helping his teammates has also gotten the attention of his coach.

"Part of the biggest thing I've seen out of Ty is his growth in his leadership," head coach Jeff Boals said. "He kind of took it upon himself to become that leader, and as a senior you would expect that and hope that out of a guy like him. Really pleased with where he's at right now."

Boals also said Sturdivant's leadership extends beyond his work during game time. He's taken the underclassmen under his wing, showing them how to practice effectively, establish a work ethic and go through the preparations necessary for their next game.

"A lot of times it's difficult when you have guys coming in, to help them out, cause you want to do what's best for you," Boals said. "But Ty's a team player, he's all about what's best for the team. Just showing them how to be a pro's pro every day."

One of his former teammates, Jameel Warney, now a member of the Texas Legends, stays in touch with Sturdivant and trains with him. Warney said the work that Sturdivant has put in since he was a freshman has paid off.

"He's already had all the skills, he's just put it all together," Warney said. "He's got confidence. Ty's on a mission to get them back to a conference championship, and I wish the best of luck to him."

This is not Sturdivant's first time in a leadership position.

He captained his Chester High School basketball team to the final four of the state championship, and is now poised to handle the task at the collegiate level.

"It's been an easy adjustment, honestly," Sturdivant said. "I think the biggest difference is just, every day being the voice and the energy. I love to come out and compete every day, so it's been an easy adjustment."

Sturdivant described the joy of winning that first championship at Stony Brook as "an amazing feeling."

But it remains to be seen what a second championship at Stony Brook would feel like, but if the Seawolves were to capture one, it would be on the back of Sturdivant's leadership.

# YEBOAH: FROM BENCH TO STARTER

BY GREGORY ZARB



Two seasons ago, Stony Brook Men's Basketball redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah didn't leave his spot on the bench during the season due to the decision to redshirt him. Excluding warm-ups and practice, he only stepped onto the court to celebrate his team winning the America East Championship and clinching a berth to the NCAA tournament for the first time ever.

Fast forward to the start of the 2017-18 season: the expectations Yeboah set for himself are straightforward and to the point. He plans on using the knowledge he learned from the championship winning team, and translating it into his actions on the court.

"I was able to see what I need to work on in order to play at that level," Yeboah said. "It kind of gave me a head start from a learning point of view. I felt like it gave me kind of an advantage because now I know what to expect and what to do in the games."

From starting out playing basketball on the streets outside his house in Chigwell, England to the Island Federal Credit Union Arena, Yeboah is prepared to become the leader and scorer his coaches are expecting him to be.

Yeboah started his dream just like any kid who dreams about playing basketball as a professional – playing hoops with his siblings. His brother, Kwame Yeboah, was the first person who ever saw him play basketball.

"It was a great feeling. I got to compete alongside my brother," Kwame Yeboah said. "I got to see my brother grow in confidence in his game. However, it was frustrating when he is as good a rebounder as I was and we both end up fighting over rebounds."

Head coach Jeff Boals has noticed other areas in Yeboah's game that he cannot wait to see translate into game situations.

"I think inside, down in the post wise," Boals said. "Last year, we had him play on the perimeter a lot, and he's one of our best three-point shooters. This summer, while playing for the U-20 Great Britain national team gave him a lot of confidence."

He averaged 14.3 points with 4.3 rebounds per game over the summer. He shot 49 percent from the field, while shooting 42 percent from beyond the arc in seven games for Great Britain. Along with crediting his brother as a major influence in his basketball life, he knows of one other person who stuck by him. Winifred Yeboah, his mother, has been his biggest fan since the day he picked up a basketball. However, she has always been afraid to watch her sons play.

"She was always there supporting me," Yeboah said. "She always knew where my heart was, so she continued to push me and encourage me to be the best I can be."

"The first time I actually watched both Akwasi and Kwame play was during one of their regional finals Final Four and I barely lasted five minutes as I was so apprehensive and could see my heartbeat through my clothing," Winifred said. "I have promised to visit and watch his game in the future but I'll need ear plugs and dark glasses for that."

Despite never watching the games, she takes her role as mom, basketball coach and life coach very seriously. Winifred said how Akwasi's coach told her that he was one of the worst players on the team when he first joined. While Yeboah took that news to heart and started getting down on himself, his mother offered him words of advice.

"Shake it off and move on," Winifred said. "Don't let anyone predict the outcome of your life. You are your own genie. Akwasi often felt like throwing in the towel, but I encouraged him with three words: purpose, passion and practice."



## BOALS CREATES TEAM CULTURE

BY TIM OAKES

Earning a Division I head coaching position typically comes with high expectations, particularly if it's the first time at the helm like Stony Brook Men's Basketball Head Coach Jeff Boals. But the former Ohio State assistant coach had bigger shoes to fill in his first season with the Seawolves last year. His arrival came on the heels of the graduation of Jameel Warney, Stony Brook's all-time leading scorer, and the program's first NCAA Tournament berth.

Opposing America East coaches expected a decline in Stony Brook's ability to compete at the start of the 2016-17 season, projecting the Seawolves to be the seventh-best team in the conference in the America East Preseason Coaches' Poll. However, Boals' competitive nature helped drive his team to eclipse preseason expectations.

The Seawolves finished their conference schedule with a

12-4 record, chiseling themselves as the improbable No. 2 seed in the America East Tournament. Though a loss to program rival Albany in the America East Tournament semifinals ended their season, the culture Boals hopes to create was just beginning to take shape.

"We are building this [program] on high character kids, guys who love the game, and young men who are serious about earning a degree," Boals said. "I really like where our culture is in our program and the guys that we have."

Last year's team first raised eyebrows during its first game against conference rival Albany on Jan. 8, overcoming a 21-point deficit in the final seven minutes of regulation to defeat the Great Danes by two points.

"Usually a team is a byproduct of their coach," Albany Men's Basketball Head Coach Will Brown said. "Its evidence that he put

his stamp on the Stony Brook program in year one and his kids responded."

Then-junior forward Tyrell Sturdivant, who had backed up Warney the prior two seasons, made the game-winning layup before the buzzer sounded.

"He doesn't get mad at shots and turnovers, as long as you're being aggressive and playing hard," Sturdivant said. "He's never gotten mad at me or anyone else about taking a shot."

Boals has been successful in recruiting the right transfer players that fit his team's style and culture. Senior forward Junior Saintel and senior guard UC Iroegbu each averaged over 15 minutes per game last season to help cushion the loss of three seniors from the championship starting lineup. This season the team has added junior guard Jaron Cornish.

Boals' first freshman recruiting class at Stony Brook includes guards Jordan McKenzie and Corry Long and forwards Elijah Olaniyi and Anthony Ochefu. Olaniyi is the highest-rated player the school has successfully recruited since Warney arrived in 2012, according to ESPN.

Boals has also found ways to foster relationships with Sturdivant and other players he inherited from Pikiell.

"I think Jeff did a terrific job of revolving the offense around Woodhouse," Brown said. "He was arguably the most important player in the league a year ago in regards to what he meant to his team."

Now in his second season coaching the Seawolves, Boals will have the chance to develop new guards such as Cornish and McKenzie as well as continue to establish a foundation for the culture he is forging at Stony Brook.



# MATTHEWS PREPARES TO SCORE

BY KENNETH FERMIN

Junior guard Jerell Matthews played off the bench in her first two seasons on the Stony Brook women's basketball team. This year, however, after four members of last season's starting lineup graduated, Matthews is working to prove she deserves a larger role on the team.

"You know she is somebody who has been committed to the process," head coach Caroline McCombs said. "She has not been given anything since she has gotten here; she works hard everyday in practice and gives us her all. We are excited about her getting an opportunity this year on the basketball court to show what it has been like the past two years to work and now finally have an opportunity to perform on the court."

Coming off her sophomore year, Matthews played in 20 games, averaging 2.4 points in just nine minutes per game. Matthews has used the offseason to work on her game to be ready to take on more minutes. Her improve-

ments have been evident to McCombs, allowing Matthews to play the most minutes and take the most shots in each of the team's two preseason exhibition games. She shot 70 percent from beyond the three-point arc in those games, a clear improvement from her 30 percent mark from deep last season.

"She is a tremendous three point threat. I think she can get her feet set and her shot off as quick as anyone I have ever coached," McCombs said. "With that said, I think that she will be a scorer for us this year."

Matthews emphasized improving her game defensively during her offseason workouts. By disrupting the opposing player's shots, Matthews believes she will have more opportunities to contribute on defense.

"I am trying to protect the basket more," Matthews said. "Attack the pass leading to scores and being more of a three point shooter."

While Matthews is focused on her defense ability, McCombs anticipates that her diverse skill set will translate into offensive success.

"I think she is a versatile player," McCombs said. "In game situations, I think she is somebody you want to set up for success and be able to shoot and drive, and do the things she is capable of doing."

As a junior, Matthews is a veteran to a young team that includes five freshmen and two redshirt freshmen. Matthews has had success in a leadership role before, as seen during her high school career.

As a three-year captain on the Marian Catholic Spartans in Chicago Heights, Illinois, Jerell averaged 17 points per game in her sophomore year and made over half of her three-pointers attempted in her junior year. The Spartans finished the 2013-14 season with a 31-1 record and went on to win an Illinois state

championship. The following summer, Matthews was a part of the 28-2 Mac Irvin Chicago Lady Fire, a women's basketball program competing in tournaments throughout the summer. The team concluded their season by winning the Charlotte Summer Basketball Championship in 2014.

"Really connecting as team on and off the court is really big part of being successful, so I think that will really help," Matthews said. "This year, I'm an upper-classman and we have had a lot of newcomers. I've been helping them, leading them and showing them how we do things as a team."

Matthews is excited to play, learn and grow on the court this season. Her main focus is helping her team improve from their 12-18 overall record from last year. The rising star understands the challenges ahead, but she has prepared all offseason to improve her game and become a key player for the Seawolves.

# MCCOMBS TARGETS DEVELOPMENT

BY JOSEPH KONIG



When Stony Brook Women's Basketball Head Coach Caroline McCombs arrived at the university in 2014, she was clear about her expectations for the team.

"We have a winner's mentality," McCombs said prior to her first season. "Our players want to win."

Four years later, McCombs is not quite as assertive when it comes to her team's immediate future. Instead, she is focusing on the day-by-day growth of her young roster and the improvements she sees as they experience a Division I program for the first time.

"We don't have goals," McCombs said after a recent Tuesday practice. "We just talk about how we're going to get better every single day."

The focus on incremental measures of success makes sense for a program trying to regain a competitive reputation. After

winning 17 games in each of her first two seasons, her team scratched out a 12-18 overall record last season. This year, Stony Brook has five true freshmen and two redshirt-freshmen on the roster. And the addition of two junior college transfers means the team will have only five athletes who have seen the court for the Seawolves prior to this season.

"We have a lot of rookies this year," McCombs said. "I think just continuing to take coaching, to get better every day, to learn through practices and games... just competing at the highest level."

Developing players will be key for McCombs, whose team was ranked eighth out of nine teams in the America East Preseason Coaches' Poll. Stony Brook will be without five of its top six scorers and rebounders from last season, forcing McCombs to rely on unproven talent. However, she is not deterred.

"They've been competing all pre-season for those positions and roles are starting to be defined now and we're just continuing to be better," McCombs said. "We're really trying to develop our players. We want to be a program of player development."

Since Stony Brook elevated the women's program to Division I status in 1999, sustained success has been hard to come by. Women's Basketball won 24 games the year before McCombs was hired, but that was only two years removed from a four-win season in 2011-12.

McCombs has added two former Division I directors of recruitment to her coaching staff in the last year, including Audrey Cunningham, who signed on after two years with perennial national championship contender Maryland. McCombs is also particularly adept at recruiting junior college talent. For this year's team she added junior

forward Cheyenne Clark, the National Junior College Athletic Association's top rebounder in 2016-17, and junior guard Shania Johnson, who dropped 21.7 PPG last season for Monroe College.

McCombs now has 47 wins as head coach with the victory over Manhattan in the season opener on Saturday, and has won the second-most games among Stony Brook Women's Basketball coaches in the Division I era and fourth all-time. Before she arrived on Long Island, McCombs was an assistant coach for Auburn, Pittsburgh and Valparaiso – all programs that produce successful teams annually, with NCAA tournament and National Invitation Tournament selections.

A few years developing a foundation for a winning program might be the cost if McCombs is to successfully introduce a winning culture to the program. "You have to enjoy the process," McCombs said.



## TEAM GROWS GAME BY GAME

BY MIKE ADAMS

Stony Brook Women's Basketball's 2016-17 season ended with a 58-49 loss to No. 1-seeded New Hampshire in the opening round of the America East Tournament. For better or worse, this year's squad can expect almost nothing for sure except a great deal of change.

If the Seawolves want to surpass last season's 12-18 overall record, they will have to do so with an almost entirely new set of players. Six players from last year's squad have either graduated or transferred, including each of the team's top four scorers and five out of six of the team's top rebounders from last season.

Stony Brook will rely on new arrivals to replace the loss of veteran production. Eight of the team's 14 roster spots this season are held by student-athletes who have never played for the team before, including five freshmen, two transfers and one redshirt freshman.

While head coach Caroline McCombs said she has seen growth from her squad in the preseason, she also acknowledged that this year will be a learning process for the whole team.

"We're going to throw some of them out there and see how they do," McCombs said. "I think teaching is an emphasis for us this year because of being so young. So I think there will be a mix of some veterans and some newcomers. They've been competing all preseason for those positions and roles are starting to be defined now, and we're just continuing to be better."

Stony Brook started junior guards Jerell Matthews and Shania Johnson, senior guard Aaliyah Worley, freshman forward India Pagan and redshirt-freshman forward Oksana Gouchie-Provencher in Monday night's 79-63 exhibition win at home against Adelphi.

Matthews scored a team-high 22 points on 72 percent shooting in 29 minutes on the court in the game. Although she has averaged less than 10 minutes per game in her two seasons at Stony Brook, her coach expects a big boost in her production this year.

"She's gone through a process of two years through our program," McCombs said. "Just having an opportunity this year to step on the court, and we expect her to be able to come in and be a veteran guard for us."

Johnson, a transfer student from Monroe College, is one of two transfer students, along with junior forward Cheyenne Clark, looking to make a mark on the hardwood. Johnson joins the Seawolves a year after leading the Mustangs to a 21-7 record and a berth in the NJCAA Division I tournament. She led her team in assists with 4.9 per game, and her 21.2 points per game made her the fifth-most prolific scorer in Division I.

Clark did not start against Adelphi, but she enters Stony Brook with an impressive pedigree for a transfer student. Coming in from Mohawk Valley Community College, Clark led the NJCAA Division III with 17.9 rebounds per game last season, while scoring an average of 19.0 points per game in 28.3 minutes per game. Clark scored more than 20 points in each of 14 games last season, including a 41-point performance against Cayuga Community College in 2016.

McCombs is hoping Clark, along with Gouchie-Provencher, can help revitalize Stony Brook's frontcourt with their unique styles of play.

"That four spot really, with Oxi, is different than Cheyenne," McCombs said. "Oxi is more of a stretch-four for us, can shoot the three. She's been in the program for a year. And Cheyenne is

a defender and a rebounder... she brings a ton of energy to the team."

Worley is the lone starter returning from the 2016-17 campaign, in which she averaged 4.8 points and 4.8 rebounds in 24.5 minutes per game playing outside her natural position of wing player. As the only senior and the most experienced player on the roster, Worley has found herself thrust into the driver's seat as a leader for her younger teammates.

"We don't have captains right now," McCombs said. "We have Aaliyah as our senior, and she's kind of been the spokesperson for us to this point in time... It's a big role for her to fill. We communicate daily about leadership, what that looks like, and how she can continue to help our team grow and develop."

For Worley, her role as a leader only gets more important when she and her teammates are off the court.

"I feel like my biggest role as far as being a leader is teaching the younger ones," Worley said. "My teammates are like my younger sisters, so I just always want to make sure they're on track off the court as well with academics. Just making sure they're always ok, just making sure that anything they need, I have them. Basically just being that one person they can always depend on."

With the Seawolves' three-month, 30-game long trek through the regular season getting underway, McCombs has one message she wants her team to take to heart: trust in the process and take the season one day at a time.

"We focus on the process, and we've really been working on what that process looks like for our team," McCombs said. "What is success is doing our very best every day, trying to get better."

## ROSTER

**#2 CHEYENNE CLARK**  
5'11" JUNIOR FORWARD  
DEPTFORD, N.J.

**#3 OKSANA GOUCHIE-PROVENCHER**  
6'4" REDSHIRT FRESHMAN FORWARD  
MARKHAM, ONTARIO

**#5 JONAE COX**  
5'11" FRESHMAN GUARD/  
FORWARD  
PORTSMOUTH, VA.

**#10 CHANTZ CHERRY**  
5'7" FRESHMAN GUARD  
DECATUR, GA.

**#11 JERELL MATTHEWS**  
5'9" JUNIOR GUARD  
CHICAGO, ILL.

**#12 KINA SMITH**  
6'1" SOPHOMORE FORWARD  
BRONX, N.Y.

**#14 GIOLIBETH PEREZ**  
5'7" SOPHOMORE GUARD  
CAMUY, PUERTO RICO

**#15 SHANIA JOHNSON**  
5'1" JUNIOR GUARD  
FREDERICK, MD.

**#20 AYSHIA BAKER**  
6'3" JUNIOR CENTER  
LAKEWOOD, FLA.

**#21 AALIYAH WORLEY**  
5'11" SENIOR GUARD  
PHILADELPHIA, PA.

**#22 MCKENZIE BUSHEE**  
6'1" FRESHMAN FORWARD  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

**#24 HAILEY ZEISE**  
5'10" FRESHMAN GUARD/  
FORWARD  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

**#30 KYRA DIXON**  
5'11" REDSHIRT FRESHMAN FORWARD  
LAWRENCEVILLE, GA.

**#33 INDIA PAGAN**  
6'1" FRESHMAN FORWARD  
NEW LONDON, CONN.

# A LOOK AT THE AMERICA EAST CONFERENCE



## Albany

The defending AE champs have lost their leading scorer Imani Tate, but they still return with experience. Jessica Fequiere, the top scorer and rebounder, is expected to be the focal point of the offense.



## New Hampshire

Last year's America East top team in the regular season returns with a similar starting five, including last year's AE Player of the Year Carlie Pogue. The Wildcats also had the top defense in the conference last year.



## Hartford

Last season's top three-point shooting team will need to rework an offense that has lost their leading scorers. The team will look to rally around Sierra DaCosta, Darby Lee and Janelle Harrison.



## UMBC

Senior Laura Castaldo is expected to be the Retrievers' leading scorer. She'll get some help from Te'yJah Oliver and Tyler Moore, who look to follow up on strong freshman years.



## UMass Lowell

The River Hawks finished last season with a 0-16 conference record. Last year's leading scorer Kayla Gibbs returns to man the post, but the team will need other contributors to make an impact in its first year of post-season eligibility.



## Binghamton

The Bearcats return with another year of experience. Imani Watkins and Alyssa James, the team's two top scorers and rebounders from last season, will lead the team once again in their final seasons.



## Maine

The Black Bears' lineup, which upset No.1 New Hampshire in last year's America East Tournament, will look different. Their top two scorers have graduated or transferred. The team will rely on guards Blanca Millan and Tanesha Sutton.

# GIO PEREZ STAYS FOCUSED



BY MIKE ADAMS

Before sophomore point guard Giolibeth Perez returned to Stony Brook to suit up for her second season in a Seawolves uniform, she spent her summer as the captain of the Puerto Rico women's national basketball team.

Perez led the squad to a berth in the FIBA U19 Basketball World Cup, the first time the island territory of 3.5 million people ever qualified for the tournament. For Perez, who goes by "Gio," representing her home was a dream come true.

"I'm very proud to be Puerto Rican," Perez said. "I keep it very close to my heart, that's where I come from, where my family's at. I was the captain two years in a row and it was a great experience just representing your country. We played against the best in the world... and that was the second time [2004 Americas Championships] in Puerto Rican history we ever qualified for a world championship."

Perez spent her formative years growing up in Camuy, an old city on the north coast of the island, thought to have originally been named by the Taino, an indigenous people in the Caribbean, in honor of its beauty. She lived with her parents and brother in a house by the beach near her grandparents. Perez's father was a

basketball coach, and introduced his daughter to her future passion at a young age.

Perez left her home for the United States in ninth grade, when she was just 14 years old. Apart from the occasional trip back home, she has lived apart from her family ever since, staying intermittently with teammates and family friends before settling on Stony Brook's campus.

It was that physical distance from those she loves the most that made the news of the Category 4 Hurricane Maria, set to cut through Puerto Rico, so hard to bear.

"Everybody was rushing, everybody was just very scared because it was passing through the middle of the island," Perez said. "It was hard especially for me, because I'm not close to my family. So just knowing that they had to prepare for everything and they're not going to have signal or power for a while, it was very hard."

Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on Sept. 20, leaving unparalleled devastation in its wake. The storm itself destroyed the territory's electrical grid, cut most of the population off from clean drinking water and directly killed at least 66 people.

Perez was starting off her semester when the hurricane isolated her from her family. In its aftermath, she heard nothing about their condition for two and a half weeks, when her mother was finally able to reach out.

"I was very nervous, crying all the time," Perez said. "I used to go to sleep crying, waking up crying, because it was hard for me not knowing about them... But then I heard from my mom, I got a phone call from her through WhatsApp, and I think that was the best feeling that I had in the whole two weeks and a half."

The storm's destruction impacted families all over the island, and Perez's family was no exception.

"Even now there is no type of power," Perez said. "They're not going to get power until the beginning of January. The water comes back and forth... Puerto Rico looks very devastated."

The loss of contact with her struggling family made it hard for Perez to focus on basketball and her studies at first. Even so, she powered through, pouring herself into her game as a tribute to her loved ones.

"I'm over here, working in basketball, school, and everything

that I'm doing right here is for them," Perez said. "So it was hard, but I had to go through it. Basketball is my passion, that's the sport that I love and it escapes me from everything that is happening around me."

Perez and her fellow Puerto Rican teammate, freshman forward India Pagan, who grew up in Connecticut but still has family on the island, have not been weathering their troubles alone. The entire team, from head coach Caroline McCombs on down through the roster, has rallied to support its teammates.

"Absolutely, you know those things are going on and obviously when it hits home with one of your own, you feel that," McCombs said. "For Gio, her family is very affected by the hurricane. They're still without power and just happy that everybody is safe."

While she wishes her family was able to join her in New York, Perez is still looking forward to what the season has to offer for herself and her team.

"We have a lot to learn," Perez said. "We're looking to make an impact to everybody and I think that we're looking forward to doing our best. We have a young team, but we're looking forward to winning the America East Championship."



PHOTOS BY: ARACELY JIMENEZ, GARY GHAYRAT & STONY BROOK ATHLETICS  
DESIGN BY: MICHAELA KILGALLEN

## MEN'S SCHEDULE

- Nov. 14**  
@ UConn, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 17**  
@ Ball State, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 19**  
@ Michigan State, 4 p.m.
- Nov. 22**  
vs. Brown, 6 p.m.
- Nov. 26**  
vs. Bucknell, 2 p.m.
- Nov. 29**  
vs. Shawnee State, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 2**  
vs. Saint Francis, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 4**  
@ LIU Brooklyn, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 7**  
@ Columbia, TBA
- Dec. 12**  
vs. Hofstra, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17**  
@ Providence, 2:30 p.m.
- Dec. 22**  
@ Rutgers, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 30**  
vs. Norfolk State, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 3**  
vs. Maine, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 6**  
@ Hartford, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 10**  
@ Albany, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13**  
@ Vermont, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 18**  
vs. Binghamton, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21**  
@ New Hampshire, 1 p.m.
- Jan. 24**  
@ UMass Lowell, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 27**  
vs. Albany, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 31**  
vs. UMBC, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 3**  
vs. Hartford, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8**  
vs. UMass Lowell, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 11**  
@ Maine, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 15**  
@ Binghamton, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 18**  
vs. New Hampshire, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 21**  
@ UMBC, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 24**  
vs. Vermont, 7 p.m.

## WOMEN'S SCHEDULE

- Nov. 11**  
vs. Manhattan 6 p.m.
- Nov. 14**  
@ Hofstra, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 19**  
@ Fairleigh Dickinson, 2 p.m.
- Nov. 22**  
vs. Farmingdale State, 12 p.m.
- Nov. 26**  
vs. Wagner, 4 p.m.
- Dec. 1**  
@ Cornell, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 3**  
@ Syracuse, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 6**  
vs. Yale, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 10**  
@ Northwestern, 12 p.m.
- Dec. 14**  
vs. Iona, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 17**  
vs. Central Connecticut, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 21**  
@ Georgia Southern, 2 p.m.
- Dec. 31**  
@ Harvard, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 3**  
@ Maine, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 6**  
vs. Hartford, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 10**  
vs. Albany, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 13**  
vs. Vermont, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 18**  
@ Binghamton, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 21**  
vs. New Hampshire, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 24**  
vs. UMass Lowell, 7 p.m.
- Jan. 27**  
@ Albany, 2 p.m.
- Jan. 31**  
@ UMBC, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 3**  
@ Hartford, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 5**  
vs. Binghamton, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 8**  
@ UMass Lowell, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 11**  
vs. Maine, 2 p.m.
- Feb. 14**  
vs. UMBC, 7 p.m.
- Feb. 17**  
@ New Hampshire, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 25**  
@ Vermont, 2 p.m.

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THE STATESMAN

# OPINIONS

## THE STATESMAN

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*The Statesman* is a student-run, student-written incorporated publication at Stony Brook University in New York. The paper was founded as *The Socolian* in 1957 at Oyster Bay, the original site of Stony Brook University. In 1975, *The Statesman* was incorporated as a not-for-profit, student-run organization. Its editorial board, writers and multimedia staff are all student volunteers.

New stories are published online every day Monday through Thursday. A print issue is published every Monday during the academic year and is distributed to many on-campus locations, the Stony Brook University Hospital and over 70 off-campus locations.

*The Statesman* and its editors have won several awards for student journalism and several past editors have gone on to enjoy distinguished careers in the field of journalism.

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President Donald Trump at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Maryland in 2013. President Trump asked Congress for a \$6 billion supplemental defense budget.

## Letter to the Editor: Why the U.S. would lose a war with North Korea

By Michael A. Barnhart  
Contributing Writer

There is an old adage, “generals always prepare to fight the last war.” It is an old adage because it is a true one. Northern artillerymen set up their cannon for the first battle of the Civil War, confident that they could obliterate the Southern infantry long before coming under fire themselves. Cavalry featured prominently in the European armies of 1914, until machine guns mowed down men and horses alike. France used the lessons of trench warfare to build the Maginot Line by 1940, only to see German tanks easily outflank it.

Things are no different today. President Donald Trump has just asked Congress for a \$6 billion supplemental defense budget, much of it to be used to “blow North Korean missiles out of the sky” if the Koreans should be so bold, or foolish, to threaten American allies such as Japan. American B-1 and B-2 bombers have prowled the skies of Northeast Asia to remind Pyongyang of the damage the United States could do even with conventional weapons. And if North Korea should be so rash as to employ its own modest nuclear arsenal, it would be turned into a radioactive wasteland by even a limited American retaliation.

Or so goes the argument of those generals and armchair generals always preparing to fight “the last war.” To them, this “last war” was the Cold War, and planning for fighting a “hot” version of it invariably centered around the possibility of a full exchange of nuclear weapons between the United States and Soviet Union.

Of course, that “last war” was never fought at all. The Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union never turned hot because both sides realized the horrors that would result, even on such occasions as the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis, during which the United States held a considerable edge in number of atomic weapons and means to deliver those weapons. Still, the dominant model of a major war — a nuclear war — persists in the minds of nearly everyone now imagining the likely trajectory of the current escalating crisis between the United States and North Korea.

Such a war, if it is ever fought, will not be nuclear. And it will not be won by the United States.

There is something far faster, and ultimately far more lethal, than a nuclear-tipped missile. It is a bit of computer code designed to wreak instantaneous havoc with its target. It is cyber-warfare.

One highly likely target in any cyber-war is the enemy’s energy grid. Why destroy a city — a country, even — when you can simply darken it for a year or more and let its inhabitants take care of the rest as they desperately seek food, fuel and the other necessities of life? The energy grid of the United States is about as well-protected from software corruptions that would physically shatter hardware, as the highly sophisticated turbines and other key components generating electricity are from drone strikes. There are no federal regulations stipulating high levels of cyber defenses, and none likely to be instituted anytime soon by a government uninterested in “shackling” private businesses

with such regulations. A cyber strike could easily instantly destroy a substantial portion of America’s capacity to generate electricity. And those turbines cannot be easily or instantly replaced. They can take years to build, assuming the materials and energy to build them can be found.

One might argue that the same Cold War principle of “Mutually Assured Destruction” ought to prevent a cyberwar exchange, too. If North Korea cripples our power grid, we could cripple theirs. To this argument, I would point to a famous photograph taken from space, showing South Korean, Japanese and Chinese cities brilliantly illuminated at night. North Korea, by contrast, is a sea of darkness. At the time the photograph was taken, it was interpreted as a sign of a severe energy shortage in North Korea, which indeed suffered from such a shortage.

But it is possible to see that photograph a bit differently. Which country, North Korea or the United States, has a society better equipped to survive a year or two without electricity? Which country, to put it another way, is more likely to lose a cyber-war with the other? To me, the answer is clear, and it is one that does not inspire much confidence in the reckless leadership currently in Washington. President Trump wants billions to shoot down North Korean missiles? He might as well be asking for more horses and sabers.

*Michael A. Barnhart is a professor of history with a focus on the United States’ foreign relations at Stony Brook University.*



# Represent yourself by joining the Opinions Section

By Andrew Goldstein  
*Opinions Editor*

The Statesman has had a lot of opinions this year. Last week we published opposing pieces about the New York Constitutional Convention. We have written about plumbing and electricity on campus. We have taken national stories like "Me too" and written our thoughts with the campus community in mind. But we are not perfect.

There are stories we do not or cannot write. We do not know enough or are not even aware of countless phenomena that affect members of Stony Brook University. Sometimes we pitch ideas for articles but have no one who feels comfortable writing about them.

I am a white, Jewish, cis straight man who did not really have non-Jewish friends until I came to campus at 19. I lived in Israel for four years, Staten Island for two and Nassau County for the rest. My stories, my expertise and my ideas are constrained by my background. And there are more stories that I am not qualified to write but would love to see written.

Two years ago, Hanaa Tameez, the then editor-in-chief of *The Statesman*, wrote an editorial about the lack of diversity among the models of the paper's Sex and Relationships Issue. She



ANDREW GOLDSTEIN/THE STATESMAN  
The UNITI Cultural Center in the Student Activities Center hosts programs to reflect the campus diversity. Students from different backgrounds can write for *The Statesman*.

wrote that while no students were targeted or rejected when looking for models, the only students who responded that year were white.

Two years later, I find myself writing similarly about the Opinions section. This year our writers have been overwhelmingly white and overwhelmingly male. We have had only three fem-

me-identifying writers. As much as I enjoy writing about global warming, smoking on campus and deadlines for professors, I am, by definition, missing stories that people care about. I am, by definition, spreading opinions that members of campus disagree with. Challenge me. Open the campus collective mind to problems we do not think about.

The Opinions section has the power to reach more than 25,000

people and spark conversations that can lead to real change. It is a shame that so few students take advantage of it.

What are you passionate about? What scares you? What should be changed? How did you get to where you are now? What do you value? Why should I care?

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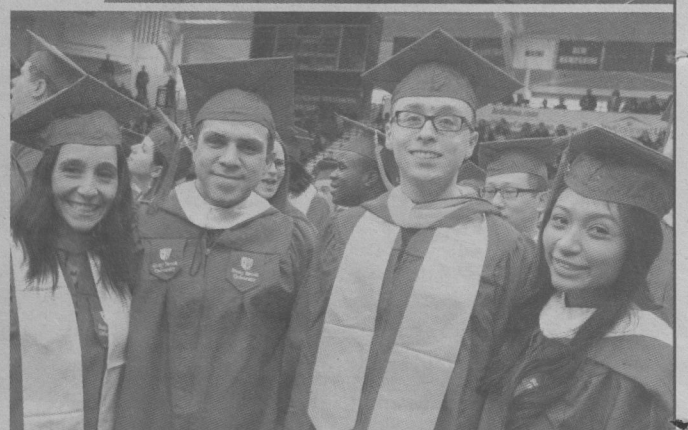
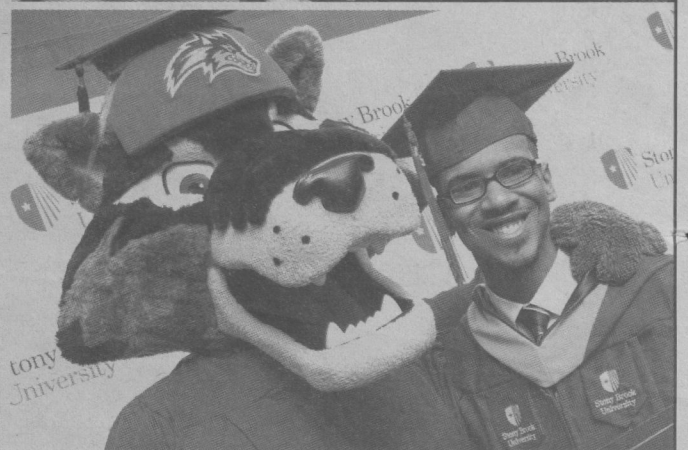
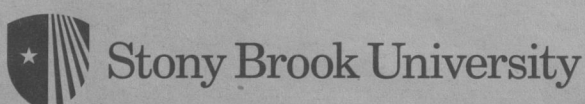
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# Johnson leads Women's Basketball to win over Manhattan

By Mike Adams  
Assistant Sports Editor



ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Junior guard Shania Johnson dribbling in an exhibition game vs. Adelphi on Nov. 6.

Stony Brook Women's Basketball held a 64-51 lead over Manhattan through the first three and a half quarters of its regular season home opener on Saturday night, comfortable, yet not insurmountable. Junior transfer guard Shania Johnson had a debut for the ages, leading the team with 20 points, seven assists, five rebounds and five steals in 30 minutes.

Then, with five minutes left in the game, Johnson went down hard after being fouled on a layup attempt. The Seawolves' offensive catalyst headed to the bench to have the trainer tend to her calf. Sophomore point guard Giolibeth Perez took the point. The team was tasked with stymying any potential Jaspers rally.

**"We let them get their little hype, and we just had to come out there with fire and get at 'em."**

-Shania 'Shorty' Johnson  
Junior guard

The Seawolves held strong, limiting the Jaspers to eight points in the game's dying minutes and tacking

on 10 of their own to win their first game of the year 74-59.

"Gio's a very good point guard as well, so I had a lot of confidence in her coming in and running our team," head coach Caroline McCombs said. "Shorty [Johnson] was playing very well, we just have to trust the team in doing what we'd been doing to that time."

After spending the rest of the fourth quarter on the bench, Johnson walked off with her teammates at the end of the game, and did not appear to be seriously impeded when leaving the court. Reflecting on her first game at Stony Brook, she was quick to credit her teammates for her standout individual performance.

"It felt great to come here and make a mark," Johnson said. "I couldn't do it without my team, and I just felt good about coming in today, and it just turned out great."

Johnson played her first minutes in Division I after two years in the NJCAA playing for Monroe College in the Bronx. While she said the competition she faced tonight was greater than anything she had experienced with the Mustangs, she found the new challenge exciting.

"Here is way harder, it's more competition," Johnson said. "Back in my old school there wasn't really a lot of people who knew how to play basketball, but it's very exciting to play with a team like this."

Johnson and junior shooting guard Jerell Matthews started in the backcourt for Stony Brook, while senior guard Aaliyah Worley started on the wing. Freshman forward India Pagan joined junior transfer forward Cheyenne Clark in the frontcourt to round out the Seawolves' new look starting five.

Stony Brook came out of the gate sluggish in the first quarter, falling behind Manhattan 20-17 after shooting just 37.5 percent and allowing the Jaspers to hit 60 percent of their shots in the opening frame. The team turned the tide in the second quarter, scoring 19 points while holding its opponent to nine points.

"We were just really trying to buckle down," McCombs said. "We were just trying to get stops and getting a little bit more familiar with their offense. It's the first game of the season, so you don't have a complete scout at that point in time."

The Seawolves maintained their lead throughout the second half, never letting the Jaspers maintain an extended offensive run to seriously tip the scales. Manhattan's best chance came at the start of the fourth quarter, when Stony Brook gave up seven straight unanswered points to cut the Seawolves' lead to 58-49. McCombs called a timeout with 7:10 remaining.

"When we went into that timeout, coach was just telling us we gotta bring the fire back up," Johnson said. "We let them get their little hype, and we just had to come out there with fire and get at 'em."

Stony Brook's poise on the backboard helped them maintain an edge in possession throughout the game. Matthews and Clark grabbed eight and seven rebounds respectively, part of the Seawolves' 39 rebound effort, half as many as the Jaspers' 26 boards.

McCombs praised the resilience her team showed throughout the game.

"As young as we are on the court, I thought we did a good job of just continuing to persevere," McCombs said. "When they would make a run, we just never let them catch back up."

Stony Brook will look to capitalize on its first win of the season when the team hits the road to take on Hofstra on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

## Men's Basketball falls short in season opener vs. Maryland

By Gregory Zarb  
Assistant Sports Editor

The Stony Brook men's basketball team fell in the regular season opener to the Maryland Terrapins by a final score of 76-61 at Nassau Coliseum Friday night. Senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant showcased his newfound three-point shooting ability, connecting on three shots from beyond the arc to finish with 17 points in a losing effort.

Redshirt-sophomore forward Akwasi Yeboah added 15 points and a team-high six rebounds to help Sturdivant keep the Seawolves in the game. But Stony Brook had difficulty stopping Maryland's offense, allowing five Terrapins to score in double figures.

"I'm really proud of our effort, especially from the new guys," head coach Jeff Boals said. "To come out against Maryland in an atmosphere like this, I give them a lot of credit for battling."

Sturdivant led the team throughout the second half, making multiple three-pointers. Senior guard U.C. Iroegbu and Sturdivant hit back-to-back threes midway through the second half to cut Maryland's lead down to 12. The Terrapins called a timeout, then went on a 6-0 run to push the lead back to 18 points, sealing the victory.

Maryland has historically been a consistent team in the Atlantic Coast Conference, participating in

the NCAA Tournament last year as a No. 6 seed. Terrapins sophomore guard Anthony Cowan Jr. led his team with 15 points, and sophomore forward Justin Jackson had 11 points and 14 rebounds.

**"To come out against Maryland in an atmosphere like this, I give them a lot of credit for battling."**

-Jeff Boals  
Stony Brook Head Coach

Despite the Seawolves shooting 50 percent from the three-point range in the second half, the points in the paint were the killer for the team. The Seawolves were outscored 50-18 in points in the paint. A majority of Maryland's points came off pick-and-roll layups, dunks and pick-and-pop jumpshots.

"I thought we played well," Maryland head coach Mark Turgeon said. "We played at a higher level than I thought we could've played at this early in the season."

Jackson played a major role in creating opportunities for the Terrapins offense. His game-high 14 rebounds helped create fast-break opportunities for Maryland, resulting in a 10-2 fast-break points advantage over Stony Brook.

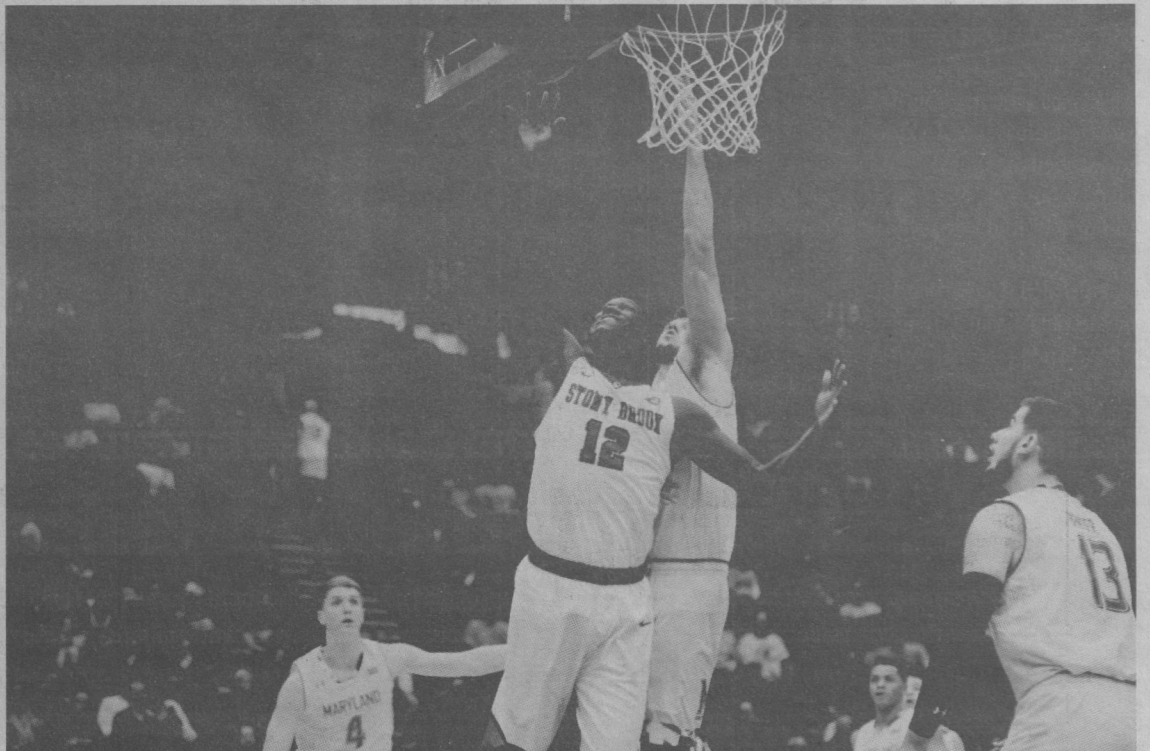
Nassau Coliseum has recently been renovated and is now home to the NBA Brooklyn Nets G-League affiliate team, the Long Island Nets. For many Stony Brook players, this was a learning experience that they will never forget.

"It's a great atmosphere," Yeboah said. "It's a huge arena, and it's nice to play on a G-League court. Definitely an experience to remember, that's for sure."

All but two Seawolves took to the court Friday night. Junior guard Jaron Cornish did not play due to a knee injury he suffered in the preseason. Cornish's injury status is currently day-to-day. Freshman guard Jordan McKenzie played the available minutes at point guard, finishing the game with six points and three assists

in 27 minutes. Redshirt-freshman forward Andrew Garcia did not play as he is recovering from knee surgery he underwent last season. Boals confirmed that he will be out indefinitely due to setbacks in his recovery.

The team will take part in the PK80 Phil Knight Invitational from Nov. 14-19. During that span, they will take on UConn, Ball State and Michigan State on the road in that order. The UConn game will tip off on Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 7 p.m.

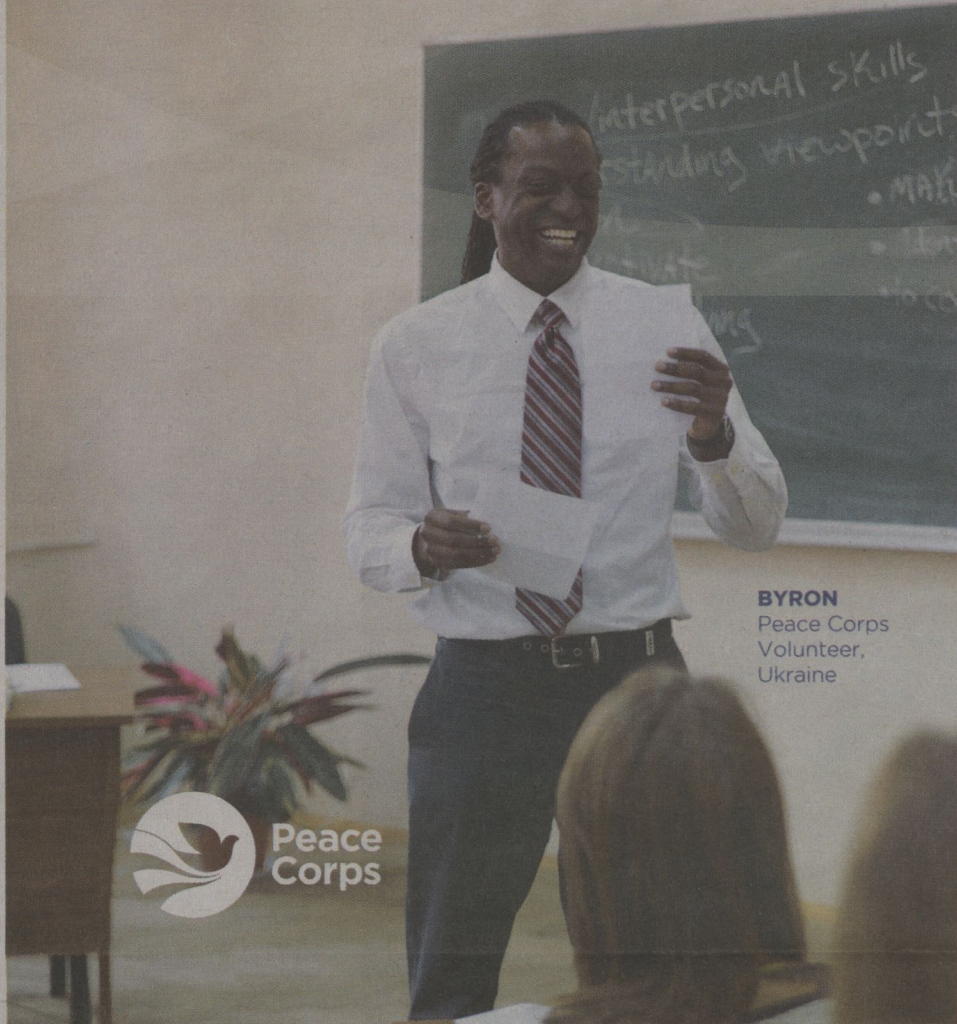


ARACELY JIMENEZ / THE STATESMAN

Senior forward Tyrell Sturdivant attempts a layup during Friday's loss to Maryland.

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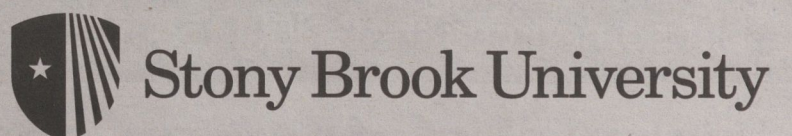
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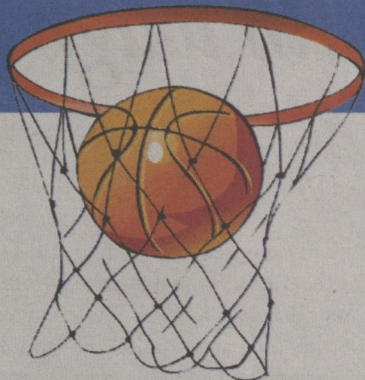


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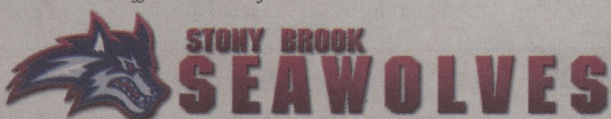
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# SPORTS

## Football cruises past Wagner despite key player injuries

By Joseph Konig  
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

Stony Brook Football's game against Wagner at Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium on Saturday, which ended with a 38-10 victory, was probably their least important game on the schedule entering this season.

Wagner is now 3-7, plays in a weaker conference and received a \$90,000 payout to play the Seawolves on their senior day. Programs arrange nonconference games like this in an attempt to put easier games on the schedule. However, Saturday's contest ended up being one of the most intense and costly games the Seawolves have played all season.

"We knew we were going to get their best punch early," junior linebacker Shayne Lawless said. "We knew they were going to try to out physical us... We just tried our best to keep everyone composed and try to stay away from the chippy stuff."

There was a lot of "chippy stuff" to go with the physical play on Saturday. Half a dozen shoving matches had to be broken up by officials throughout the game. Stony Brook redshirt-freshman defensive back Elijah Duff threw a punch at the end of a kickoff early in the third quarter. Then, senior wide receiver Ray Bolden was knocked out of the game by a helmet-to-helmet collision that left him unconscious and sent him to the hospital.

"He's alert. He's talking," Director of Athletics Shawn Heilbron said at the post-game press conference. "He's there right now. They're treating it like a concus-

sion. He should be evaluated and out tonight."

Bolden was motionless on the turf for 10 minutes as trainers evaluated him and then ultimately strapped him to a backboard. Before he was taken off on a gurney, both sidelines emptied onto the field and formed two separate semi-circles around him in silent solidarity. The stadium grew intensely quiet and broke into cautious applause when he was carried off the field. The next play, junior running back Jordan Gowins broke a 53-yard run, inserting much-needed oxygen to the suddenly dreary game.

"I got a big spark when that whole thing happened with Ray," Gowins said. "It really felt like I was playing for something other than myself. That's when you thrive, that's when you're at your best."

Gowins finished the day with a career-high 125 yards and two touchdowns on 16 carries. His cousin, senior running back Stacey Bedell, left the game with an undisclosed injury on the very first play from scrimmage.

"Obviously [Gowins has] played well, but he's been injured a lot," head coach Chuck Priore said. "Nice thing is the last two weeks he hasn't been... No matter what kind of tal-

ent you have, if you can't hone the skills and you don't feel like you're getting the reps - there's nothing like getting reps."

The other running back in the Seawolves rotation, junior Donald Liotine Jr., had 79 yards on eight carries, including a 45-yard touchdown run in the third quarter to put Stony Brook up 21-10. The Seawolves' other two touchdowns were passes from junior quarterback Joe Carbone to graduate wide receiver Harrison Jackson and junior wide receiver Donavin Washington, in the first and fourth quarters respectively. Junior kicker Nick Courtney hit a 24-yard field goal

in the fourth quarter to round out the scoring.

"I'm just happy we got our eighth win," Jackson said. "I could care less about stats. We won. At the end of the day we won."

Stony Brook now has an 8-2 overall record and a 6-1 conference record in the Colonial Athletic Association. Ranked No. 12 in the STATS FCS poll and No. 15 in the coaches poll, the Seawolves are eyeing their first Football Championship Subdivision playoff berth since 2012, their final season in the Big South.

The team rose to second in the CAA after No. 7/9 Elon lost to No. 18/16 New Hampshire on Saturday. Finishing second in the CAA, one of the best conferences in the FCS this year, could help Stony Brook's case for a higher seed and a home game when the playoff bracket is announced on Nov. 19.

The Seawolves will have to beat Maine next week to clinch a second-place finish in the CAA. After losing its top two offensive weapons in Bedell and Bolden, it would make sense if the team was concerned about its future, but that does not seem to be the case.

"What we've done best is we have people step up when we need them to step up," Gowins said. "That's why we are who we are. It's just about stepping up when your number's called. That's it."

Stony Brook plays its final game of the regular season next Saturday at Maine, who has gone 4-5 this season. Kickoff is at noon at Harold Alfond Sports Stadium in Orono, Maine.



Senior wide receiver Ray Bolden being lifted off the field on a gurney after a helmet-to-helmet hit during Saturday's 38-10 win over Wagner. He was treated for a concussion.

ANNA CORREA / THE STATESMAN

## Women's Soccer season ends with tough loss to Penn State

By Mike Adams  
Assistant Sports Editor

Stony Brook Women's Soccer lost 7-0 to Penn State in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament on Friday at Jeffrey Field in State College, Pennsylvania. The loss knocks the Seawolves out of the tournament and marks the end of their 2017 season.

"I think when the draw was made we knew it was going to be a tough match-up for us," head coach Brendan Faherty said. "Penn State is one of the top soccer programs in the country. They're a dynamic attacking group, really good movement off the ball, scored some really good goals against us."

The No. 3-seeded Nittany Lions found the back of the net just over 10 minutes into the match, when sophomore midfielder/forward Laura Freigang scored the first goal of the contest off a corner

kick from junior midfielder Marissa Sheva.

"I thought we were organized pretty well, but we gave up the first goal on a corner kick," Faherty said. "I think when you give up a goal in that type of game, that type of situation, it's hard. Penn State's played in a lot more NCAA Tournament games than we have, and they rose to the moment."

Freigang picked up a hat-trick before the first half was finished and ended the match with four goals. Penn State tallied 29 shots on the night, while Stony Brook managed three.

While the Seawolves' seven-goal deficit in the match was their largest since they entered Division I in 1999, this year's team also led the program to just its second ever NCAA Tournament appearance. After the game, Faherty praised his team's persistence in the face of superior competition.

"I think our group really battled hard and played for the full 90 minutes," Faherty said. "I'm happy about that."

Despite the loss, Faherty directed his team's attention to their achievements this season. Stony Brook's 11 wins were the most the program has had since 2013. Although the team finished the regular season with an 8-10 overall record, they still managed to advance as far as any Stony Brook Women's Soccer squad ever has, picking up just the second America East title in program history.

"We went into the locker room and we talked briefly about the game, but the real focus was on what we accomplished this year," Faherty said. "I told the group 'I want you guys to feel great about what you brought to Stony Brook for the last few months.' I think everyone realized that we had a really great fall and

we have a lot of great memories to look back on."

Stony Brook went 2-6 in their first eight matches of the season, including a five-game losing streak that lasted from Aug. 27 to Sept. 17. The team went 9-5 from that point on, and Faherty pointed to their streak-snapping 6-0 win against Wagner on Sept. 17 as the beginning of their turnaround.

"We scored 10 goals [combined] in back-to-back games against Wagner and Sacred Heart, so I think that gave our group some confidence," Faherty said. "And then when we went to Hartford and won, which has only been done a couple times in program history. I think that gave us more confidence. And then to beat New Hampshire at home, who finished in first place, I think that gave us more confidence."

Six seniors played their last minutes in a Stony Brook uniform on

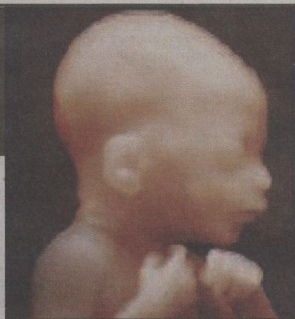
Friday, including defensive stalwarts Franki Priore and Sydney Vaughn and midfielder Samantha Goodwin, who finished third on the team with eight points this season. While the Seawolves' freshmen often found themselves in prominent positions this fall, Faherty says their success should be partially credited to the environment the team's upperclassmen helped create.

"The thing that helped our group so much this year was that our seniors were really welcoming of our younger kids, and that says a lot about them as people," Faherty said. "I think that allowed some of our younger kids to really step up and have the seasons that they had."

While the end of a long season is a bittersweet moment for any team, Faherty and his squad will take time to reflect on the year before looking forward to what they can accomplish in 2018.

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