

INSIDE



UI Dance Marathon DJ Inzane retires

After his 25th year as acting DJ at Dance Marathon, DJ Inzane retires after the 29th annual "Big Event."

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Iowa City school district sees increase in student diversity

A 2022-23 enrollment report showed that levels of diversity are rising in the school district in certain minority groups, including Black, multi-racial, Pacific Islander, and Hispanic students.

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Iowa 'Don't Say Gay' bills spark controversy

In Iowa's version of the "Don't Say Gay" bills, instruction on LGBTQ+ topics will be prohibited, and parents will have to know about their child's identity.

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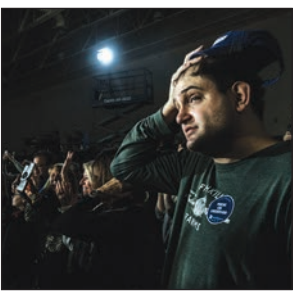


Track family ties

Twin sisters Alli and Grace Bookin-Nosbisch are having breakout seasons for the Iowa track and field team — but not without a little help from each other.

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ONLINE



South Carolina replaces Iowa's long time standing first-in-the-nation position

Iowa was removed Saturday from its long-time caucus status by the Democratic National Committee.



Iowa women's basketball demolishes Penn State, Caitlin Clark grabs ninth career triple-double

The junior guard extended her Big Ten-leading triple-double mark to nine in a 95-51 win over Penn State on Sunday.



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Students experience insulin shortage from weight loss trend

UI students worry about price and demand for medications while celebrities use the drug to lose weight.

Sofia Mamakos
News Reporter

University of Iowa Zhenya Loughney takes Novolog daily, a type of insulin that goes through an insulin pump to combat their Type 1 diabetes.

However, Loughney recently has had difficulty getting a hold of their expensive medication.

"It feels incredibly frustrating to not be able to

have the lifesaving medications that cost hundreds of dollars each month that I need just to simply live," Loughney said.

People with diabetes are having trouble accessing their medications after a trend claimed that diabetes medicines can help people reduce their weight. In May 2022, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Tirezepatide — sold under the name

Mounjaro — which treats individuals with Type 2 diabetes.

When Loughney is unable to use their medicine, it results in unsafe behaviors like reusing necessary medical equipment.

"I have to ration things and reuse sensors for my continuous glucose monitor, which isn't good, and I have to reuse insulin pumps, which also isn't good," they said. "If you

use a site for too long, then the insulin can't fully absorb into your body."

Diabetes is a chronic, long-lasting health condition that affects how your body turns food into energy due to a lack of — or lack of access to — insulin, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Over time, diabetes can cause problems such as heart disease, vision loss, and kidney dis-

ease. According to CDC data, diabetes is the seventh leading cause of death in the U.S.

While not intended for weight loss, use of Tirezepatide and Trulicity, another Eli Lilly diabetes medication, led to significantly greater weight reductions. In a press release, Eli Lilly supported

INSULIN | Page 2

UI community scammed with phishing email

An email scam giving away a baby grand piano took over UI email accounts, causing stress and fear.

Isabelle Foland
News Reporter

The false promise of a free grand piano led several Iowa City community members to fall victim to a scam known as phishing.

Many UI and Iowa City community members received a scam email from University of Iowa affiliated email accounts about an individual attempting to give away a free 2014 Yamaha baby grand piano, which is valued at around \$6,000.

Phishing is a type of scam that attempts to gain a person's personal data, such as a bank account or account login information, by pretending to be a trustworthy business or person.

One community member, a 55-year-old Iowa City mom, said the scam was stressful for her.

The *Daily Iowan* granted anonymity to the source because of the sensitive details around the topic.

She first saw the scam after a trusted friend forwarded the email to her. The email stated the piano was being sold by a widow who urgently needed to get rid of the piano. Multiple versions of the email were curated and sent to the university community.

The fact that the email came from a UI account also added to its credibility, the Iowa City mom said.

"I saw that my friend who forwarded me the email was offered the piano by someone who had a UIowa email address," she said. "So, I thought maybe this is the woman or a next-door neighbor."

The email provided a phone number to contact, so the Iowa City mom reached out and was in contact with them for two days.

She and her husband had been debating whether they had space for the piano, so she decided to get the piano but donate it to her son's school. This decision ultimately led her to figure out it was all a scam, she said.

"I was starting to contact the scammers and say the high school wants it, and then I started to Google the name of the company they sent

to me," she said. "I noticed this isn't in Cedar Rapids — it's not even in Iowa — and then I asked them, 'Where is the piano?' and they said Georgia."

After digging some more, the source said she found several reports about the same email being a scam. After a person accepts the piano, the fraudulent moving company asks for money to help ship the piano to their location but never actually ends up doing so, she said.

These kinds of scams are common for the UI's information technology staff.



Iowa lost \$19 million to 8,725 fraud reports last year, according to the Federal Trade Commission.

Warren Staal, UI Information Technology Function Representative, said in the case of the baby grand piano scam, because the scammers used a university email account, it made it easier for them to reach others in the UI. Staal said these controls typically do not block messages from university email accounts.

The emotional appeal and sense of urgency used in the messages is how phishing scammers persuade their victims to fall for their scam, he said.

Staal said these scams happen because scammers go on the dark web and purchase "phishing kits," which help them hack into an organization such as the UI and gain email addresses of the staff and students.

Once the scammer has access to several email accounts, they will send out their scam to a small group of people. From there, they will try to steal

Nicole Dahya, the UI's director of strategic communication, said the university blocks around 704,000 suspicious external email messages from reaching UI email accounts per day.

This kind of fraud can also be seen on a state and national level. According to the Federal Trade Commission's website, the organization received 1.6 million fraud reports nationwide last year.

The university blocks around **704,000** suspicious emails per day.

SCAM | Page 2

Dance Marathon raises over \$1.1 million

The final total, which goes to the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital, declined from last year

Kate Perez
News Editor

University of Iowa Dance Marathon raised over \$1.1 million this weekend for the families and children at the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital.

The UI Dance Marathon 29 held its "Big Event" on Friday and Saturday at the Iowa Memorial Union, where UI students danced, celebrated, and stayed awake for 24 hours straight. The dancers tried to collect as much money as possible to support children with cancer and other conditions at the hospital.

This year, Dance Marathon raised \$1,174,008.29 for the kids — a number lower than last year's total — which was announced at 7 p.m. on Saturday.

Sarah Schminke, a UI student and fourth-year



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Participants of the University of Iowa's 29th Dance Marathon dance at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Saturday. The event raised about \$1.17 million this year.

DANCE | Page 2



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

A University of Iowa Dance Marathon participant dances during the second half of the “Big Event” at the Iowa Memorial Union on Saturday.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Dance Marathon participants hold up signs during the University of Iowa’s 29th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Saturday. The event raised about \$1.17 million.

DANCE

Continued from Front

Dance Marathon dancer, said through tears that her favorite part of the “Big Event” was every part.

“It was so nice to be back in person,” she said. “My last in-person ‘Big Event’ was freshman year, so it’s like a full circle moment coming back to it being senior year.” The organization raised \$1.36 million last year while being mostly virtual.

The “Big Event” has been held mostly online for the past two years to mitigate COVID-19 exposures. Last year, some dancers and other Dance Marathon members were allowed to be in the IMU for the “Big Event,” but attendees were still limited to keep people, especially immunocompromised families from the Stead Family Children’s Hospital, safe.

This is the first year that participants, from the dancers to the children from Stead Family Children’s Hospital, were able to dance at the IMU.

Kaylee Deisbeck, a UI Dance Marathon dance captain and member of the recruitment and retention team, said the final amount reflects all the hard work that the dancers, leaders, and executive members put in over the year and during the event.

“It was a great success,” Deisbeck said. “Coming back from a COVID year

at the Stead Family Children’s Hospital spoke at the event.

One family speaker was Nikki Thulen, who served as the Dance Marathon’s Dancing in Our Hearts Family Speaker. The Dancing in our Hearts Family Speaker is someone who has “experienced the loss of their child,” according to Dance Marathon’s

Five months later, Libby relapsed and began treatment once more at Stead Family Children’s Hospital, where she remained until she died at age 12 in June 2021.

Thulen said she has continued to come and support the UI Dance Marathon because she knows how important it is to help both the children and parents in the hospital.

“Every single person in Dance Marathon becomes your family. The impact you make, even on us parents, you can’t explain it,” Thulen said.

Thulen also recognized the work dancers were putting in toward staying awake for 24 consecutive hours. The reason the dancers stay up for 24 hours, Thulen said, is to represent all the sleepless nights parents lose while in the hospital.

“That is why kids can’t wait,” Thulen said. “I want you to love like Libby.”

Grace Katzer, Archie Wagner, and Maddie Willis contributed to this report.

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“It was a great success. Coming back from a COVID year and raising the amount that we did — it’s mind-blowing.

— Kaylee Diesbeck, a UI Dance Marathon dance captain and member of the recruitment and retention team

and raising the amount that we did — it’s mind-blowing.”

Abby Thill, a UI Dance Marathon dance captain and member of the recruitment and retention team, said she was proud of all of her dancers, who raised over \$6,000 in an hour on Saturday.

Multiple family speakers who have been impacted by treatment

website.

Thulen was attending Dance Marathon for the fifth time to represent her daughter Libby, who died after having acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Libby was first diagnosed at age nine in May 2018. She received treatment at the Stead Family Children’s Hospital until July 2020, when she entered remission.

INSULIN

Continued from Front

the use of Tirzepatide as a weight loss drug.

“The overall safety and tolerability profile of Tirzepatide was similar to other incretin-based therapies approved for the treatment of obesity,” the release stated.

Loughney is not a fan of the company, they said, because it has turned something necessary for their livelihood into a way to make money.

“I hate Eli Lilly,” Loughney said. “People just want to live, and making it a capitalist thing is incredibly cruel.”

If Tirzepatide and Trulicity are approved as weight loss drugs, it would join Wegovy, another recently approved popular weight loss drug on the market. At lower doses, all three of the drugs are already approved to treat Type 2 diabetes.

In the Food and Drug Administration Drug Shortages database, Trulicity, Tirzepatide, and Wegovy are all “currently in



Emily Nyberg/The Daily Iowan

University of Iowa students Claire Hennessy and Jarod Kaufman pose with their insulin pumps for a portrait at the Iowa Memorial Union on Jan. 31. Hennessy and Kaufman have Type 1 diabetes and are part of the student organization Type1Hawks at the University of Iowa — a group that focuses on diabetes education and activism.

a shortage” because of recent increases in demand.

Claire Hennessy, a UI freshman with Type 1 diabetes and president of the College Diabetes Network at Iowa, said it would be extremely life-threatening if she had trouble accessing her medications.

“I haven’t had any issues, but if I did, I would honestly fear for my life because I cannot go [a] full day without insulin,” she said. “Without insulin, I will die.” Even though she has not yet had trouble herself, Hennessy shows concern for her community that is

affected by this shortage.

“It’s a needed drug,” Hennessy said. “People already have enough issues accessing insulin with the prices that it’s horrifying that anything else could become a factor as well.”

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SCAM

Continued from Front

login information to continue to infect accounts, steal money, or both, Staal said.

There is not much the UI can do to stop these kinds of attacks completely, Staal said, but there are several controls in place to prevent accounts from being hacked.

“We have systems that check for email accounts that send out huge voluminous amounts of email that aren’t approved to do so, and then we reset their password and contact the individual and tell them that the account was compromised,” Staal said. “We also have implemented a bunch of other technical controls such as multi-fac-

tor authentication.”

Even if no money has been stolen, the emotional toll of these scams can still weigh heavily on victims.

Despite cutting contact with the scammer, the Iowa City mom said she feels fearful that the scammers will still be able to breach her personal information.

“I realized I could be the next person who gets a phone hijacked because I’ve given them my name and telephone number,” she said. “Maybe they have a way to get into my phone that I’m just not aware of ... or they could start applying for things using my name and telephone number, so I’m a little on high alert still because of that.”

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CORRECTION

In the last issue of *The Daily Iowan*, a contributed piece of art titled Cynaeafwr-Tân, the Harvesting Flame, was wrongly attributed to Jessica Steward. The correct artist is Valeria Mogilevskaya. The *DI* regrets this error.

—Hannah Pinski, Executive Editor

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UI Dance Marathon DJ Inzane retires

After 25 years as a DJ for Dance Marathon, DJ Inanze retired following this year's "Big Event" on Saturday.

Archie Wagner
News Reporter

After transferring to the University of Iowa in 1997, John Munford said he saw a fundraising activity going on outside the Iowa Memorial Union. He asked a familiar face what was going on. A friend of a friend told him it was Dance Marathon.

This interaction marked the first time Munford heard of the event, but it would not be the last.

Don Rossum — known as Big D as a DJ — was part of a fraternity that participated in the first Dance Marathon at the UI and asked Munford if he wanted to be a part of the organization.

Munford said yes.

"I always loved music," Munford said. "I grew up in the hip-hop generation, so you either deejay or rapped or danced or something of that nature, and I just always kind of had this love for music and had friends that were into deejaying and kind of fell into it."

After 25 years with the organization, Munford — known as DJ Inzane — retired from his position as one of the DJs for UI's Dance Marathon 29 "Big Event" Friday and Saturday.

The Dance Marathon "Big Event" is a 24-hour celebration where participants are encouraged to stay awake without drinking caffeine or sitting down to raise money

for the UI Stead Family Children's Hospital's pediatric cancer patients and families.

"I'm a little quiet at first when people kind of are around me, and they see me, but then as I start to perform, I kind of lose it," Munford said. "One second you play Lil Jon and then you mix it in with like John Denver, you know? So, it's just, just crazy."

But for Munford, coming back to Dance Marathon isn't about being a DJ. It's about being part of an organization that helps people.

"I fell in love with it," Munford said. "It can be an addictive thing because it's such a moving experience that for me once I got involved, and you see the direct impact that is having on these children."

Munford said he got to know many families that he sees at the "Big Event" each year, and they'll come up to him and give the biggest hug.

"They tell you the stories of how they live in a small town in northeast Iowa, and something happened to their child in the middle of night, and everybody jumps in the car in their pajamas, and the ambulance comes to take their child, and they're rushing to Iowa City," he said. "They get to Iowa City, realize they don't have their wallet to get gas, to pay for a hotel, or other stuff. The money that's



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

DJ Inzane speaks over the microphone during the University of Iowa's 29th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Saturday. DJ Inzane performed at his last dance marathon event. The event raised about \$1.17 million.

raised by Dance Marathon pays for that in those situations."

These stories, he said, are a massive part of why he kept coming back every year.

"I've been coming back every year to do this. And like I said, 25 years or so with it, and it's just time for somebody to fall in love with Dance Marathon the

way that I did," Munford said.

Raginya Handoo, Executive Director of Dance Marathon 29, said DJ Inzane will be missed and has been a vital piece of Dance Marathon for the last 25 years.

"People know him. People remember him, his energy, and just his pure passion for Dance Marathon, is honestly

unlike anybody I've ever met before," Handoo said. "While it's really bittersweet to hear that he's leaving, I'm just so excited that he can finally kind of take a break."

Munford said stepping back from the "Big Event" is extremely hard, but he believes it's the right time to do it.

"I wanted to make sure

that if I left, or when I left, the next generation of DJs would be doing it for the right reasons," Munford said. "There's been a lot of DJs over the years that come up and want to DJ, and their only intent is to perform in front of 1,500 to 2,000 dancers. It's not about that."

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Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

A past Dance Marathon captain performs the morale dance from Dance Marathon 26 during day two of the University of Iowa Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union on Saturday.



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Perky, the University of Iowa Children's Hospital mascot and Herky the Hawk's cousin, dances during the last half of the University of Iowa Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union on Saturday.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Students dance during the University of Iowa's 29th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Saturday. The event raised about \$1.17 million in 24 hours.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Students hold up the final amount raised during the University of Iowa's 29th Dance Marathon at the Iowa Memorial Union in Iowa City on Saturday. The event raised about \$1.17 million in 24 hours.

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Opinions

Editorial Board supports public education

Public education is the best path to equitable and accessible education.

DI Editorial Board

Every child and teenager deserves a quality education.

On Jan. 24, Gov. Kim Reynolds signed the Students First Act into law. Once fully implemented, K-12 students will be eligible to receive \$7,600 in state tax dollars for private education, no matter their income level. This will cost an estimated \$345 million annually.

The *Daily Iowan* Editorial Board recognizes systemic issues in our state's public education system. Nevertheless, we believe public education systems create equitable and accessible education for all.

Iowa has become the nationwide leader in school choice legislation.

This school choice legislation is part of a nationwide conservative push away from public education systems. Proponents of school choice believe parents should have a role in what their child learns in the classroom.

"For the first time, we will fund students instead of a system — a decisive step in ensuring that

every child in Iowa can receive the best education possible," Reynolds said in the news release. "With this bill, Iowa has affirmed that educational freedom belongs to all, not just those who can afford it."

The *DI* Editorial Board recognizes that public education is not of equal quality across the state. In low-income areas, public education may not have adequate funding to best serve students.

There are systemic issues in public schools across Iowa that should be addressed. But investing in private education is not a solution to improving education throughout Iowa.

State tax dollars will aid families of children attending or transferring to private institutions, but public feedback indicates Iowa does not approve of this use of tax dollars.

According to Iowa News Now, in a survey of more than 1,600 Iowans, 73 percent were against the Students First Act.

One reason Iowans are against this act is the statewide inaccessibility

to private education. There are 99 counties in Iowa, only 42 of which contain private schools, according to the Iowa Department of Education.

Stephen Murley, a University of Iowa education policy researcher and instructor, reports 54 percent of Iowa's private schools reside in the nine most populous counties. Even without the cost of tuition, private education is not accessible to most Iowans.

Unlike public schools, private schools have the option to turn away students. This often has a negative impact on students with disabilities or mental illnesses, as well as children of color.

While there is abundance of room for improvement in Iowa's public education systems, funding private institutions is not the solution to making education equitable and accessible across the state.

The *DI* Editorial Board recognizes school choice proponents have concerns with modern day classrooms. These are concerns that exist and are heard.



Margaret Kispert/The Register / USA TODAY NETWORK

Gov. Kim Reynolds address the crowd before signing House File 68 — a private school scholarships bill — in the rotunda of the Iowa State Capitol Building on Jan. 24.

But public education is not for one; it is for all. Sending children and teens to private schools may be the solution for some families, but it is not a solution for all of Iowa.

Tax dollars should serve to educate Iowans, and public schools are the most accessible option for most Iowans. Investing in

public schools, not private institutions, is the best path to making education equitable across the states.

The modern-day classroom has changed, and with that, many parents have concerns. These conversations should happen in school board meetings and proper conversations

with educators. Diverting funding from public schools will not make these issues go away.

The *DI* Editorial Board wants the best education for our state's children and teens. We believe this happens by properly funding public education.

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Communication is key in the workplace

Iowa City business owners share what they look for in student employees.



Yasmina Sahir
Opinions Columnist

Many college students know the struggle of juggling work and school responsibilities during the semester.

In Iowa City, I consider myself lucky to have access to many employment opportunities between on-campus jobs, corporate companies, and local businesses. Working for local businesses has always felt more engaging than being stuck in an environment

focused solely on productivity, financial gain, and robotic tasks.

The U.S. Department of Commerce approximates 45 percent of full-time college students worked on top of coursework in 2018, and 27 percent of employed full-time students worked at least 20 hours per week. To maintain good standing with local business owners, college students should ensure they are transparent, reliable, and communicate regularly with their employers.

"Working for a local business definitely has its perks," Lily Czechowicz, an employee at the cafe Cortado on Clinton Street, wrote in an email to *The Daily Iowan*. "I've had greater flexibility with the local busi-

nesses I've worked for than I would have had with larger corporate companies."

Anna Kain, an employee at Heim, an Iowa City-based pottery and crystal shop owned by Anna Fretheim, echoed this sentiment.

"It feels good to work for a person and not a machine," Kain said. "Communication is key in a workplace, as well as knowing that we're making real products by real people."

However, many local business managers, owners, and employees were unwilling or unable to comment for this *DI* report.

One employee at The Java House in Iowa City even stated it was against employee policy to comment to the media. The Java House owners experi-

enced community criticism in 2021 following reports of employee mistreatment.

These responses got me wondering: If communication is key, why isn't it happening?

I understand the struggle of navigating workplaces from both perspectives. As a young adult, it can be hard to learn work life balance. Sometimes, non-work responsibilities can become too much to handle showing up for a shift.

From the management side of business, it can be frustrating to put energy into hiring and training unreliable employees. Many employers interviewed for this piece laughed uncomfortably when I mentioned the shared Iowa City experience of having most of

your scheduled staff members take the no call, no show approach to working on football game Saturdays.

There must be a way to balance these competing needs.

Lindsay Chastain, co-owner of The Dandy Lion located on South Dubuque Street, provided insight into what contributes to successful working relationships between local business owners and college employees.

"We can't do what we do without our employees," Chastain said. "If students are reliable and focus on communicating needs to the team, we do our best to be open to figuring out a schedule and time commitment that works for us all."

When applying for jobs

while in college, students should be mindful of how much time they can commit to a team versus what is needed for homework and rest. Many employers also mentioned on-campus jobs are great for students who don't plan to stick around Iowa City during breaks, but that they won't turn someone away if they have brief travel plans in the future.

We need each other to thrive. Without local business, Iowa City would not be as attractive to prospective students. Without their patrons, businesses could not stay open. This kind of symbiotic relationship is part of what makes Iowa City beautiful and unique.

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THE DOC IS IN

What to do immediately after a sexual assault

In a time of increased sexual assaults on college campuses, here's what you need to know about the immediate steps to take afterward.

College campuses across the nation are reporting an increase in the prevalence of sexual assaults. According to Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network, the nation's largest anti-sexual violence organization, 13 percent of undergraduate and graduate students have experienced unwanted sexual contact through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. In 70 percent of all sexual assault cases, the assault is perpetrated by someone the survivor knows.

What is sexual assault?

Sexual assault is defined as any unwanted sexual contact that occurs without explicit consent, regardless of if penetra-

tion occurred. Consent cannot be assumed when someone is intoxicated, is not asked directly, is coerced, or says nothing. Even if consent was given in the past, any form of unwanted sexual contact is considered sexual assault.

Oftentimes, a survivor may feel guilty or blame themselves for the assault. It is important to understand that it is never the survivors' fault, and that sexual violence can occur to anyone regardless of age, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

Because of how prevalent sexual violence is on college campuses, it is important to equip oneself with the knowledge on what to do in the immedi-

ate aftermath of a sexual assault.

The first step: establishing safety

After a sexual assault, the most important thing to do first is to establish safety by exiting the situation and going somewhere secure. During this time, it can feel very overwhelming to reach out for help. The 24/7 crisis hotline numbers included below have trained advocates ready to listen, provide free resources, and offer support. One can also call a trusted friend or family member.

For those offering support to a survivor, always ask before initiating physical contact, even if it's

meant to comfort them. If they choose to share, listen without judgment, and don't pry for details. Asking questions can emotionally overwhelm them or make them feel like they must validate their story. A concrete way to support them is to offer to drive or accompany them to receive the appropriate care.

Getting medical care

Many people may feel reluctant to receive a medical evaluation, but there are many benefits in doing so. Firstly, survivors of sexual assault can receive a forensic exam, also known as a "rape kit," at no cost. Additionally, prophylactic medications

are available for any possible sexually transmitted infections. Emergency contraception is available as well.

A forensic exam is most effective if performed within 72 hours of the assault. But if that timeframe has passed, a medical evaluation is still strongly encouraged. Before being evaluated, it is important to preserve as much evidence as possible. This includes avoiding showering, using the restroom, and combing hair after the assault.

If the survivor has changed clothes already, they can place the clothing they were wearing in a paper bag to preserve any evidence. If DNA is found, it can help strengthen any

future prosecution. Receiving a sexual assault forensic exam does not mean that the survivor must report the assault, but the evidence can be stored in case the survivor chooses to file a report later.

The trauma of a sexual assault is not only physical, but also emotional and mental. It is a situation where a survivor can feel powerless. Asking for help, sharing your story, and receiving the appropriate care are all ways that survivors can begin to take that power back.

Angeline Vanle, she/her/hers
MD Candidate
Class of 2024

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Sophia Meador, Shahab Khan, Yasmina Sahir, Hannah Pinski

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Iowa City school district sees increase in student diversity

The Iowa City Community School District's 2022-23 enrollment report showed levels of student diversity are steadily increasing.

Virginia Russell and Kate Perez

Iowa City K-12 public schools reported higher levels of diversity in its student enrollment during the 2021-22 school year but also saw decreases in certain racial groups.

The increase follows a trend the Iowa City Community School District has seen in recent years.

According to the district's enrollment report released this year, the number of students who identify as multi-racial, Black, Hispanic, and Pacific Islander/other increased during the 2021-22 school year:

- The total number of Black students enrolled increased from 3,185 to 3,343.
- The total number of Hispanic students enrolled increased from 1,891 to 1,945.
- The total number of multi-racial students enrolled increased from 903 to 938.
- The total number of

Pacific Islander students enrolled increased from 17 to 26.

This increase can be attributed to more diversity overall in Iowa City, Iowa City Community School District School Board members say. Ruthina Malone, Iowa City Community School District School Board president, said she sees this growth as a positive sign for the district.

"If you see that growth, that's a signal that you hopefully are doing something right," Malone said. "That people seek you out as a destination, either town or educational system, and they trust the processes and systems you have in place, and that they can entrust their most precious gift, that being their child and their future."

The number of Black students has been steadily increasing since 1999, while the number of multi-racial students has consistently risen since

the 2011-12 school year.

Iowa City Community School Board Vice President Lisa Williams said the district also has initiatives that help spur diversity among students and staff. This includes the Grow Our Own Program, which focuses on retaining people of color as educators.

"I believe strongly in if you see it, you can be it," Williams said. "And because of that, it's really important that our teaching staff and other people that are in the schools look like our students."

The representation of some racial groups, however, declined. The number of white, Asian, and Native American/Alaskan students decreased during the 2021-22 school year, as it has for the past three years over the entire school district:

- The total number of white students enrolled decreased from 7,988 to 7,894.
- The total number of Asian students en-



The Iowa City Community School District sign in Iowa City taken on Sept. 13, 2022. Grace Kreber/The Daily Iowan

rolled decreased from 786 to 752.

- The total number of Native American/Alaskan students enrolled decreased from 29 to 23.

Malone said while the increased numbers of other racial groups is celebrated, she knows there is still work to be done. "We will never be 100 percent perfect in our systems when it comes to

DEI, diversity, equity, and inclusion, and we recognize that, and we're always striving to further improve upon that," Malone said.

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UI on-campus student garden to open in spring

The Edible Gardens will be planted on the east side of campus and will reduce the university's carbon footprint.

Archie Wagner
News Reporter

The University of Iowa student organization Determined Growers Incorporating Radical Farming will begin planting its on-campus Edible Gardens this spring. The gardens are being planted after several years of planning and fundraising.

The Edible Gardens will be made up of four small locations by the Chemistry Building and North Hall along the east side of the UI campus.

Esmee Belzer, co-president of DIRT, said the garden near North Hall will have major vegetable production in addition to hammock poles and a raised bed.

The plots around the Chemistry Building are in the southwest — where crabapple trees currently stand — and northwest corners, Belzer said.

Belzer said a major part of DIRT's activities involve deciding what to plant in the gardens. Belzer joined the organization her freshman year and said fundraising was in progress for another larger garden on campus when she started. At the time, the plan was to create a large garden between the river and North Hall.

Once the university's strategic plan allocated the space, she said the organization focused on finding funding for the two phases of the garden for its main construction and beautification. The main construction phase was estimated to cost approximately \$100,000.

The strategic plan changed, however, and the space allocated for the student gardens was reallocated for future Iowa Memorial Union expansion.

"Our initial idea was started to do sort of like guerilla gardening, where we just sort of plant like a tomato here, a raspberry bush there, and just kind of say screw it to the large garden idea, like little pockets and gardens all over the place," Belzer said.

The Edible Gardens were made possible with a \$25,000 Wellmark Grant in addition to funds from UI Undergraduate Student Government and donors, she said.

While in the process of figuring out what to plant, DIRT reached out to Fred Meyer, a UI adjunct professor and founder of the local nonprofit Backyard Abundance.

Meyer said he helped the group decide where to place the gardens.

"We went on a tour of potential places where they were planning on es-



Members of the University of Iowa's gardening club DIRT conducted their introductory meeting on Jan. 31. Avi Lapchick/The Daily Iowan

establishing some environmentally friendly landscapes, and I just gave him some advice on what might work well in those areas," Meyer said.

Meyer said the two main criteria for determining what plants work well in an area are the people who will be interacting with the space and the strengths and weaknesses of the landscape.

Director of the Office of Sustainability Stratis Giannakouros said the gardens' locations were picked based on the traffic patterns of students. He said the locations for the garden were narrowed down by several criteria:

- Eliminating areas previously reserved and considered a critical one area — such as the Pentacrest — that are important aesthetically to the UI for recruiting prospective students
- Accessibility in location for students
- Where prospective students are likely to walk on a tour

At the UI, student gardens have been a staple but have been located off the main campus. Edible Gardens will be the first to have a home on the east side of the river, which Giannakouros said will fulfill many people's wishes.

"There's been this desire on the part of students on campus for a long time to have a student garden that is on campus," he said. "So, these are areas that people might walk by, and we can have signage that says hey, we value, you know, being a Bee Cam-

pus and gardening." Giannakouros said the Edible Gardens on campus will help the UI meet the requirements of the Bee Campus USA designation achieved in 2022. To qualify as a Bee Cam-

pus, a university must have pollinator-friendly spaces, reduced pesticide use, have a campus and advisory committee, and increase biodiversity on campus.

The cost of the project

is currently unknown, but Giannakouros said he expects it to be minimal.

Adding biodiversity was a main reason behind coining the term "Edible Gardens" for the project, Giannakouros said.

"There's certain things you can put in that help promote certain insects, that control the insects, that we don't want eating vegetables," he said.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY

Executive Editor for the 2023-24 year

The board of Student Publications, Inc., which oversees The Daily Iowan, is seeking applicants for the 2023-24 Executive Editor position.

Details and application available at:
dailyiowan.com/editor-application
Deadline: February 24, 2023

'Don't Say Gay' bills spark controversy

Iowa lawmakers are targeting discussions on gender identity and sexuality in Iowa's schools.

Lauren White
Politics Reporter

Iowa House Republicans introduced multiple bills targeting LGBTQ+ students in K-12 schools across the state. These bills would restrict gender and sexuality instruction and out students to their parents.

House File 8 and House File 9, both coined "Don't Say Gay" bills, mirror similar laws that were passed in Florida in 2021. Advocates for the bills say this legislation would prevent teachers from including LGBTQ+ themes in their lesson plans and maintain teacher-parent transparency. But many Iowans oppose the bill because of concerns for student safety and equality.

Iowa House Education Committee chair Rep. Skyler Wheeler, R-Orange City, introduced HF 8 and HF 9 on Jan. 11, which would keep conversations of gender and sexuality between students and their parents rather than students and their schools.

"Parents know what's best for their children, and schools do not have a right to keep secrets from them," Wheeler wrote on his official Facebook page. "I am proud of my GOP colleagues on the House Education Committee for taking action on this."

According to the Iowa House Republicans website, these bills were included in the first 13 to be filed for the session, which outline the party's priorities for the year.

Rep. Elinor Levin, D-Iowa City, said educators do not push for specific agendas but rather open up a space for students to ask questions and be curious about LGBTQ+ ideas and themes.

"And they do that on all kinds of topics, no matter what they are, and what the other thing that they do is let kids ask questions that don't have to have an answer," Levin said.

Levin said the bill could be on the debate floor as early as this week.

"I definitely think now's the time for folks who are concerned about teachers being able to provide a safe, secure, supportive environment to reach out," Levin said.

House File 8 would prohibit LGBTQ+ themes in some classrooms

One of Wheeler's bills would prohibit instruction related to gender identity and sexual orientation in Iowa schools. HF 8 would limit classroom instruction to "age-appropriate and research-based human growth and development."

Under this bill, each school board would have to submit a copy of their curriculum to ensure that no assignment or lecture is given in relation to sexual orientation or gender identity to students in kindergarten through third grade.

Damien Thompson, Iowa Safe Schools director of public policy, said prohibiting this instruction would decrease the empathy and understanding in students during their formative years.

All students, Thompson said, come from different backgrounds, so it's important for schools to teach them to be tolerant of what they are not used to.

"So, being able to understand and appreciate the differences and educate on those differences is crucially important to creating a safe and welcoming classroom for

all students," Thompson said.

Thompson said HF 8 would tie educators' hands on how they can or cannot make their students feel accepted in the classroom. This, he said, will continue to burden the Iowa teacher shortage that state legislators are worried about.

"This is not going to help, and I pretty clearly foresee that it will make the teacher shortage and the issues we're having in the education world even more exasperated," Thompson said.

According to public comments pertaining to HF 8, many Iowans oppose the bill in fear that the legislation would further endanger LGBTQ+ students and families.

Those in opposition to the bill say that classroom instruction isn't the only measure being limited in the classroom — student well-being will also be prohibited.

Iowa House bill would require school districts to out transgender students

To promote school transparency HF 9, which was introduced by Wheeler, establishes that Iowa schools are prohibited from offering any accommodations to affirm a student's gender identity if their identity is different than their gender assigned at birth.

Levin said Republicans fear that educators are indoctrinating their students by encouraging them to be gay or transgender.

"I'll speak from my perspective as someone who was a public educator. No public-school teacher is going to five year olds and saying, 'you should be gay,' or, 'You should ques-



Daniel McGregor-Huyer/The Daily Iowan
An Iowa City resident wearing rainbow-colored socks on a swing installation on the Pedestrian Mall in Iowa City during the Pride festival on June 18, 2022. Iowa House Republicans introduced two bills which would limit gender and sexuality identity in the classroom.

tion your gender," Levin said.

The bill is designed to ensure a parent or guardian has consented to the student altering their gender expression.

Teachers and faculty also may not withhold any information or mislead guardians on a student's gender identity or intent to transition.

Hannah Altman, a member of the Ulowa Outlaws, an LGBTQ+ Iowa Law School student group, said the group keeps an eye out for "Don't Say Gay" legislation when focusing on LGBTQ+ rights laws.

Altman said HF 9 is especially disheartening because it erases the ability for students to be themselves in a place where they feel safe to do so.

Many students, Altman said, live in households that aren't supportive of LGBTQ+ identities, and

being forced to come out to their families would be dangerous to their well-being.

"A lot of kids feel more comfortable at school just because they're among peers, when they might go home and not have an accepting household," Altman said. "So, this is something that's really dangerous."

In August 2022, the Linn-Mar School Community School District was sued after establishing a policy where faculty would facilitate gender-identity transitions without parental notification. However, the lawsuit was blocked by a federal judge in September.

The policy was put in place in April 2022 and states that the school may offer accommodations such as name or pronoun changes, restroom facilities, and participation in activities for gender-non-

conforming students. The policy specifically states that students in seventh grade or higher have priority over their accommodations and support plan rather than their parent or guardian.

HF 9, Altman said, would hold teachers and faculty accountable to uphold values that they themselves may not hold. She said LGBTQ+-related bills like these are being brought up to scare the public.

"I think it's concerning the way that we've seen these issues moving through and being talked about more on conservative media and now popping up in legislation like this," Altman said. "Once an issue gets far enough along that legal terms are being decided, it's harder to undo what's been done."

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The Daily Break

The New York Times
Crossword

Puzzle solutions on page 2A

Edited by Will Shortz No. 0102

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Across

- 1 ___ for apples (have some fall fun)
- 4 Start of the day, in poetry
- 8 Emmy or Grammy
- 13 Prefix with center
- 14 Off-limits
- 15 Jazz great Count ___
- 16 Chicken piece that's not a breast or a wing
- 17 Come up
- 18 Director Welles
- 19 The 2005 compilation "Killer Queen" is one honoring Queen
- 22 Guided adventure in the Serengeti
- 23 Drill sergeant's "Relax!"
- 27 Chemistry lab device
- 31 Doesn't have
- 34 Attempts
- 35 "___ Te Ching" (philosophical text)
- 36 Jazz great Fitzgerald
- 37 Sounds from new instant messages
- 38 Basic origami step
- 39 U.S. spy org.
- 40 Who might grant you three wishes
- 41 Present, past or future perfect
- 42 Topper for a Whopper
- 45 Liveliness, from the French
- 46 Flower that vanilla comes from
- 50 Classic song about a soulmate ... or a phonetic hint for repeated pairs of letters

- 19-, 27- and 42-Across
- 54 Fashion label from Milan
- 57 ___ donna
- 58 "Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7 ___ 9!"
- 59 Sun-related
- 60 No longer available, as a seat
- 61 Bit of body ink, for short
- 62 Rats (on)
- 63 Kerfuffle
- 64 General on a Chinese menu

Down

- 1 Straps that go around the waist
- 2 "La Bohème" or "La Traviata"
- 3 It's very unlikely to happen
- 4 Actor/comedian Steve
- 5 8-Across for some New York plays
- 6 Civil rights icon ___ Parks
- 7 Christmas carol
- 8 Information header on a business's website
- 9 Higher in temperature
- 10 ___-backwards (utterly wrong, in slang)
- 11 ___ de Janeiro
- 12 Thieves' hangout
- 14 Ford model that's also a zodiac sign
- 20 Loaf-shaped cake
- 21 Innocent sorts "in the woods"

- 24 Playwright Chekhov
- 25 Makes watertight, say
- 26 Wear away
- 28 Attack, as a bee might
- 29 Muppet who loves his rubber ducky
- 30 Neighbor of Mali
- 31 Milk, in Spanish
- 32 Buffalo Bill, for William Cody
- 33 Gripping tool
- 37 Capital of Western Australia
- 38 Engage in épée, e.g.
- 40 Things with necks and frets
- 41 Head covering that's wrapped
- 43 ___ shower (pre-wedding event)
- 44 One born shortly after W.W. II, informally
- 47 Hotel chain whose name rhymes with "quiet"
- 48 Scintillas
- 49 Because of
- 51 Many N.Y.C. dwellings: Abbr.
- 52 "Oh, nerts!"
- 53 Kind of bar with island-themed drinks
- 54 Winter hrs. in L.A.
- 55 Fish eggs
- 56 "___ roads lead to Rome"

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Building trust in family atmosphere

2023 volleyball commit Olivia Lombardi stayed in the Hawkeye state because of the camaraderie she felt within the Iowa program.

McKenna Roering
Sports Reporter

Iowa volleyball 2023 commit Olivia Lombardi knew from the first day she visited Iowa City that it was going to be hard to turn down the Hawkeyes. The libero committed to Iowa in July 2021 under former Hawkeye head coach Vicki Brown, who was later fired in November.

But the trust and camaraderie that newly hired head coach Jim Barnes, associate head coach and recruiting coordinator Brian Yale, and assistant coach Aubrey Becker built around the volleyball program was strong enough to keep her committed.

“The thing that really hooked me about Iowa was the environment they had created,” Lombardi said of Iowa’s coaching staff. “Volleyball is so fun and enjoyable, but if you

don’t have that family or friendship feeling, you will never succeed. You have to trust the person next to you, and when I visited Iowa and watched the girls play, that was something I felt and saw.”

When Barnes, Yale, and Becker arrived in Iowa City, they made it a priority to meet and watch the players that previously committed under Brown.

Lombardi and other 2023 recruits Kaia Mateo and Alyssa Worden originally committed to Brown’s Hawkeye volleyball team. And they stayed committed to the Hawkeyes after meeting with Barnes and his coaching staff.

“Change in something as big as coaching can be huge,” Lombardi said. “Trust is a huge thing for many athletes, and if you don’t have that trust, you can’t strive. Coach Barnes has done a great job of

building that trust. He is such a sweet man and is pushing his athletes to be the best they can.”

Lombardi started her prep volleyball career at Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa. She made the Tigers’ varsity volleyball squad as a freshman and earned second-team All-State in her sophomore season.

She then transferred to Des Moines Christian, where she was named a two-year team captain and earned first-team All-State her senior season. Lombardi helped lead the Lions to their first-ever volleyball state semifinal match and was crowned a soccer state champion in 2022.

When watching Lombardi at club practice and the Iowa high school regionals tournament in spring 2022, one thing that stood out to Iowa’s coaching staff was her en-

ergy and athleticism.

“She’s got high energy, a big personality to her, and that leads into her being a hard-worker, both on and off the court,” Yale told *The Daily Iowan* on Feb. 1. “She wants to be great. She wants to succeed. She’s got the Iowa mentality.”

Some of Lombardi’s athleticism can be attributed to genetics, as her mother Kari Lombardi played volleyball at Minnesota State-Mankato, and her father Tony Lombardi played football at Arizona State.

Her two older brothers, Rocky Lombardi and Beau Lombardi, were star football players at Valley High School, and both went on to play in college. Her older sister Payton Lombardi played collegiate volleyball at Tennessee Tech, and her younger sister and 2024 graduate Gabby Lombardi currently plays

prep volleyball at Des Moines Christian.

Olivia Lombardi will join three other 2023 commits in the summer, including Burlington, Iowa, product and outside hitter Gabby Deery. The additions of Olivia Lombardi and Deery make six Iowa natives on the Hawkeyes’ 2023-24 roster.

Yale said in-state athlete recruitment is pivotal in rebuilding Iowa’s volleyball program, which has not seen a winning conference season in over two decades. The Hawkeyes want to elevate their play and chances of title contention, and that starts with getting athletes that grew up in Iowa.

“We know there’s great volleyball talent here in the state, and we want to bring them here and not lose them to other places,” Yale said. “And obviously, for us, that started with the girls that were

previously committed here — they wanted to be here.”

With the departure of senior libero Mari Hinkle, who ended last season ninth in the Big Ten with 4.01 digs per set, it will be up to Olivia Lombardi and sophomore libero Sydney Dennis to take over the back row in 2023.

“I have met most, but not all of the girls, and I absolutely adore them. I can tell I have lifelong friends awaiting me,” Olivia Lombardi said. “There are many girls there that I look up to. I watch the way they practice and play and interact with their community, and I want to be just like them. I couldn’t find a bad thing to say about Iowa’s staff and players, they are a great group of people, and I can’t wait to be a part of it.”

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TRACK

Continued from Page 8

team, noting how they often each other’s sentences.

“They’re both really good leaders for that event group, but they’re just fun to have on the team and in the program, and they’re both great competitors,” Woody said. “They’re super supportive of one another, but they also talk trash to each other. I think that’s a fun group of girls to be around.”

Woody said both the Bookin-Nosbisch sisters have their respective strengths that have developed in their junior seasons this year.

“I think Alli’s got a little

more foot speed, but Grace has really good endurance qualities,” Woody said. “You can see both of their times are dropping, especially this year.”

Alli Bookin-Nosbisch ran a 2:06.59 in the women’s Hawkeye Pro Classic 800-meter at the Larry Wieczorek Invitational on Jan. 21, moving her from seventh to fourth on the Iowa all-time record list in the event.

“It’s not what I was expecting, so it was a nice surprise to look at the board and see that, but it was really cool,” Alli Bookin-Nosbisch said. “I’m just excited to see how that puts me for the season and where I’ll end up going.”

Grace Bookin-Nosbisch

ran two personal records so far this season — one in the 600-meter with a 1:32.95 at the Larry Wieczorek Invitational and the other in the 400-meter with a 58.27 at the Hawkeye Invitational. She also sits second all-time at Iowa in the distance medley alongside Emma Gordon, Amber Aesoph, and Mariel Bruxvoort.

She said her goal for this season is to keep running personal records.

“I want to be a big contender in the Big Ten,” Grace said. “I want to support my team and put in my effort to make that difference so we can be a number one team in the Big Ten and win.”

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Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa’s Grace Bookin-Nosbisch runs in the women’s 400-meter dash during the Hawkeye Invitational at the University of Iowa Recreation Building in Iowa City on Jan. 14. Bookin-Nosbisch finished eighth after running 58.27.

KUPČOVÁ

Continued from Page 8

was interested in potentially coming to the U.S. to pursue not only a swim career but a college education as well.

“My home country is hard to come by swimming and higher education. It

was kind of my American dream,” Kupčová said.

Kupčová has made an immediate impact for the Hawkeyes. The freshman has four first-place finishes, the sixth-fastest 100-free in program history, and anchors the 400-meter relay team.

“We knew through the

recruiting process that Sabina has a lot of talent,” Mundt said. “I think she is very mature and understands the balance she needs to be successful academically and athletically. She knows her limits at that age.”

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Vincenzo Mazza/The Daily Iowan

Iowa’s Sabina Kupčová finishes the butterfly portion of the the 50 Yard during day one of the 2022 Hawkeye Invitational at the Campus recreational and Wellness Center in Iowa City on Dec. 1, 2022. Kupčová came in 19th place with a time of 24:00.

RELAXED

Continued from Page 8

I was pretending to be her teacher,” Bluestein said.

“Doing different things, printing out worksheets for her. And then at her soccer games, all of her teammates would have baby siblings, and I would always be taking care of them.”

Now at Seacrest County Day School, Bluestein is an assistant coach of the varsity tennis team — she chose not to play this spring — and interns in the school’s kindergarten classes.

“I’m like a teaching assistant in the kindergarten class, which basically means I’m like another kindergarten teacher because at that age you can’t really teach them,” Bluestein said. “But I really enjoy anything that has to do with teaching.”

Bluestein plans on majoring in primary education while at Iowa. Even though her playing career as a Hawkeye hasn’t started yet, Schmid sees a bright future for Bluestein.

“Chelsea is somebody who just loves tennis and is really hitting her stride



Contributed

right now as she gets ready for college ... Just really excited for her because I think when she committed and knew where she was going to school that was one thing

she didn’t have to worry about,” Schmid said. “Has a big heart, and I think will be another great addition.”

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HAWKEYE UPDATES



Iowa men's basketball outlasts Illinois

The Iowa men's basketball team defeated Illinois, 81-79, Saturday afternoon at Carver-Hawkeye Arena. After a back-and-forth first half that featured six lead changes, Iowa trailed, 36-35.

Out of halftime, the Hawkeyes took a three-point lead in the first minute of action, but Illinois closed the gap.

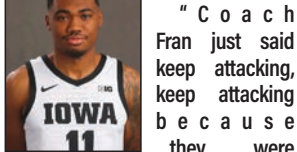
The Illini took a 41-39 lead with 18 minutes remaining and would hold the advantage for the next 9:30 until Hawkeye sophomore guard Payton Sandfort hit a 3-pointer to tie it at 62.

With the game knotted at 76 seven minutes later, Sandfort would hit another three to put Iowa ahead for good.

While Sandfort hit big threes, Iowa junior guard Tony Perkins was scoring from everywhere else.

The 6-foot-4 Indianapolis native converted 15 of his 16 free-throw attempts, missing only his final try and tying the school record for consecutive makes from the charity stripe.

Perkins converted eight of 11 shots from the field and netted a career-high 32 points, 25 of which came in the second half.



C o a c h Fran just said keep attacking, keep attacking because they were playing drop coverage," Perkins said. "So just come off [the screen] the big man is going to come up, throw it to Filip [Rebraca] or just attack the big man, draw fouls."

With the victory, Iowa moves to 15-8 overall and 7-5 in league play. After the Hawkeyes lost their first three conference games of the season, the Black and Gold have won seven of their last nine Big Ten games.



Iowa men's wrestling rows to victory at Minnesota

The No. 2 Iowa men's wrestling team defeated No. 12 Minnesota, 18-13, on Friday at a sold-out Maturi Pavilion in Minneapolis.

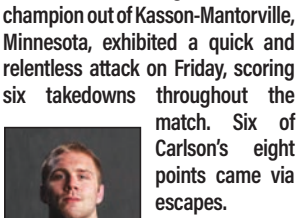
The Hawkeyes are now 13-1 on the season and 6-1 in the Big Ten.

Iowa's top-ranked 125-pounder Spencer Lee kicked off Friday's matchup with a 7-1 decision victory against Minnesota's sixth-ranked Patrick McKee for his 50th consecutive dual meet win. Lee is now 2-0 all-time against McKee.



The match also marked Lee's smallest margin of victory this season, as the three-time national champion is 12-0 with 11 bonus-point wins, including seven falls, two technical falls, and two major decisions.

Iowa's seventh-ranked 165-pounder Patrick Kennedy returned to his home state on Friday and defeated Cael Carlson, 13-8. The four-time high school state champion out of Kasson-Mantorville, Minnesota, exhibited a quick and relentless attack on Friday, scoring six takedowns throughout the match. Six of Carlson's eight points came via escapes.



"I felt good with effort; I went out and scored points," Kennedy said in a release. "Points are what wins matches. You can beat a guy on the mat, but ultimately you have to win on the scoreboard. It felt great to get a win [in Minnesota]. My parents got a coach bus and brought a ton of people. I was happy to send them home with a win."

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"I kind of feel like a little muffin."

—Iowa women's basketball forward McKenna Warnock on wearing padding to help her rib injury.

STAT OF THE DAY

9

—Lead changes between Iowa and Illinois men's basketball on Saturday.

Track family ties

Twin sisters Alli and Grace Bookin-Nosbisch said they perform at their best when they run together.



Jerod Ringwald/The Daily Iowan

Iowa's Grace Bookin-Nosbisch leads her heat of the women's 800-meter premier during the Larry Wieczorek Invitational at the Iowa Indoor Track Facility in Iowa City on Jan. 21. Nosbisch won her heat and finished third overall with a time of 2:10.82.

Colin Votzmeyer
Sports Reporter

Iowa sports teams are famous for their family ties. Iowa football coaches Kirk and Brian Ferentz and basketball brothers Connor and Patrick McCaffery command most of the attention, but twin sisters Alli and Grace Bookin-Nosbisch are making noise of their own for the Iowa track and field team this season.

The juniors are both having breakout years running

mid-distance events for the women's squad. The pair have run side-by-side since high school in Ottumwa, Iowa, where they decided to continue running at the University of Iowa because they know they perform at their best with one another.

"Going into college, we knew that we wanted to go to the same school," Alli Bookin-Nosbisch said. "That was 100 percent because we work the best when we're together. We definitely push each other

each day to be our best, but we also want to see each other succeed."

Alli Bookin-Nosbisch said having her sister on the team is a mix of competing against her and pushing her to succeed.

"It is cool competing with Grace and getting to come to college and run with her," she said. "It's a different aspect of athletics that a lot of people don't get, competing with your sibling every day."

Grace Bookin-Nosbisch

said it's a win for both her and her sister when either performs well.

"She pushes me every day, and she's helped me PR along the way," Grace Bookin-Nosbisch said. "I know that when I grow, I'm growing because of her and my teammates as a whole. We all work really hard together, and she's just my biggest inspiration, and I'm proud of everything she's done."

She also thinks there isn't a ceiling for her or her

twin sister this season.

"I love watching Alli exceed, but it only makes me want it more," Grace Bookin-Nosbisch said. "I think together, not just the two of us, but our top four in the 800, we're going to go for it, and we're going to make that impact to help us win the Big Ten this year."

Iowa director of track and field Joey Woody said the sisters bring fun character to the Iowa track and field

TRACK | Page 7

COLUMN

Sabína Kupčová's journey from Slovakia to IC

Kupčová decided to attend the University of Iowa without visiting campus.



Lillie Hawker/The Daily Iowan

Iowa swimmer Sabína Kupčová takes a breath while swimming the breast stroke portion of the 200 yard IM during a swim and dive meet between Iowa and Illinois in Iowa City on Jan. 13. The Fighting Illini won the dual meet against the Hawkeyes.

Jake Olson
Sports Reporter

Sabína Kupčová stood out right away to Iowa women's swimming and diving head coach Nathan Mundt as one of only two freshmen from outside the U.S.

After the reinstatement of the Iowa women's swimming and diving program in February 2021, the roster only had 13 athletes because of transfers and a lack of recruiting amid turmoil in the team and athletics department.

Mundt, hired in May 2021, was tasked with expanding the roster through recruiting, both traditionally and through the transfer portal. With the help from new recruiting coordinator Mona Groteguth, Mundt was determined to build the program back up.

Mundt and Groteguth added nine names to the roster — including Slovakian

swimmer Kupčová — from 2021-22 to 2022-23, going from 13 to 22 athletes. Three new transfers joined the program, and 12 freshmen came to Iowa City as six athletes left the program.

"We got to know Sabína through a recruiting service," Mundt said. "I met with her recruiting service representative. He saw the facilities ahead of time and really relayed that information to Sabína. It was very unique, and she was engaged the whole time."

COVID-19 hindered Kupčová's recruiting experience. Because of the travel ban in the U.S., Kupčová relied on virtual tours of the Hawkeyes' facilities to make her decision.

"It was really hard to decide online, but I really fell in love with the city," Kupčová said. Mona and Nate are really good people, and that is the thing that stuck the most

for me"

Although Kupčová was the first swimmer in her family, her club coach in Levice said she had a good touch and feel for the water. Knowing this, Kupčová and her parents decided she would pursue the sport.

Kupčová kept improving after going to a boarding high school to chase her passion. While there, she represented Slovakia in World and European championships.

"I started getting better and better, and when I was 13, I got recruited to the national team," Kupčová said. "I entered my first World Championships when I was 15. It was a really cool experience to see what the swimming world actually looks like."

After years of competing at an international level for Slovakia, Kupčová

Relaxed and ready

Iowa tennis 2023 commit Chelsea Bluestein looks to impact Hawkeyes with laughter and joy.

Matt McGowan
Sports Reporter

Chelsea Bluestein committed to play tennis for Iowa on Dec. 28, 2022. The same day, the Naples, Florida, native competed in the U.S. Tennis Association's Under 18 Winter Nationals in Orlando. Not only did Bluestein win her first two singles matches of the tournament, but she immediately knew she made the right choice.

Bluestein said Iowa women's tennis head coach Sasha Schmid watched her play in the tournament. At the same time, her teammates and assistant coach Elise Van Heuvelen Treadwell were texting her in support, she said.

Bluestein's pathway to signing with the Hawkeyes wasn't simple because she dealt with injuries during her junior season of high school — a time when most college recruiting happens.

"I just had some fundamental issues with my shoulder, and then my left side of my body was significantly weaker than my right side just because tennis is such a one-sided sport," Bluestein said. "You use your dominant arm a lot more, so I had a lot of fundamental problems that I needed to fix."

Having lost her junior season to injury and rehab, Bluestein returned to the court her senior year with pressure to perform well.

After making her recovery, Bluestein initially didn't receive many offers. Rather than put more pressure on herself, Bluestein chose to let the results speak for themselves.

"I knew I could get recruited to Power Five schools, but I wasn't in the beginning, so I put a lot of pressure on myself," Bluestein said. "But I eventually, I realized, whatever happens is going to happen. So, I relaxed, and that's kind of when I started to do a lot better."

Bluestein has continued a relaxed demeanor on the court and said she plans to bring a fun-loving personality to Iowa City.

"I think that I tend to be the unserious [player]," Bluestein said. "I love just making people laugh and making people smile. I'm just the goofy one. I can be a leader when I have to ... But I'm definitely someone who likes to have fun on the court and to make people laugh."

Paired with her entertaining personality is a desire to coach and teach. Bluestein, whose mom worked as a school counselor, said this passion arrived at a young age.

"When I was younger, I would be teaching my younger sister, and

KUPČOVÁ | Page 7

RELAXED | Page 7