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The Cougar Chronicle

The Student Newspaper of Haddam-Killingworth High School

HK Adds New Electives to School's Curriculum

By Eleanor Barry

Haddam-Killingworth High School adds at least one new class to the curriculum each year. This school year, HK is offering one new course – Civics and Contemporary Issues (including an honors option) – and is piloting UConn: Popular Music and Diversity in American Society. Each addresses current issues and how past events affect current systems.

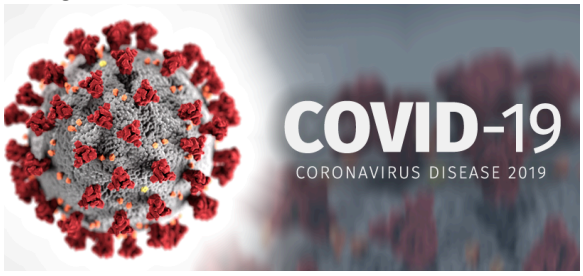
The Civics and Contemporary Issues class is offered to juniors. It falls under the humanities category and is worth one credit. The prerequisites are U.S History and U.S History Honors and teacher recommendation for Civics and Contemporary Issues Honors. This class teaches students about current issues and the study of civic processes, rules, and laws, exploring the functions and structures of the local, state, and national governments.

It also teaches about the process of law-making and the influence that the media, voting, and public interest groups have. It incorporates history, geography, economics, and sociology to make sense of the philosophical arguments about American democracy.

The UConn: Popular Music and Diversity in American Society class is given as an option for sophomores, juniors, and seniors. This class is also under the humanities category and is worth one credit. There are no prerequisites for this class. It allows creative thinking about the diversity in different types of music, digging deeper into themes of music and various songs and how music shapes identity (race, ethnicity, gender, social class, and generation), the interaction of many other cultures, and what impact technology and the media have on music.

This class explores popular American music in the 20th century and talks about its historical and social context.

Students Still Making Adjustments After COVID



By Meghan Walsh

At the beginning of March 2020, schools were operating much as they had at any point in the 21st century. In the middle of March, that all changed when the Covid-19 pandemic struck. Students had to leave schools and finish the rest of the school year online.

This new experience came with challenges. Teachers taught lessons online, decreasing the time and interaction between

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peers and teachers. Many of the students did not put the usual effort into schoolwork because they didn't have teachers right there to help, and they had distractions at home such as pets, TV, family members, and electronic devices.

When asked if there were impacts that continue, RosemarySchlosser, paraprofessional, said. "When students came to school full-time (after Covid subsided) and were focused on being back, the structure and time for constructive learning were hard to adjust to."

Initially, students were divided into two "cohorts" and each attended school on alternating days.

"Many kids did not do work when they were at home because students were on their own," added Ms. Schlosser. "Coming back and doing the work was hard, and some students have not fully overcome it."

Another problem students faced was the lack of social interaction.

HK Freshman Audrey Macy said, "COVID-19 hurt my ability to communicate while making eye contact, as well as making it slightly more difficult to pick up social cues or general shifts in the room. I would say it did not impact my skills as much as it did my experience and inhibited my ability to communicate with my friends during this time."

To Renovate or Reconstruct: What's Up with High School?

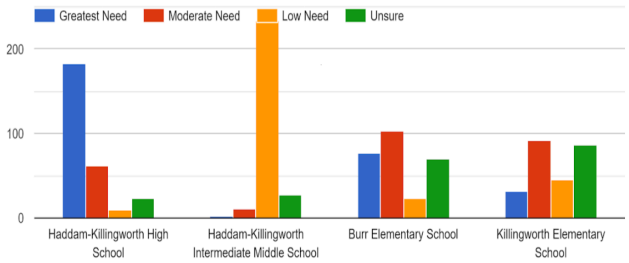
By Jonathan Saraceno

Over the past few years, the RSD 17 board of education and Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey have been discussing many ideas in regards to the Haddam-Killingworth High School facility, but among the main topics have been plans to renovate or even reconstruct the high school due to its age and the functionality.

Currently, it is undecided whether the school will be renovated or reconstructed entirely. Generally, the process to build a new school would be about 18 months, while renovating would take approximately 36 months. People involved have come to an agreement that either renovating or reconstructing the school would be important, although it is not necessarily their decision; rather, it is a public decision.

In order to achieve this goal, a referendum is required through the voters of the Haddam-Killingworth community. If passed, an application would be sent to the state in June 2025. If accepted, the state would pay half the total cost.

The district is right now in the beginning of the pre-design phase, meaning no renovations or construction can occur until a referendum is passed. In the meantime, there are critical ideas to be considered, including a feasibility study,



Survey: Which facility has the greatest need?

educational specifications, and the conceptual design. The most important concept is the feasibility study, which asks if we should renovate, build a new school, or do a little bit of both.

RSD 17 Superintendent Jeffrey Wihbey explained that he would like to keep the newer parts of the school, like the fieldhouse and auditorium. On the other hand, some parts of the school are original and cannot be fixed, so Wihbey believes that "it is time for a refresh" on the older parts of the building. In the process of deciding what we will do, the people involved in the project will analyze the cost, as they want the best facility possible, but at a reasonable cost.

With the design phase taking an additional year, any construction or renovations would likely begin during the 2026-27 school year, said Mr. Wihbey, if everything is accepted on time.

Distant Hurricanes Affect Families in Connecticut

By Cole Newman

As it does every year, hurricane season arrived in the fall of 2024. Of course, the southeastern United States has been hit with hurricanes. Yet, this year was different with two category 5 hurricanes, Milton and Beryl. These hurricanes have devastated inland regions in North Carolina, Tennessee, and Kentucky, and have cost Florida at least $1 billion in damages as of Oct. 21.

While the severity of these hurricanes has caused much speculation about climate change, it also caused worry here in Connecticut, not just due to the damage, but because a lot of people have family in southern parts of the U.S.



Hurricane Milton hits Florida in October.

The intensity of the hurricanes has led to flooding, buildings collapsing, and worse. This has caused evacuees and chaos across the region, as many can't just simply leave their homes.

HK student Owen Miner shared his family's struggles with the hurricanes: "Hurricane Milton has had a huge impact on one of my family members in Florida. It has made his work life almost impossible. It makes it almost impossible to get to work with all the evacuees."

Miner said his family in Florida lives south of Crystal River, and that the increased chaos and traffic makes it difficult for his family to commute to work.

The issue of climate change, a topic of controversy for decades, has popped up again with Milton and Beryl. The topics have been flaring up online, said Miner. "I've seen jokes all over TikTok from the past two weeks."

Ironically, he added, it was better for that to happen as it brought publicity to the hurricanes' destruction and hysteria.

New Music Teacher Brings Experience to the School

By Emma Castiglioni

At the beginning of the 2024-25 school year, we welcomed Mallory Legman, the new band teacher, to our school. Ms. Legman teaches five different classes among all grades: Concert Band, Jazz Band, Piano, Guitar, and Popular Music and Diversity in American Society.

This is her 15th year teaching. She previously taught at Branford High School for nine years and at several elementary schools in Stratford. When asked about the differences between HK and other schools, she said, "Everyone's just exceptionally nice. I feel like I came to a good place."

Ms. Legman showed interest in the lunch/activity part of the day because it was different from other schools, allowing every student to do what they needed to do during that time. Also, she admired the sense of community throughout the school, the organization, and the well-developed administration.

In her teaching, Ms. Legman uses many methods that encourage students as both a team and as individuals. She makes sure that students learn to help each other. She often says, "We're a team, work together," illustrating that band and music are like a team sport. She also implements rhythm counting into her teaching, frequently saying, "If you can count it, you can play it!"

She knows how to play many different instruments, her main instrument being the flute. She described the piano as her "secondary" instrument. She said she dabbles in pretty much everything, due to her advanced studies in music.

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Ms. Legman attended UConn, studying music education. She earned two bachelor's degrees – a BA in music and a BS in music education. While at UConn, she was involved in the marching band. She got her master's degree at UHart and is currently working on her doctorate at Southern Connecticut State University.



Ms. Legman

Ms. Legman is very excited to be here, ready for all the challenges she may face. She said, "I'm looking forward to getting to know students better and having fun making music with them." She also said that if anyone is interested in taking a band class, even if they haven't taken band before, they can talk to her or email her.

Looking Back: HK Students Enjoy Cultural Exchange

Joey Jacobs

During April of the 2023-2024 school year, six students from France had the chance to experience America and its culture by being a part of an international exchange program and were hosted by families at Haddam-Killingworth High School.

Interested students were told to fill out and sign an information sheet and survey so they could be matched to a French student for compatibility. Senior Johanna Thelen was matched with French student Juliette Arnoult. When asked about the whole experience, Thelan said it was "wonderful." Thelan took Juliette out to eat at various restaurants around Connecticut and spent time doing "American things" like attending movies and parties.

"I feel like the students were able to experience American culture in a more natural way and a real teenage experience rather than an academic one," Thelan said.

The exchange students spent five days at the school shadowing their host students during a typical day at an American high school. The students were able to experience things that were impossible to find in France, like our food and shop classes. A pep rally also took place during the week so the students had a chance to experience that as well.

During the school year, a French teacher at Morgan High School in Clinton also reached out to other schools to participate.

"I thought it was a great opportunity and had six families respond," said HK French teacher Christine Kehrley. Sixteen students came from France and 10 of them visited families from Morgan. The remaining six came to HK.



Homecoming Dance Features Tropical Theme

By Reagan Aronson

HK's Homecoming Dance took place the night of Oct. 18, bringing the theme of "tropical" to life. Students were in the doors by 7:30 p.m., greeted with colorful leis and beach balls ready for the next few hours of singing and dancing.

Students were dressed to impress for numerous pictures and videos taken throughout

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the night. Some posed in front of the lettered balloons spelling out HOCO, while others in the crowd of people danced under the DJ's bright lights.



Homecoming King and Queen, Joe Slane and Jordan Duncanson.

Seniors led on the dance floor, circling around and cheering each other on, including Declan Moriarty and Lissy Dorman, who backflipped in the middle of the crowd. Dance moves such as the Worm and the Cupid Shuffle also appeared.

The crowning of HK's Homecoming Queen and King went to Jordan Duncanson and Joe Slane as they danced to *Pink Pony Club* under waving phone flashlights.

HK Players Perform Classic "Our Town"

By Christopher Sanders-Roberts

"This play is called 'Our Town.' It was written by Thorton Wilder."

This serves as a small description of the HK's fall production for its Drama Club, and is also the official starting dialogue of the play. Set in the fictional town of Grover's Corners, New Hampshire, we are transported through 12 years of daily life, love and marriage, death and loss, and throughout the well-renowned prospects that come with life in a small town.

"This play is timeless," said Marcy Webster, Drama Club advisor and director. "It transcends the age in which it was written, and covers all categories of human emotion: the feeling of everything, the feeling of nothing, and the raw emotions of everything that exists between."

Broadway is currently having its own production of the play in New York, starring Zoey Deutch as Emily Webb and Ephraim Sykes as George Gibbs. The characters in HK's production are played by Ava Loughlin and Nicholas Stegman, respectively. The main factor in common with both productions is their desires to work together in order to characterize this fictional New Hampshire town in a way that's convincingly real from start to finish.

"Our Town" allows us to understand the beauty of being in the moment, and the satisfaction one can find in everyday life. It also serves as a cautionary tale for those who can't stop and look around them, and fail to realize the value of life while they live it.

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Cast members include, top, left to right: Saige Merwin, Ayiana Maikowski, Skylar Hale, Sarah Pierce. Bottom left to right, Molly O'Neal, Ava Loughlin, Trillian Rose Havens.

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"Oh, Earth, you are too wonderful for anybody to realize it," says the character Emily, one of the play's protagonists.

In addition to an in-school production scheduled for Nov. 14, two public performances in the H-K auditorium took place Nov. 15 and 16. The HK Players welcomed everyone to stop by on at least one of these dates to find some relatability with the collective human existence and the spiritual presence that can be felt within the setting of a small town.

Footwear Fashion Trends: UGGs or Hey Dudes?

By Chloe Oboma

Throughout the school, kids are wearing many different types of shoes. Nike, New Balance, and Crocs are a few shoe brands that are popular. However, the two trendiest shoes amongst students are UGGs and Hey Dudes.

Students were asked why they wear specific brands and what their favorite shoe brand is. Most students noted comfort as a key factor.

UGGs are made with premium material like high-quality leather that molds to your feet to provide comfort. Hey Dudes offer an excellent quality that's similar to walking on clouds. Both shoes have a simplistic yet memorable design that speaks volumes to those looking for the utmost comfort and style.



UGGs vs. Hey Dudes

Olivia Stephens, a freshman, says, "UGGs are comfortable to walk around in. It's also a lot easier to put on the shoes during sports season or when you're in a rush after a game. UGGs are definitely my favorite shoes to wear."

As the cold weather increases in Connecticut, the twin-face sheepskin and upper natural fleece lining create the perfect insulation to keep your feet warm. However, is this "cozy fit" perfect for year-round wear?

Junior Peyton McDonald says, "UGGs are not made for summer. It's gross wearing fur shoes in 90-degree weather." So what is the perfect all-seasonal shoe? McDonald says Hey Dudes are for any weather condition. "They are made to be worn without socks, so you can wear them comfortably in the summer without having to worry about sweating too much."

Comfortable. That's a word often mentioned when discussing both shoes. Which shoe is the most comfortable? Are kids tempted to use this word because companies push this on them? Or do they only believe it's comfortable because the shoe is trendy?



UGGs slippers

McDonald says, "UGGs wear and tear easily. Hey Dudes are meant for working and comfort. UGGs are only made for fashion. I bought these shoes not for the trend but for the reliability. You can't rely on UGGs."

Junior Eli Hamman-Shay argues, "UGGs are on top, they are more comfortable. Hey Dudes are kinda weird. They look uncomfortable."

UGGs and Hey Dudes aren't the only shoes worn around HK. There are lots of shoe choices that spark student's interest. Hamman-Shay says, "New Balance shoes are fashionable and not an NPC (predictable) choice of style."

Sophomore Austin Oboma says, "Personally, I prefer anything New Balance and

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Nike. They're not basic. You can never get tired of the shoes, and you can pretty much style them with any kind of outfit. Hey Dudes are really only for the country kids and UGGs are really only for the basic girls."

Junior Lucas Diaz says, "I'd say Adidas because they used to sponsor YE (Kanye West), and also they're just pretty comfortable and I like the style of shoes they make and the material varieties."

Both trendy shoes have circulated their way into our small towns. Whether these trendy shoes are worn for comfort or looks, they have managed to make a big impact on student style.

School Distinguished by Unique Subcultures

By Emily Masterson

Haddam Killingworth High School is distinguished by its unique culture, which is shaped by both students and staff. This mix of individual cultures creates a unique cultural environment that is characteristic of the school. The school's culture is influenced by the different backgrounds and identities that each member of the community brings, making it a place for learning and growth.



HK stands out from other schools due to its fluid subcultures and social structure. According to Josh Hagewood, the HK history teacher who teaches "Sociology," a subculture is characterized as a "group with a common interest that differs from the main group." He emphasizes that while there isn't significant economic diversity within the school, there is noticeable social diversity with fluid groups constantly interacting and forming new connections. This dynamic is what makes unique social interactions and relationships among students.

HK stands out for its atmosphere, where many small subcultures coexist without creating any sense of division. Instead of the typical "cliques" often found in other schools, "There are many overlaps of subcultures," said art teacher Jason Cannan. The dynamic of culture at HK resembles woven-together subcultures that overlap, creating a unique community.

OPINION

Does "Thanksgiving" Mean the Same to Everyone?

By Christopher Sanders-Roberts

The earliest known use of the word "Thanksgiving" comes from the writing of William Tyndale, a religious reformer whose translating of the Bible into English (from 1522-1535) first included a word that means "the act of giving thanks." This noun is also used to describe the American holiday based on the alleged Harvest Celebration between the Wampanoag people and the European settlers, which was proclaimed to be the last Thursday of each November from October 3, 1863.

In modern times, this day is a time where feasts are held with family members, parades and football games are watched and experienced, and the main question that cannot go unasked: "What are you Thankful for?" The day is most certainly an American tradition, and a part of what could be defined as American culture.

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Many things can be placed under the umbrella of American culture, due to the "melting pot of diversity" the country is advertised to be. The fact that the culture of America is expansive is – for the most part – a good thing, but when it comes to the history and background of how some practices came to be, this is when things become more questionable.

What we know as "Thanksgiving" was a time quite the opposite of how we celebrate it now. In the year 1637, John Winthrop, governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, declared a day to celebrate soldiers "who had just slaughtered hundreds of Pequot men, women, and children" in their land now known as Connecticut's village of Mystic, according to an article in *Business Insider*.

The time period was also known for the spread of diseases brought by European settlers, which killed the Natives in droves. Then, after numerous conflicts, westward expansion began to reach its peak, leaving the Native peoples to walk in a trail of tears while the nationalists of the United States continued to manifest what they believed was their "destiny."



The idealized version of Thanksgiving.
(from Getty Images)

According to an article in the *New York Post*, "The United American Indians of New England have been publicly mourning Thanksgiving for decades." Every year, Americans – and most of them descendants of former settlers, especially in New England – live, thrive, and have space for opportunity on the soil which once belonged to the Iroquois, the Cherokee, the Creek, Pequot, and Wampanoag, among many others.

How do we continue to treat the people whose land and culture has been destroyed and assimilated? By falling prey to the ploys of big business owners through consumerist rhetoric? By sharing food and communion in homes that we may "own," but in terms of time, *never* could – or at least, *should not* – be called solely ours?

I feel the need to express these facts and ideas not with the main goal to make people feel ashamed of their past, but to remind the people that there were people here before us, and after being dehumanized, stripped of important parts of their culture and losing the memories of their struggles and triumphs, I can't seem to see why we have the liberty to give thanks on a day that marks the turning point for what turned out to be the process of a centuries-long abatement of an entire race of people.

So as Thanksgiving approaches this 28th of November, I must ask a question about this ironic holiday: "What are *you* thankful for?"

SPORTS

Cougar Sports Community Welcomes "Alex the Trainer"

By Paul Birkmeyer

The HK community knows him as Alex the Trainer. Alex Krasniewski has been here for four years and has already impacted the HK athletic program as we know it.

Alex has been a significant help to HK athletes. When athletes injure themselves during practice or a game, he has never failed to rush over in his golf cart with medical gear and get ready to spring into action.

Alex attended Portland High School, where he was a member of the wrestling, rugby, and baseball teams. He graduated in 2017 and was on the honor roll for most of his high school years – an example to current HK athletes that

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one can play sports in high school and thrive in many ways.

Alex played baseball at Marywood University, a private Catholic university in Scranton, Pa., where he started to major in physical therapy.

"I was originally going to be a physical therapist but then I was made aware of athletic training. I looked into it, and being an athletic trainer seemed more like the type of job I wanted to pursue,'' Alex said.

Timothy Hickman, a sophomore HK football player, said that Alex has been a big help for him and his teammates: "I haven't gotten serious injuries but I have gotten beaten up a little bit and had to go to see Alex. He helps us get back to practice as quickly as he can with a recovery plan."



Alex the Trainer from his days as a student-athlete. (photo courtesy Marywood University)

Senior Sawyer DiMatteo is a three-sport athlete who says knowing Alex has been a real delight: "He's not the type of trainer, where you just sit down, he tapes you up, and you leave. He'll tape you up, talk to you, try to get to know you, give you some things to do, and check in with you."

Although Alex went to Portland High School, he is a Cougar now, showing up to most home games.

Triumphant Falls Sports Season Wraps Up

By Olivia Stephens

HK is concluding an extremely successful fall sports season, as demonstrated by the following team summaries.

Field Hockey

The HK field hockey team returned to the Shoreline Conference championship game for the first time in years. Despite losing to North Branford, 3-0, the team's success is undeniable.

Though they don't have a large team, they have adapted and worked throughout the season.

"I think it was our best season yet," said junior Chloe Oboma. "We have won so many games and we have improved so much – it shows."

Among the season highlights was the team's 4-0 victory on Oct. 10 over Mercy on Senior Night.

The team, with an overall record of 11-6-2, lost to Stonington, 2-0, in the first round of the Class S state tournament.



Volleyball

The HK girls' volleyball team has proven their skills and effort in an extremely successful and fun season. The team finished with a regular season record of 18-2.

"In my opinion, the season has gone very well," said sophomore Mia Mclaughlin. "We are a very strong team. We have a very strong bond. We have won many games, and our spirits are always up."

On Senior Night against Lyman Memorial, the team won in straight sets.

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The team lost a tough 3-2 match to Hale Ray in the Shoreline Conference tournament. Afterwards, the team advanced to the third round of the Class S state tournament as the No. 4 seed where it lost to Coventry.



Girls' Soccer

The HK girls' soccer team finished an injury-plagued season with a record of 2-12-3.

Sophomore Gabby Lopez said, "Personally, I loved the soccer team and the environment that we have. This team is pretty fun to play with. Just being there with everyone is quite entertaining."

A highlight of the season was the team's 10-0 victory over North Branford on Oct. 2.



Cross Country

Both the boys' and girls' cross country teams had excellent seasons, the girls winning the Class SS state title for the third time in four years and the boys taking fifth place. In addition, the girls won the Shoreline Conference title, while the boys finished second.

Team member Tyler Traczyk said, "I think that the team bond is very good. We get along, we try to have fun all the time no matter what. We keep the spirits up and encourage people when they are sad."

The girls finished their season at the New England championships, finishing 16th.



Boys' Soccer

The boys' soccer team has had success in bonding and winning multiple games, finishing the regular season with a record of 11-2-2. With the addition of freshmen, the team has grown stronger.

Sophomore Jake Favalora said, "The soccer season was good and the team was successful throughout the season. The coaches were helpful and supportive and helped us reach our own personal goals along with the rest of the team."

The team lost in the second round of the Shoreline Conference, 4-2, to eventual champion East Hampton. The boys qualified as the No. 5 seed in the Class S state tournament where they lost, 3-2, to Coginchaug. The final record was 12-4-3.

Thanksgiving Football: All About the Principals' Cup

By Jeffrey Schull

Each year in November, the football team at HK has a tradition before Thanksgiving called the Principals' Cup when HK plays against nearby rival Valley Regional/Lyme-Old Lyme. The Principals' Cup is a major football event, attracting many people in the community to the game, now played on Tuesday evening before Thanksgiving.

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HK Head Coach Tyler Wilcox said that he enjoys coaching during the game, adding, “It's always been a rivalry. The kids and coaches change every year, but the tradition always stays the same."

Wilcox said the first-ever Principals' Cup game took place in 1987. Currently, HK has eight wins in total. This year HK is hosting the Principals' Cup on Nov. 26.



Juniors Jamien Evans, John Moyher, Tyler Kapiernowksi, and Josh Frith display the Principals' Cup trophy after winning in 2023.

HK football player and junior John Moyher said, “So far this year we have come a long way as a team, which we struggled to do last year, and we’ve been able to consistently execute our weekly game plan."

“It's always been a rivalry game. The kids and coaches change every year, but the tradition stays the same."

Moyher added, “For the Principals' Cup against Valley, I think we have a perfect plan to combat their every play, and I also think we will have our way on offense.”

All that's left this year is to play the game.

Mid-Season NFL Report: Jets Make Some News

By Tim Hickman

The start of the NFL season has not been without its share of headline news.

On Oct. 15, the Las Vegas Raiders finalized a trade to send disgruntled superstar wide receiver Davante Adams to the New York Jets. The trade was a long time coming, as Davante Adams was not happy in Las Vegas and is now with his former long-time quarterback, Aaron Rodgers. In the deal, the Raiders got a conditional third-round pick in the 2025 NFL draft, which can turn into a second-round pick.



Davante Adams

Adams was seen with Rodgers on a video call shortly after the trade was announced. “We're *so* back,” Adams said on the Pat McAfee Show. There are more expectations coming now for the underperforming Jets, as the long-time Packer duo are reunited in New York.

In other news around the league, the Kansas Chiefs stayed undefeated in a pivotal Week 7 game, beating the San Francisco 49ers, 28-18, on Oct. 20. At press time, they were the only undefeated team left and looked like the leading Super Bowl favorites even in a down year for QB Patrick Mahomes.

After losing their rookie QB JJ Mcarthy in pre-season, the Minnesota Vikings have looked sharper than expected, as they have a winning record and look like a top-three team in the NFC so far this season. This is due to the excellent play of Sam Darnold, who by Week 7 had thrown for 1,370 yards and 12 TDs.

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Darnold, who was drafted in 2018 by the Jets, never really had a home but may have found one with Minnesota. Even though they are in one of the toughest divisions in the league with all the teams having three losses or fewer, they look like they will be a contender in the playoffs this year.

But don't overlook the Detroit Lions, who are quickly becoming the true team to watch in the NFC this year.

Girls' Swimming Completes Undefeated Season

Submitted by Coach Alison Karam

The Shoreline co-op girls' swimming and diving team won the final two dual meets of the season to finish with an unbeaten 7-0 record.



Front row (l-r): Kinsley Grenier, Phoebe Spallone, Rose Dimmock, Zi Abbott, Olive Forristall, Maggie Miller, Aria Cummings. Standing (l-r): Elsa Shatraw, Veronica "VV" Pypa, Sasha Dziebel, Emma Wakelee, Sofia Campo, Liv Macaluso, Sophia Langer, Lauren Thebeau, Claire Johnson, Bethany Erkkila, Olivia Campo and Gianna Dabkowski.

(photo by Alison Karam)

On Oct. 22, swimmers from Haddam-Killingworth, Valley Regional, Lyme-Old Lyme, and Old Saybrook had a strong win at home against Ledyard 102-68 and then capped the dual meet season on Oct. 25 with a 99-72 win against Plainville.

Earlier in the season, the team won dual meets against Ledyard (93-76), Windsor Locks(86-84), Suffield (96-65), Waterford (95-81) and Rocky Hill (102-72).

"As proud as I am of the wins, I'm even prouder of how well these girls have come together as a team that supports and encourages each other. This is an awesome group of girls in and out of the pool," said the team's Head Coach Alison Karam.

The girls swim team celebrated Senior Night on Oct. 22, honoring H-K senior teammates and leadership squad members Veronica "VV" Pypa, and captains Olivia "Liv" Macaluso, Olivia Campo, and Sofia Campo.

Competing for Shoreline co-op this season were Pypa, Macaluso (HK), O. Campo (HK) and S. Campo (HK), seniors Bethany Erkkila (V), Emma Wakelee (OS), Maggie Miller (HK), Rose Dimmock (LOL), and Sasha Dziebel (OS), juniors; Elsa Shatraw (HK), Gianna Dabkowski (HK), Olive Forristall (HK), Sophia Langer (HK), and Zi Abbott (HK), sophomores; and Aria Cummings (HK), Claire Johnson (V), Kinsley Grenier (LOL), Lauren Thebeau (HK), Maddie Cummins (LOL), and Phoebe Spallone (V).

Top swimmers competed in individual and relay events at the Class S State Swimming Championships in November.

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