



# The Emerald Press



March 28, 2025

March is going out like a lamb?

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## School News

### 6th Grade Happenings

By: Maren Ettrich

The 6th grade has been involved in many activities this week and last. They have many classes that help them prepare for the grades ahead of them. One of these classes is called STEAM. STEAM is a class where the 6th graders work with younger grades to help create an art piece. This benefits the 6th grade in many ways. Some of these ways are learning to work with people of all ages and also getting something fun to do. The STEAM class also benefits the younger students. One way it does this is by giving them a person to look up to and a fun activity to do. There are many other classes that the 6th graders learn about the world around them.



One activity that the 6th graders did this week was public speaking. They are working on an argument essay, so the 6th graders did some research about having chicken in our school. Then they took these essays and read them to the village board. They all worked very hard on these essays and were very happy to present them. Another active 6th grader did



Hexagonal thinking. Which is an activity where the students get put into groups then they get words. They have to connect each of these words, creating a honeycomb.

### Agriscience Happenings

By Eve McCorkle

This week, the students in agriscience are working hard to create their resumes and cover letters. A resume is a piece of paper that lets the organization you are trying to work for all of your background information such as your past jobs, awards you were given, contact information and more. The students have been gathering information to place on their resumes. Once they have all the information they believe they should have on their resume, they will start the process of putting it together.

Once the students have completed every single thing with their resume, they will start to write their cover letter. A cover letter is a letter that is sent to the organization you are attempting to work for, telling them why you are applying and why you should get the position you desire. So the students will find themselves a template that they like and they will get to writing.

So overall, the students in agriscience are working extremely hard and learning so many new

things. Be sure to check back next week to see what they will be moving on to next.

Photo Creds: Community Resource & Job Fair - JARI



## School Spotlights

### Owl of the week!

By: Rihana Dye

"The biggest struggle I had in college was thinking I knew all the answers and everyone else was stupid... spoiler alert I was stupid, I did not know all the answers."

New topic time! This topic is financial advice for college! Mr. Houck has taught for 22 years, 2 years working with behavioral classes at BOCES, 16 years as a special education teacher at Unadilla Valley, and in his 6th year here at HCS. In his free time, he sells and buys stuff on ebay, along with attending his pumpkin farm. Mr. Houck is our personal finance teacher here at HCS so I thought that having him be our first owl for this topic would be a great idea.

#### Mr. Houcks's advice:

"Never miss a payment."

"Never spend what you don't have."

"Be okay with not getting everything you want when you want it. Struggle is okay."

Along with that, I asked him what his biggest struggle was in college, and he said, "The biggest struggle I had in college was thinking I knew all the answers and everyone else was stupid... spoiler alert, I was stupid, I did not know all the answers".

Stay tuned for more advice next week!

## Masquers Drama Club Senior Spotlight

By Ezra Stahlberg

Over the weekend, the Masquers put on three productions of their spring musical, The



Little Shop of Horrors. The play was a great success, and hundreds of people came out to support it. With every play comes many great moments, so today, I have decided to interview three seniors about their experiences with the musical and their journey as masquers' careers.

#### When did you join the Masquers club?

**Cooper Roy:** "In junior year, my first musical was Mamma Mia, and I mainly joined as a joke with Nico, Owen, and all the lads. But I enjoyed it and stayed for my senior year despite most of my friends graduating."

**Owen Arquiatt:** "I started my Masquers career in 3rd grade when I was Michael in Peter Pan, but I took a hiatus until junior year, when I was in the Mama Mia production."

**Vivi Linden:** "I joined in the 6th grade as soon as possible, for a good time and to spend time with my friends."

#### What was your favorite production you were a part of?

**Cooper Roy:** "Little Shop of Horrors, I had a lot of fun playing the role and working hard and trying this time. I also really enjoyed learning how to act and hanging out with the cast."

**Owen Arquiatt:** "Definitely Big Fish as a tech crew member because it was fun, and I got to hang out with my friends backstage. I was a part of my brother's last performance."

**Vivi Linden:** Mamma mia or Clue because they were the most fun, and there was a lot of dancing and zip and pop to them.

#### What was your favorite memory of your Masquers experience?

**Cooper Roy:** "My favorite memory was Claire slapping me backstage at the last showing. I remember it being hilarious, and it stung and helped wake me up for the last show."

**Owen Arquiatt:** "Did I make quarterback, or when I messed up as stage crew and walked out

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way too early and just sat behind my brother while he died and had to wait to carry him off.”

**Vivi Linden:** Barry the janitor would be there only past nine every day, and it was lovely to say hi to him; every time, Mrs. Moren said, "Shake your booty.”

## Senior Spotlight

By: Rihana Dye

This week's spotlight is on Jonas McEwan! Jonas' has attended HCS since his 7th grade year. After high school he plans to get a job and become rich.



Jonas' favorite highschool class ever taken is conservation at BOCES. In his free time he likes to hangout with his friends and play video games. His favorite thing to do is swim, and his favorite high school memory is when he and his friends took a shopping cart and pushed it around the Colgate hockey rink.

Jonas's advice to underclassmen is...

“Just go out there and do it, don't be afraid.”

## Local News

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### Weekly Weather Preview

By Cheyanne Bennett

Next week looks to be mostly cloudy with some rain and snow mixed. It's getting warmer and warmer each day!!! Summer will be here sooner than we know it!

**Monday, March 31st, 2025:** Rain in the morning with a high of 50 degrees and a low of 30 degrees with winds at 10 to 20 mph.

**Tuesday, April 1st, 2025:** Mostly cloudy with a high of 40 degrees and a low of 27 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.



**Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025:** Partly cloudy with a high of 47 degrees and a low of 35 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

**Thursday, April 3rd, 2025:** Rain and snow showers in the morning change to rain showers in the afternoon with a high of 47 degrees and a low of 36 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

**Friday, April 4th, 2025:** Rain and snow showers in the morning with a high of 55 degrees and a low of 39 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

**Saturday, April 5th, 2025:** Cloudy with a high of 54 degrees and a low of 38 degrees with winds at 10 to 20 mph.

**Sunday, April 6th, 2025:** Mostly cloudy with a high of 54 degrees and a low of 36 degrees with winds at 10 to 15 mph.

I hope you all had a great week!!!

*Info credit- The Weather Channel*

*Photo credit- The Weather Channel*

## Under the Helmet

By Dom Mensche

Some of you may have heard the fire siren blaring throughout the village of Hamilton or even may have seen the trucks go by sirens wailing. The goal of this article segment is to help folks get to know the individuals inside the trucks and *under the helmet*.

The next Firefighter we get to meet is Brian Fredrick, a local townsfolk who decided to

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serve his community at a young age and is now one of our senior drivers.

**Q: What motivated you to become a firefighter?**

**A:** It was that, or do dumb stuff with the other kids my age. So I chose the option that wouldn't land me in jail.

**Q: What does firefighting mean to you?**

**A:** Everything. I love doing the best job in the world. A bonus is being able to help others.

**Q: What is the hardest part of being a firefighter?**

**A:** Probably the mental aspect. You see bad things and if you don't handle it well, it will bite you in the rear in the long run.

**Q: Any advice for someone looking to get into the fire service?**

**A:** Get off your seat, go out, and make a difference. The only way you get experience is by doing it.

Brian Fredrick, or as we call him "Breddy," is one of the senior drivers at the fire department. He has years of experience as a firefighter and as a driver/engineer.

## Incoming Heat Risk

**By: Pyper McEwan**

As we can all tell, the weather has been everywhere recently, with temperatures as high as 70 degrees and then dropping to 30 degrees within a week. But are we ready for a hot summer? We have been told that New York is going to have a very hot summer. Heat and high temperatures can affect people's health across the world, high temperatures cause spikes in emergency room visits and hundreds of heat-related deaths. With the temperatures rising, CNN has been tracking the high heat conditions and the risk for Americans each day.

There is a large piece of the American population that lives in a heat advisory for the summer, there are more than 60 million people who dealt with these conditions in the summer of 2023. As the planets have been warming up, heat waves are way more common, intense, and

long-lasting. The temperatures are warming up even faster overnight, they are not cooling down enough. Every day, the weather service has released a forecast for potential record-breaking temperatures, these locations are across the country. So watch out this summer and be prepared for high temperatures.

*Info: CNN*

## Northville "Coach of the Year"

**By Rhiannon Murray**

This past Saturday the State Final for girls basketball was played. In Class D, the final consisted of the two teams of LaFargeville and Northville. LaFargeville is a section three team, and Northville is in section two. This game was chalked up to be a great game, so I turned on my TV. The game went back and forth until the third quarter when LaFargeville began to pull away. The fourth quarter came closer, but LaFargeville ended the game with the win 43-37. After the game, the girls began to line up to shake hands and receive their medals. The Northville girls' basketball head coach, Jim Zullo, was seen pulling the hair of one of the girls when getting into the line. This girl was senior Hailey Monroe, the leading scorer of the team and in the entire school history. She is a very, very good player, the reason for the deep run into state play. The game was live-streamed

on many platforms, one being the NFHS, where many people across the country watch live games. Immediately after the game, Northville



Central School fired Jim and began to take action against him. This video began to go viral on many social media platforms and it sparked many

conversations of if he did this in front of a public audience what he does during practice. During the video, one of her other teammates began to step in front of her and protect her from the coach's further actions. Later information came out that they are related as she is his great niece. Not all information has been put out and more should come.

*Image credits: people.com*

## US News

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### Columbia Student Sues to Prevent Deportation

By Michael Hayden

On Monday, March 24, 21-year-old Yunseo Chung sued Immigration and Customs Enforcement for their attempt to deport her. Chung, a student at Columbia University, has lived in the US since she was seven years old and



is a legal permanent resident. She has never been prosecuted for or convicted of any crime.

On March 5, Chung was one of several students arrested at a sit-in at a Barnard College library protesting Columbia University's disciplinary action towards pro-Palestinian student protesters. Within days of this arrest, ICE attempted to detain her at her parents' house. On March 10, Chung was informed that her permanent resident status was being revoked, and on the 13<sup>th</sup>, ICE executed warrants to search her Columbia dorm room for travel and immigration records. These warrants cited the harboring statute, which is aimed at those harboring illegal immigrants, although Chung was, until days earlier, a legal resident.

Chung is concerned that this attempt to deport her is in retaliation for her past involvement in pro-Palestinian protests. Her lawsuit states that "ICE's shocking actions against Ms. Chung form part of a larger pattern of attempted U.S. government repression of constitutionally protected protest activity and other forms of speech." The larger pattern that they refer to is the attempted deportation of several other Columbia students involved in the pro-Palestinian protests, most notably protest organizer Mahmoud Khalil, another permanent resident who was arrested by ICE on March 8 and is currently in federal custody.

As of this Tuesday, Chung has not been detained by ICE. She is waiting on a court order from a federal judge to prevent ICE from arresting or deporting her until the end of her lawsuit.

*Image via NYT*

### The Death of George Foreman

By: Gavin Snyder

The professional boxer and businessman George Foreman has died of unknown causes at the age of 76. You may know him from fighting Muhammad Ali or Joe Frazer or maybe making the George Foreman grill. George will forever go down in the top 10 of all-time boxers. Over the years, he has succeeded in many things, such as winning the Olympics in



1968, winning 76 of his 81 matches with 68 of them ending in a knockout, and going undefeated in the first 37 of his fights. At the end of the day, he was a great fighter and an even better person who will never be forgotten.

*Photo credit: The Nation*

## Wildfires in the Carolinas

By Cheyanne Bennett

On Monday, March 24th, 2025, many parts of the Carolinas had high temperatures, strong winds, and low humidity. The Western parts of North Carolina are having many wildfires spreading very quickly.



Waldrop said, "A lot of heavy fuels we've seen on the ground recently". The governor of South Carolina put

out a state of emergency from the wildfires. The southern and northern parts of the Carolinas are having a difficult time getting these fires out because of the timber that's already down from Hurricane Helene.

These wildfires are causing even more damage to areas that have already been damaged by Hurricane Helene. A resident of Polk County said, "We live in a rural area, and so not everyone has internet here or even has great cell service; it's very spotty." The fire on Black Cove has burned 2,076 acres, and the fire that is approximately 5 miles north of Columbus has burned 2,545 acres, and both fires are still going. In Polk County, "approximately 4 homes have been destroyed by these wildfires, and a code red air quality alert has been sent out," said a spokesperson in Polk County. A post was sent out by the department of the Carolinas that said, "Visibility in the area will be reduced, and roads/evacuation routes could become blocked, if you do not leave now, you could be trapped, injured or killed."

*Info credit- CNN*

*Photo credit-NBC News*

## Department Of Education

By: Maren Ettrich

Donald Trump announced a few weeks ago his plan to get rid of the Department of Education. In November 2024, Donald Trump

won the election over Kamala Harris. This means that at the end of January 2025, he became the president of the United States. Trump, who was elected president in 2016 but lost to Joe Biden in 2020, ran again in 2024. Trump's campaign focused on bringing down the cost of taxes and production across the nation. In this article, I will be discussing what this means for the Department of Education and why he wants to get rid of it.

The Department of Education was for young students to help with their loans. The Department of Education was created in 1979 by Jimmy Carter. The question now is, why does Donald Trump want to take it away? Well, Donald Trump believes that the Department of Education is taking too much government money. The Department of Education gets its money from taxpayers.

The final question is, what happens now with the Department of Education? Well, the Department of



Education helps with loans. So many people who have student loans are very worried about what this could mean for them. They are worried that they will have to stop their education or be ready to pay a lot of money back to the bank once they graduate from college. Donald Trump has already shut down many parts of the Department of Education, but it still has to go through many obstacles before it goes away altogether.

*Source: CNN*

*Photo credit: CNN*

## 238 Gang Members Deported

By: Gavin Snyder

A bunch of Venezuelan gang members from the gang Tren de Aragua were deported from the United States to a large jail in El



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Salvador known as the mega prison. This happened earlier this week by plane. There are 238 members in total and 23 of them are from the gang MS-13. They are now all sentenced to life in jail for various reasons. According to MSNBC statistics, the criminal activity in the United States is caused more by illegal gang immigrants than by the United States citizens themselves. Which comes mostly from the gang MS-13. Not much more information has come out yet because of how recent this was, but soon we will know more.

*Photo Credit: AP News*



## NYS Phone Ban

By Gavin Rutledge

Governor Kathy Hochul has made the phone ban a cornerstone of her 2025 agenda. If passed by the legislation it mandates that all unsanctioned phones K-12 be banned throughout the school day. Districts will have the flexibility to make their storage solutions. Pouches, cubbies, lockboxes. The state has earmarked \$13.5 million to help schools buy these tools. I think this phone ban is a good idea, mainly because I won't be in school when this is put into play.

I asked Mr. Arquiett what he thought about this ban and he said "How much do you use your phone during school?" This is true, we never really use our phones that much during the school day, so it won't make much of a difference anyway. Especially for the middle schoolers who have already had to follow this rule.

I am curious to see in the future how people react to this ban, I'm expecting a lot more bad reactions than good. Kathy Hochul said, "From parents and teachers to social justice and

law enforcement leaders, New Yorkers agree that our young people succeed when they're learning and growing, not clicking and scrolling." It seems like a majority of the adults are siding with the phone ban, while a majority of the youth are against it.



## Global News

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### US Airstrikes in Yemen

By Michael Hayden

This Tuesday morning, American bombs struck several targets among Yemen's Houthi rebels. The group says that one of the attacks, striking the capital, killed at least two people and wounded 13 others.

The Houthis are a terrorist group backed by Iran who have been targeting Israeli ships since earlier this month in retaliation towards Israel blocking aid to the Gaza strip. As part of America's alliance with Israel includes security assistance, the US was obligated to respond with airstrikes to Houthi bases.

National Security Adviser Mike Waltz claims that recent attacks have hit Houthi headquarters, communications nodes, and weapons factories and have also "taken out key Houthi leadership, including their head missileer." Houthi media liaisons have yet to either confirm or deny this.

## Historic Buddhist Temple Burns Down

By- Dorothy Disha

For the past week, wildfires have spread throughout the southern region of South Korea, endangering people and animals. The five days of wildfires have killed 24 people, considered the worst EVER in Korea.



However, this Tuesday, the most culturally devastating burning happened. A centuries-old Buddhist temple named the “Gounsa Temple” has been partially burned due to the fast spread. The Gounsa Temple was said to have been built in 681 AD during the Shilla dynasty that ruled more than half of the Korean Peninsula. It is located at the foot of “Deungun Mountain” in the southeastern town of “Uiseong”. While it doesn’t house buildings constructed during that ancient period, it is home to several famous cultural heritages built later. As the strong winds drove the fire further, the historical treasure burned in flames. The temple contained many artifacts depicting ancient Korean culture, including paintings, statues, and writings.

Sources- BBC, The Guardian

Photo Credits- AP News

## Opinion

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### Album Review

By Dom Mensche

*Album Review is an overview of albums released by popular artists, and they are rated by professional music analyst Dominick “Metro” Mensche.*

This week's review will be on the album *If I Know Me* by Morgan Wallen.

Morgan Wallen’s debut album, *If I Know Me*, released on April 27, 2018, introduced him as one of country music’s rising stars.

Combining modern country with a bit of rock and pop influence, the album delivers a mix of party anthems, love songs, and breakup tracks.

Standout tracks include *Whiskey Glasses*, which became a massive hit with its catchy melody and relatable lyrics about drinking away heartbreak, and *Chasin’ You*, a smooth, nostalgic song that highlights Wallen’s signature rasp. Meanwhile, *Up Down* featuring Florida Georgia Line brings the feel-good energy with a rowdy, tailgate-ready vibe.

With strong songwriting, infectious hooks, and Wallen’s signature sound, *If I Know Me* was a solid debut that helped launch his career and set the stage for even bigger success.



## Movie Review - Snow White

By Gavin Rutledge



*Snow White*, directed by Marc Web, was released on March 21st, 2025, and it was a remake of the original made in 1937. This movie has a 1.7 out of 10 on IMBD. This movie has received a lot of negative criticism due to the change of the plot from the original. The use of CGI dwarves to sidestep stereotyping concerns also upsets people. Critics



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have said that the new songs used in the movie are overly pop-infused and lack the quality of the 1937 classics. Other reviews say that the dialogue is clunky. A summary of the plot is that Snow White (Rachel Zegler) runs away from her stepmother, the Evil Queen (Gal Gadot), who tries to kill Snow White after the magic mirror favors her beauty. Hiding with the seven dwarves and Jonathan (Andrew Burnap), she gets with them to overthrow the queen.

## Sports

### Girls Varsity Softball

By Eve McCorkle



This week, the girl's softball team is still working extremely hard! The girls are getting increasingly excited as they approach their first game. The girls have been working a lot on defense and their hitting, and you can see the progress and improvement

in the girls' swings and fielding from the first day. Overall, the girls are doing great and putting in the work.

Since we are getting so much closer to the girls' first game, I went and asked some girls how they were feeling, and here is what they said. First, I asked Rihana Dye, and she said, "I'm, like, really excited but at the same time I'm a little nervous because I feel like we play a lot better this year but like...I'm just a little nervous. Overall, I'm very excited!" So as we can see Rihana is a little nervous but very excited! Next, I asked Polly Hansen-Rodriguez, and here is what she said, "I am a little bit nervous, but I am excited to get back out there, get back into the groove of things, and yeah, I'm excited. Lastly, I



asked Ryan Verbitsky how she was feeling. "I'm so excited and really can't wait!"

Overall, the girls are extremely excited and hype for their first game, so make sure you are there!! Their game is home on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, at 4:30 against Adirondack.

*Photo Creds: Brian Miller*

## A New Coach For a New Track Season

By Silas Campbell

This week, I am writing an article and interviewing people for the Emerald Press about Track being brought back once again by the new spring season. Track has a long history here at Hamilton Central School. In 2014, Hamilton Central School produced a state champion runner named Sage Hurta, who competed at the national level. More recently, another champion from our school was Joe Berry, who competed at the state level and did very well.

This year, the track coach is Mr. Jeremy West. Mr. West has had 11 years of combined experience coaching in New Hartford and Oregon. He owned a personal coaching business where he created personalized training plans, coached running programs, and directed a summer running camp. Mr. West enjoys coaching and being a positive influence in students' lives, just like his coaches were in his life. Mr. West says this year's team is a very dedicated group of students. "They know that when they come to practice every day to train and when they go to meets to compete they not only are training and competing for themselves but for their teammates, their school, their community, and their families."

I asked several of the Track team members three basic questions: Are you excited for the track season to start back up again? Are you

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excited about running and competing? Are you ever nervous when you compete?

First, I spoke with Owen Arquiett. He said he thinks the track season will be fun. The team is going to a lot of away meets this year, so he is excited for the competition. At the starting line, Owen said he's always nervous but that once the competition starts, he's okay.

Next I spoke with Griffin Brumbach Thomsen. He said yes that he is excited about the track season starting back up again. When I asked him if he's excited about competing and running, he said yes, and that he especially enjoys the competition. Griffin said he's never nervous during a competition.

The third person I spoke with was Gavin Mosier. He is very happy about the track season starting up. He said that he is very excited for the chance to compete. When I asked him if he gets nervous about competing, he said yes, all the time.

The next person I spoke with was Hero Sinsawat. He said he is so excited for the track season to start. Hero is very excited to compete because it's his first meet in the United States. When I asked him if he gets nervous when he competes, he said yes, but he takes a deep breath, and then it gets better.

The last person I spoke with was Polly LePage. She said, Yes, I'm very excited to start competing in track. This is my first season of track. When I asked her if she gets nervous when she has never competed before, she thinks that she will be nervous.

Track at Hamilton brings a lot of excitement, with a lot of our competitors having had much success over the years. With the new coach being so enthusiastic and the excitement of the team, I think it's going to be a great year for Track.

## Varsity Baseball

By: Pyper McEwan

Last week, I interviewed a couple of baseball players about the upcoming season and how they felt, so I decided to interview Dominik Dye and Dom Mensche to see how they feel about the upcoming season. The first question I asked was, "How do you feel about the upcoming varsity baseball season?" Dominik Dye's response was, "I think we're going to get a lot more wins than last season, and I feel great about the season." Dom Mensche's response to this question was, "I think it's going to be great. I'm excited to hit dingers with the guys, and I'm excited to play the sport I love with the people I like to be around." I also asked them what game they were most excited for? Or what do they think the best game is going to be this season? Dominik Dye responded with, "I'm most excited for Waterville, and I think McGraw will be a tough game." Dom Menchie responded with, "Our best game is going to be against Sherburne because we are going to clock them 20-0. The most exciting game is going to be Waterville or Poland because we have a rivalry against both of these teams. Make sure to support the guys by popping out to their games!"

## TGL Championship

By: Dylan George

For the past few months, the world has been watching a new way of golf, the TGL (Tomorrow's Golf League). The TGL is an indoor golf facility with a giant simulator screen on which you hit off real grass, slopes, and sand, depending on your shot. They also have a real rotating green that is as close to real greens as possible for an indoor facility. Founded by two of the greatest golfers of all time, Rory McIlroy and Tiger Woods, the TGL is played in the SOFI stadium in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, where they have matches for each of the six teams on ESPN: Atlanta Drive GC, Boston Common Golf,

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Jupiter Links GC, Los Angeles Golf Club, New York Golf Club, The Bay Golf Club.

The season's final match was played for the championship on Tuesday night. In a heated and exciting match, the New York GC faced off against the Atlanta Drive GC. NY Golf Club started hot with a 3-0 lead, but then Atlanta started rolling and never looked back, winning the championship 4-3. PGA Tour stars Billy Horschel, Patrick Cantlay, and Justin Thomas led Atlanta to victory, but Horschel came up clutch in the closing moments with a massive 18-foot putt made to seal the win on the 15th hole



The TGL gained many supporters and was a fun and exciting way to watch golf that wasn't the typical PGA or LIV tournaments you see on the weekends. It

was also a completely different environment, with a close audience and indoors.

*Photo Credit: CNN*

## Why has the Transfer Portal Changed College Basketball?

By: Dylan George

The transfer portal has changed how college coaches recruit in the past five years. Recently, a significant factor in an athlete's decision-making to commit to a school is their best option with NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) money. Top athletes like Livvy Dunne, Arch Manning, and Cooper Flagg are earning millions of dollars off their NIL contracts, with a significant part coming from social media.

Many coaches are picking up transfers in the transfer portal rather than recruiting many incoming freshmen as they have in the past. March Madness is one of the biggest college tournaments of the year, and everyone gets excited for those bracket busters who are higher seeds and who beat the considerable power of 5 schools. On the opening day of the Transfer portal this past week, over 1,700 college basketball players entered their spots to see what options they have for next year. This smashed the previous record of 291 in 2024.

Because NIL and the transfer portal have taken over college athletics, there have been very few upsets in March Madness this year. Many people believe that the transfer portal's development has damaged teams looking to bust people's brackets.

After a busy March and March Madness on to the Elite 8, college athletics needs to look for a new solution to fix the number of transfers during the day. This significantly impacts the smaller schools that look to make deep, exciting runs in the playoffs when it matters most.

Where every Sweet 16 Team's Starting-5 began playing college basketball.  
(Try to figure out which teams are which)



*Photo Credit: Dylan George*

## Top Five Signings of the NFL Offseason

By Ezra Stahlberg

The free agency window opened on March 12th at 4:00 p.m., and in the first two weeks of free agency, we have seen many moves and signings that have completely changed the scene of the NFL. This year's offseason saw many moves, with many players signing with new teams. Today, I will review the top five signings for the 2025 offseason.

### 5. Patriots sign Stefon Diggs and Mack

**Hollins:** This move from the Patriots to completely revamp their expansive receiver room is one of the best moves of the NFL offseason. With the Patriots having a young and inexperienced quarterback in Drake Maye, they needed to give him more options to prosper in his sophomore season. To accommodate their lack of throwing options and a young, heavy-throwing quarterback, they signed a solid WR 2 in Mack Hollins and a possible great WR 1 in Stefon Diggs. These two players should completely change the Patriots' offense and help complement their solid defense.

### 4. Giants revamp their QB room with

**Russell Wilson and Jameis Winston:** These two Giants' moves are incredibly helpful in developing an area where they struggled last year by bringing in two solid veteran quarterbacks. Another great perk with this move is opening up their draft for more opportunities, as they can now use their third overall pick to grab Travis Hunter.

### 3. The Commanders trade for Deebo

**Samuel:** This move is essential for the Commanders because it takes their offense to the next level. By bringing in another star wide receiver, Terry McLaurin, and giving their star young quarterback, Jayden Daniels, more options, this move brings their stellar offense to a whole new level. It could help this team in their playoff contention next year.

### 2. Los Angeles Rams sign Devonte

**Adams:** After trading away their star wide receiver Cooper Kupp, the Rams needed a big move to keep their stellar offense going into next year, and this signing was the perfect decision for the team. This signing allows the Rams to pick up one of the best veteran wide receivers to help complement their young star Puka Nacua. With



Adams being a great short route runner, it complements Puka Nacua's profound threat ability to bring this offense to a high level, allowing DeAndre Adams to shine more under a better situation and group than his time with the Jets.

### 1. Bengals resign their star wide

**receivers:** The Bengals resigned their two wide receivers, Ja'Marr Chase and Tee Higgins. This move is so impactful because these two players and Joe Burrow are the cornerstones of their team. Retaining their stellar offense from last year gives them serious contention to do things on the offensive side of the ball, and if they can draft well and improve their defense, they could be a serious threat in the 25-26 season.

*Photo credit: Essentially Sports*

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