Moving to Division II
Change allows scholarships in all sports, making athletics more accessible

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

Representing WolfPack athletics is not an easy feat. During their season, athletes are spending about 20 hours per week practicing, competing and traveling. Tournaments can span entire weekends and away games have players riding the bus late into the night.

In order to be eligible to play, athletes must be full time students. Not only that, but they have to maintain good grades to stay eligible.

Because of the time commitments to being a full time student and athletic obligations, little time is left for work. This can put athletes in a tough spot where many already struggle. In 2019, the NJCAA found that 37 percent of athletes come from households earning $20,000 or less a year.

Most athletes represent Madison College without any financial help. All of the sports except for baseball and softball currently compete at the NJCAA Division III level, meaning no athletic scholarships are given. Baseball and softball have been playing at the Division II level and receiving athletic scholarships since 2000 and 2014, respectively.

But starting next season, Madison College athletics are moving to a whole new level. All sports will compete at the NJCAA Division II level. This shift greatly affects returning and future student athletes.

One of the main differences between Division II and III is that the higher the division, the more scholarship money can be offered to athletes.

In the 2020-21 season, there were 142 total student athletes, 28.0 percent were minorities. Across Madison College, student enrollment came to 22,892 people, with 26.1 percent were minorities, according to data provided by the athletic office.

It’s one thing to see percentages... And another to know the numbers. Across the student athlete body, there are 15 Asian athletes, 18 Black athletes, 6x Hispanic athletes, two multi-racial athletes and 101 white athletes.

WHO GETS THE MONEY?

The goal is to have 20 percent of the scholarships be awarded to athletes of color. If the athletics program can meet the goal of $190,000 then $38,000 would be awarded to underrepresented athletes.

Source: Information was shared by the athletics department at Madison College

Legal help removes a barrier to employment

STUART PATE
News Editor

Students with convictions on their records face unique challenges in finding their careers. These “barriers to employment” are fought on Madison College campuses by Megan Sprecher, an attorney working with Legal Action of Wisconsin.

“The goal of that is to make it easier and more feasible for students to access their education, finish their programs and then find a job that can be fulfilling for them,” said Sprecher. “Just having certain convictions on your record can make it difficult to find employment.”

Sprecher’s project utilizes pro bono and volunteer attorneys, paralegal interns and paralegal and law students from places like Madison College and UW Madison and focuses on expungements, pardons, corrections and removals as well as challenging driver’s license suspensions and revocations.

When approaching Legal Action of Wisconsin, everybody goes through a background check to see if anything can be removed, corrected, expunged or pardoned. Then work is done either in house or through a network of volunteer attorneys.

Pardons are granted by the governor. According to Sprecher, a pardon hearing takes about 14 months. A pardon is something that restores civil rights that were lost because of conviction.

Currently, Governor Evers is only considering felonies for pardons.

Madison College faculty and staff can play a role in an individual’s pardon case. A support letter would be useful.

Alternative Break featured 4 projects

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

This past spring break, the Madison College Volunteer Center stayed busy. Over the course of the week, the group did four different projects across Dane County.

On Monday, nine students volunteered at Second Harvest. The organization is southwestern Wisconsin’s largest foodbank. On Tuesday, students gathered at the Truax campus to do some benevolent DIY.

Twelve students came together and made 24 blankets for Project Linus, nine cat beds for Dane County Humane Society, 16 posters for Bled Smealiness, and three Kynd Kits for project helping. On Wednesday, five students helped out at the Dane County Humane Society. Various volunteers said they had a good time with the animals.

On Thursday, seven students visited Little John’s kitchen in Verona. There, the volunteers packed meals for those in need. The kitchen focuses on eliminating food waste and meal insecurity.

PHOTO PROVIDED TO THE CLARION

Students show the blankets they made for Project Linus.
WHAT DO THE TERMS MEAN?
There are a few terms that are heard frequently in regard to the current events happening in Ukraine. Explained by Student Senate member, Arya Kethireddy is, as a person, not their legal identity. Ukraine’s history is more complicated, Ryan said. This country joining NATO would have significant implications for Russia just with their proximity alone. NATO – Stands for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which was created in 1949 by the U.S., Canada and a number of other countries to provide security against Russia. Economic Sanctions – A withdrawal of standard trade and financial relations which could include travel bans, foreign aid reductions, capital restraints, frozen assets and others. Autocratic vs. Democratic – Refers to governmental structure and leadership. Autocratic is to be ruled by one individual in a dictatorship, while democratic government is ruled open and free elections by the people.

HISTORY
To begin to understand and answer the question of what’s happening and why is it affecting the U.S.? And what’s the definition of the terms so common in the news right now?

PROJECTS
The event was hosted by Student Senate members, Arya Kethireddy and Zora Smith, are STEM students at Madison College. They enjoyed spending their time volunteering and helping out others. They shared similar sentiments by saying, “I just really don’t feel good when you see other people struggling in any kind of way and helping out the community.” The Volunteer Center has a busy April lined up, with events on April 15 for Earth Day, April 27 for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and another event at Goodman South.

Helping organizations included joining this organization. Ukraine’s fight to maintain their freedom was incredibly difficult had the switch not been made. The WolfPack would still travel mostly to Illinois for games. Travel costs will remain relatively the same, as will the scheduling. The main difference is teams that would usually be played just during regular season games will now be conference rivals.

A struggle Sprecher faces is, as a person, not their legal identity. Baseball came next with five players of color on a roster of 33. Many of the schools Madison College currently play are also moving to Division II. Because of the scheduling shift, it would have been incredibly difficult had the switch not been made.

The idea of Madison College athletics making that change has been in the works since 2014. There were a couple different reasons that the school decided to make it, mostly which relate to accessibility. Many of the schools Madison College currently play are also moving to Division II. Because of the scheduling shift, it would have been incredibly difficult had the switch not been made. The WolfPack would still travel mostly to Illinois for games. Travel costs will remain relatively the same, as will the scheduling. The main difference is teams that would usually be played just during regular season games will now be conference rivals.

Another perk for athletes is that they’re facing higher levels of competition. “As a student athlete… we wish we had the best experience you can have. We want you to participate against the best teams possible because it does make a difference,” said Hauser. He also noted that playing against the higher ranked teams will provide athletes hoping to move on to a four year school more exposure to coaches.

The new division change also hopes to attract more students, especially from underrepresented communities. One goal is to have at least 20 percent of the 32 scholarships awarded to athletes of color. For the 2020–21 season, the athletics diversity was similar to the overall Madison College student body, not including esports. It found that 28.9 percent of athletes are from communities of color. Data from the athletics department showed that 26.1 percent of all Madison College students are diverse. However, the only teams that had over half of their athletes from diverse background were men’s basketball and men’s soccer, with 14 athletes each. Baseball came next with five players of color on a roster of 33. Five of the sports offered had over half of the athletes on the team qualifying for FAFSA. Those interested in utilizing these services can go to legalaction.org or find legal aid in your area. Some of it comes from funds raised by the athletic programs. Scholarships can be allotted a certain amount of money that they can use however they see fit. Full ride scholarships could be offered to a couple select players or be divided into multiple smaller scholarships.

This move will affect esports, as they currently don’t offer scholarships. However, they can compete in leagues that offer cash prizes which other athletes can’t do. If an esports player wins, they get to get half of the prize money and the rest goes to the program.
Health Services buildings

Changes underway in Truax, programs that have been moving to good reasons. A facelift is coming as dentists and faculty where they can and spaces become suffocated in a sort of maze of barriers and signs telling students into the IT classrooms from the Health Services Building to the D and E section of the first floor of the main Truax building.

"They don't really have a lot of synergies where they are, so they're better suited at Truax on the first floor," said Design Assistant Lynn Dahlgren. "We’re expanding to allow more students into the programs and offer them the latest technologies so that they're prepared for the workforce.”

Workers move lifts around in the D-wing of the main Truax building.

Shuttle running again

Service connects the Truax, Goodman South campuses

SHERRA OWINO
Assistant Editor

The shuttle service offered by Madison College has been of great benefit to the college community, especially before the pandemic and when classes were almost exclusively in person. So where does that stand now? The shuttle is up and running again between Truax and the Goodman South campuses in Madison said Jackie Dahlke, the Transportation Program Analyst for Madison College. It closed with most of the rest of the world mid-March 2020 when the pandemic struck. She’s hopeful that students will start taking advantage of this opportunity now that the campuses are all a-flurry again with onsite courses and transportation has again become necessary for many people.

"You don’t have nearly as many in-person, on campus classes as you used to have pre-pandemic," Dahlke acknowledged. "I estimated they would have just a fraction of the ridership and, so far, that is the case.” But maybe it’s just slow in getting started again.

"All that’s necessary for a ride is your OneCard student ID. Passengers can expect masks to be mandatory while riding the shuttle and that it can take about 45 minutes to cover the 10 miles one-way between these campuses. Each of the two shuttles can accommodate 25 passengers and one wheelchair at a time.

“It’s one of the things that, hopefully while you’re a college student, can make your life easier,” Dahlke explained.

There may be bigger news around the corner for the city of Madison and the surrounding areas as years of planning to reorganize the public transportation system will be completed.

Shuttle service connects the Truax, Goodman South campuses

Craig Benzine

Dane County YouTuber has 1 million subscribers

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

When you think of making it big in the Midwest, being a YouTuber is not the first career that comes to mind. YouTubing as a career might make people think of LA or maybe New York. Narrow it down some more to specifically Wisconsin. How many people come to mind as successful YouTubers? Just because it’s not common doesn’t mean it’s impossible. Craig Benzine of Dane County hit 1 million subscribers July 2020, now at 1.1 million. His main channel, WheezyWaiter, features a wide variety of content, from lifestyle challenges he’s completed to discussions about why people own dogs. WheezyNews is his second channel that hosts movie reviews and some interviews with other creators.

"I want to be a positive, fun place on the Internet and show that that’s possible even though there’s so much negativity around,” said Benzine. Benzine is from Marshall, right outside of Madison. During his first driving test, he failed because he went too fast past Madison College.

Although his original major was something related to video games, he graduated from UW-Madison with a degree in Communication Arts and Radio Television Film. It was there that...
YOUTUBER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

He learned the basics of video production, though he did a lot of self-teaching after. He formed a band with some friends, the Driftless Pony Club. After playing some in Madison, he eventually moved to Chicago, then Texas, then back to Wisconsin.

It was while in Chicago that he started his channel. At that time, making a full-time YouTuber was not his final career goal. He started in 2007 when making a living off YouTube was just barely becoming a thing. Since the start of the channel, he’s expanded. He’s been featured on the educational CrashCourse channel, a project of John and Hank Green. His main topics were Film History and Government and Politics. Benzine mentioned that he gets tweets from relatives saying that their kids are watching him in school.

However, his level of success was not expected. “I thought it would be cool to make videos on the Internet, but it was...a way to maybe get into making movies or something, some other thing, like a means to an end,” said Benzine. He added that he still might try to make a movie someday.

Though he spent some time out of the Midwest, Benzine settled back down after getting married and having a child.

“I think as I’ve gotten older...I have more Midwest pride than I did when I was younger,” said Benzine.

While the move back to Wisconsin was a practical one, Benzine likes that he can have a successful career while living in a place that people might not expect. “I like showing that you can do it anywhere,” said Benzine. Even though it’s not super common right now, Benzine thinks that YouTube careers everywhere will become more prevalent with time. There’s access to many free video editing platforms and almost all phones have a camera.

He shared some advice for students pursuing a career in media, whether it’s YouTube or another platform. “I think you’ll experience burnout at some point, and I think at that point you should just really try to figure out what it is you want to do, how you want to use your skill,” said Benzine. “Not just use your skill for the sake of using it.”

Some other rules that Benzine follows and shared as advice to aspiring creators include communicating with purpose, being authentic and having some kind of schedule.

No matter what point you’re at in your life or where you’re living, Benzine encourages people to pursue their passion. “Get your work done if you’re in school, but, but do extra things. Do things that you find fun and just figure out how to edit, figure out how to shoot,” said Benzine. “Figure out your own style. Don’t worry about where you are.”

CHANGES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The new design will have larger buses to accommodate more people while also providing faster service with less waiting and stops. According to Dahlke, 73 percent of Madison will live within one fourth mile of transit with 42 percent living within one fourth of a mile to transportation that has a 15-minute or less wait.

More information on how all that will unfold and affect Madison College is yet to be revealed in full.

More commute options such as Ride Share, Park & Ride, Round Trip, Vanpool, e-bikes and Metro Transit for both Madison residents and those in surrounding cities can be found at the Student Life office as well as a full list of shuttle pick up times.
Experience of LGBTQ+ athletes different than CIS gender teammates

KALEIA LAWRENCE
Editor in Chief

As exciting as sports are, there are also times where it’s hard. Outside of just the athletic aspect, LGBTQ+ athletes have an entirely different experience. They have to go through the same things as everyone else: tough practices and disappointing games, but also to have experience extra hardships. Things like concerns about being accepted by their teammates, digs from opponents or fans and fear of being harmed are common.

When it comes to queer acceptance, Wisconsin is lacking. The House of Representatives has proposed the Protecting Women in Sports Act. The bill would only allow those who were assigned female at birth to compete in women’s sports. It would limit those in public sports from women’s sports. It would limit those in public sports from

Athletes are athletes

Take Paisley Bennett, a current member of Madison College’s esports team. During her time with the team, Bennett hasn’t experienced any homophobia from her teammates or opponents. Bennett uses the label of gay sports. Although Madison College currently leads the conference standings with a 5-1 record and Rock Valley College have only one loss. The WolfPack will play both teams again before the season ends on Oct. 16.

Q: Who have been your shining stars so far this year?

A: Volleyball is the ultimate team sport. It takes more than one or two players to drive team success. Everyone on our roster plays an important role in the growth of our group as a whole, and it will take every one on the roster for us to get

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The fall of Clemson and Wisconsin

BOH SUH
Staff Writer

The fall of Clemson and Wisconsin is a story, but the fall of Wisconsin is also a story. The two teams have been on opposite ends of the spectrum this season. Clemson has been dominating the Big Ten, while Wisconsin has struggled and lost its first two games.

Clemson has not been unbeatable, as they lost to Georgia Tech and Florida State. However, they have dominated the ACC and have not faced any real competition this season. Wisconsin, on the other hand, has struggled against unranked teams such as Illinois, Michigan, and Indiana.

The upcoming game between the two teams will be a crucial test for Wisconsin. If they can pull off the upset, it will be a huge statement for the Badgers. If they lose, it will be another blow to their confidence.

The game will be a battle of two teams with different styles of play. Clemson likes to control the game and have their way, while Wisconsin likes to be physical and run the ball.

The result of the game will have a significant impact on the Big Ten standings. Both teams need a win to have a chance at playing for the conference championship.

In conclusion, the game between Clemson and Wisconsin will be a test for both teams. Wisconsin needs a win to keep their season alive, while Clemson needs to keep their momentum going. The outcome of the game will have a significant impact on the Big Ten and the rest of college football.