

THE PIONEER

Award-Winning Newspaper of LIU Post

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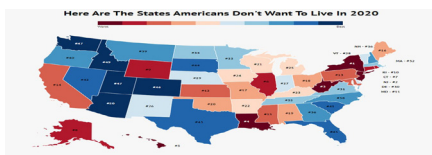
Students Comment On Subway's Tuna Lawsuit



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pg 4

Young People Leave New York in Droves Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic



As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across America, states like New York and California have seen a massive outflow of individuals

pg 6

ESTA Holds First Virtual Craft Fair



Fashion trends come and go rapidly. With every new day, a new one seems to emerge.

pg 7

Men's Soccer Returns With High Expectations



When the 2020 fall sports season got canceled, athletes and coaches alike did not know what the future held

pg 11

Fine Arts Center Construction Disrupts Classes



The Fine Arts Center building.

DYLAN VALIC

BY DYLAN VALIC

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Fine Arts Center (FAC) has been undergoing construction since the beginning of the spring semester, resulting in classes being moved from the building with no prior warning, according to several affected students.

The FAC building previously

hosted a majority of the music education major classes, and housed several practice rooms for students to use.

Junior music education major Julia Bremer found out that her classes would be moved from the building one day before the start of the semester by one of her professors, leaving her confused about the status of her classes.

"I had music classes in a random classroom down in Kahn that was moved multiple times and it didn't have a piano in the beginning at all," she said. "It didn't have anything suitable for a music class and it was ridiculous."

Classes previously hosted in the building have been moved to several different locations around

continued on page 2

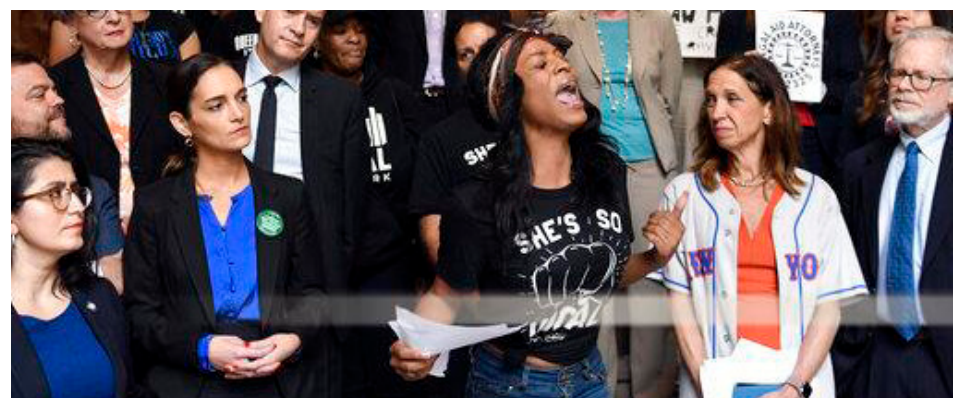
New York Repeals "Walking While Trans" Law

BY CALEB PALMER

STAFF WRITER

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo repealed a 1976 New York State law known as the "walking while trans" law on Feb. 2. The law was an anti-loitering policy that was put in place to reduce prostitution, but was often used to harass and arrest transgender people.

"To have a law be named something that isn't even that name of the law is already the start of a pretty telling scenario," senior game design major and president of the rainbow alliance Nicholas Frank, said. "The very loophole-ish extent of this and being able to discriminate against people who weren't doing what the authorities believed they were doing just as a



COURTESY OF AP PHOTOS

New York community leader urges lawmakers to repeal the "walking while trans" law

way to crack down on the community is pretty unfair."

The "walking while trans" law gained its name from the mass arrests of transgender individuals that would occur because law enforcement assumed they were prostitutes as they walked down

the street. Arrests were most common in lower-income communities. These neighborhoods mainly housed people of color, and 91 percent of arrests under this law were of Black and Latinx people and 80 percent of the people arrested identified as women,

continued on page 4

Fine Arts Center Construction Disrupts Classes

continued from page 1

campus.

Students from the department have attempted to find out information about the renovations to no avail. The university has not made any statements about the purpose of the construction, or when it is planned to be finished.

“They haven’t told us what the construction is, why they started it the first day of classes, or how we can be accommodated to take our classes and use the facilities that we pay \$55,000 a year for,” senior music education major Ally Greenstein said.

Students have also said that faculty members from the department were uninformed about the situation, and have been trying their best to accommodate students to the best of their abilities.

“The poor facility and the students are having nothing communicated to them,” Bremer said. “Are buildings literally just being taken away from us and we’re just expected to be okay with it.”

A petition started by students in the department for administration to set up an alternative building for the students to use has garnered over one thousand signatures.

Shortly after the petition was started the students were told they would be able to use the practice rooms located in the basement of FAC

for the remainder of the semester. Students are not allowed to enter the other floors of the building, according to Greenstein, despite the basement not having any bathrooms.

Students, such as freshman music education major Ally Perticone, have described feeling disrespected by the lack of communication from the university.

“They try to represent LIU’s music department and all of our accomplishments as this great big thing, which it is, but then they say that but they don’t show us the appreciation that they represent to everybody else,” Perticone said. “It just makes me feel disrespected and not cared about.”

Greenstein agrees with Perticone.

“It makes me feel hurt, solely for the fact that my senior year is being ruined by lack of communication and no proper space for us to use,” Greenstein said. “Being a senior I’m student teaching, I’m working on a recital, I’m putting together portfolios, I need to practice and have my one on one lessons and there’s nowhere for me to do it besides my dorm, and that’s also inconveniencing everyone else who lives in this building.”

The Pioneer reached out to the administration on Sunday, Feb. 14 and Monday, Feb. 15, and received a response on Tuesday, Feb. 16 that they will be responding with a statement.

This story is ongoing.



COURTESY OF SARAH KADTKE

Music equipment being stored in the Fine Arts Center building.

LETTER

Letter from a Concerned Student

The Fine Arts Center has been the main center for the Department of Music for over 50 years; every inch of its three floors is utilized, with classrooms, rehearsal spaces, recording studios, offices, music closets, practice rooms, and more. It is so filled with sound and life that it feels like returning to an old friend’s house, even on the most stressful of days.

The vast majority of our Department spend hours upon hours every week inside of it. Put simply, if the Music Department is the soul, the FAC is the body. It’s instrumental in how we as a Department operate. To come onto campus and learn that not only were we, as an entire Department on all levels, uninformed about construction and renovation; to be told that we were entirely shut out and unable to access the facilities that we, as students, pay for with our extensive tuition; to tell our faculty that they have to clear out the offices they have been using for half a century; to have any and all information withheld; to be carelessly shoehorned into disparate rooms inside the Kahn building as an obvious afterthought; to be kept in the dark about the future of the building and who it’s going to instead of us; and finally, to not be given any hint of an idea as to where we are going to be housed next – not only is it hateful, it is a stab in the back from the administration. How are we, as students, supposed to feel when all this is happening and then be told that our Department is valued and cared for? How are we supposed to feel anything but anger, fear, and betrayal?

We, as students of the Department of Music, are still being kept in the dark after being evicted. In a pandemic that has thoroughly disrupted our rehearsals, performances, even our main courses, our final

place of stability has been ripped away from us. I do not know if the FAC is going to house a different Department, or else the newly announced Society of Presidential Descendants. But I would just like to remind those involved in the decision to tear the Fine Arts Center away from the Music Department of what former President Gerald Ford had to say: “Music education opens doors that help children pass from school into the world around them – a world of work, culture, intellectual activity, and human involvement. The future of our nation depends on providing our children with a complete education that includes music.”

Sincerely,
Sarah Kadtke
Senior music education major

Events this Week

Wednesday, Feb. 17

- Getting Involved: Why It Can Help Your Resume Stand Out | 12:30 p.m.
Students can join Promise for a resume building workshop.
- Black Buisness Panel | 12:30 p.m.
The Black Student Union hosts a panel about Black buisnesses in the United States.
- Second Annual African American Read-In | 6:30 p.m.
Students are invited to read their favorite works from Black authors and lisiten to their peers.
- Spa Night with Delta Zeta | 7 p.m.
Students are invited to spend time with the sis-
ters of Delta Zeta

Thursday, Feb. 18

- Black Buisness Panel | 12:30 p.m.
The Black Student Union hosts a panel about Black buisnesses in the United States.
- Cover Letter Workshop| 6:30 p.m.
Promise hosts a cover letter workshop.

Monday, Feb. 22

- Bible Study| 6 p.m.
Students can join the Newman Club for a bible study.

Tuesday, Feb. 23

- Diversity and Golf | 6 p.m.
Promise hosts a panel about diversity in golf.



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New York Repeals “Walking While Trans” Law

continued from page 1

according to Assemblymember Amy Paulin and state Sen. Brad Hoylman, who sponsored the repeal of the law. According to an article from NBC News, officers were mainly called to look out for women with “adam’s apples, big hands and big feet.”

“Not only is this so obviously discriminatory but in ways that just perpetuates an anti-trans culture in people,” Frank said. “To look at certain people and immediately make certain assessments and judgements is something that needs to be left in the past.”

Students at Post were happy to hear about

the repeal of this law.

“When news came out about it I was very excited,” Frank said “I hope that more people start to see the joy that comes from not having to be afraid of going places, it’s something that a lot of people take for granted.”

Frank believes that the education system in America should incorporate more requirements for learning about the LGBTQ+ community to help expand the protections of members of the community.

“When it comes to legal action in the states, I believe a lot of the laws New York City has

should be put into other places,” Frank said. “I believe a standpoint of education should be a requirement of understanding that people can be who you aren’t and still be completely valid in who they are.”



Students Comment On Subway’s Tuna Lawsuit



DYLAN VALIC

The Subway location in Hillwood Commons

BY NICHOLAS ROSA

STAFF WRITER

Many people go to Subway for a healthier alternative when looking for a quick meal to eat, rather than going to a traditional fast food establishment.

Two people from Alameda County in the Bay Area of California, Karen Dhanowa and Nilima Amin, made a complaint via a lawsuit about Subway’s tuna, stating that the contents are more than just tuna.

The lawsuit claims that the tuna from Subway is “a mixture of various concoctions that do not constitute tuna, yet have been blended together by defendants to imitate the appearance of tuna.”

Samples were brought to an independent lab to see the ingredients of Subway’s tuna. In an email to The Washington Post, attorney Shalini Dogra said “we found that the ingredients were not tuna and not fish.” However, Dogra did not disclose the actual ingredients that were found in the samples from the

lab.

This would contradict what Subway advertises as their “classic tuna sandwich,” which is claimed to be “100 percent wild caught tuna blended with creamy mayo.”

Subway’s detailed nutritional information can be found on their website. Their tuna salad ingredients are “flaked tuna in brine (tuna, water, salt) and mayonnaise (soybean oil, eggs, water, distilled vinegar, contains less than 2 percent of salt, sugar, spice, lemon juice concentrate, calcium disodium EDTA added to protect flavor).”

Junior journalism major Jackie Schober, who goes to Subway frequently, is now concerned that they are not being truthful about other ingredients in their food.

“I’ve never had their tuna, but this makes me question what is actually in the rest of their food. I usually get a veggie sub or a meatball marinara sub,” Schober said. “If one day, it comes out that their meatballs aren’t completely made of beef, I would be really mad. I would probably stop going to Subway.”

Many believe that Subway is doing this for the sole purpose of saving money. In an article published in the Washington Post, reporter Tim Carman said “in suburban Washington, for example, the price of a foot-long tuna sandwich at a Subway outlet costs \$7.39. The same size cold-cut combo sandwich, by contrast, runs \$6.19.”

“I go to Subway once in a while,” freshman business major Mark Tedoro said. “I’ve actually had their tuna. I thought it tasted fine, but after finding this out I’m not going to order it again. I would much rather pay the extra \$1.20, and actually get tuna, when I ordered a tuna sandwich. I wonder how much money Subway is saving by doing this.”

Subway continues to claim that their tuna is actually tuna. In a statement to The Washington Post, senior director for global food safety and quality at Subway, Katia Noll said, “Our restaurants receive pure tuna, mix it with mayonnaise and serve on a freshly made sandwich to our guests.”

The Thirst Project Joins Campus

BY LILA NOLAN
STAFF WRITER

A new club called The Thirst Project has made their debut on campus this semester. This eco-friendly club has been established with the goal of making the Post community, and the world, a better place to live through environmental care.

The Thirst Project meets every other Wed. during common hour via Zoom.

The Thirst Projects President and business administration freshman, Matthew Cairo, came to Post this school year in hopes of making it a greener campus. Cairo was a member of The Thirst Project at his high school, and wanted to bring the clubs eco-friendly initiatives to campus. This was the spark that ignited The Thirst Project club.

“When you help The Thirst Project, you’re not only giving people the human right of clean and safe water, but an overall better life,” Cairo said.

The Thirst Project is the largest youth water organization with an overall mission to end the water crisis affecting millions of people across the globe. From a global standpoint, they set out to help the 663 million people who don’t have access to safe and clean drinking water. On a local scale, the club’s initiative is to make the campus community a recycling one all while



locating funds to assist the larger global scale of the project as well.

This semester, The Thirst Project hopes to spread the word of their positive initiative by installing more recycling bins on campus. They also plan to host and co-host many fundraising events for charities.

The Thirst Project is here to include the campus community in making a global difference by giving millions of people the basic human right of clean water. This club objective goes hand in hand with The Thirst Projects powerful slogan “give water, give life”.

The Thirst Project encourages all who are

intrigued by their campus debut and initiative of a cleaner, more eco-friendly world to follow them on Instagram at @liuthirst. Students with questions about getting involved can direct message the account to get in touch with active club members.



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Young People Leave New York in Drove Amidst COVID-19 Pandemic

BY CHRISTOPHER TRICK

STAFF WRITER

As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to wreak havoc across America, states like New York and California have seen a massive outflow of individuals, with residents citing lack of opportunity for jobs, high cost of living, government overreach, and social climate as reasons for leaving.

According to an article in USA Today, New York lost 126,355 residents between July 2019 and July 2020, more than any other state in the nation.

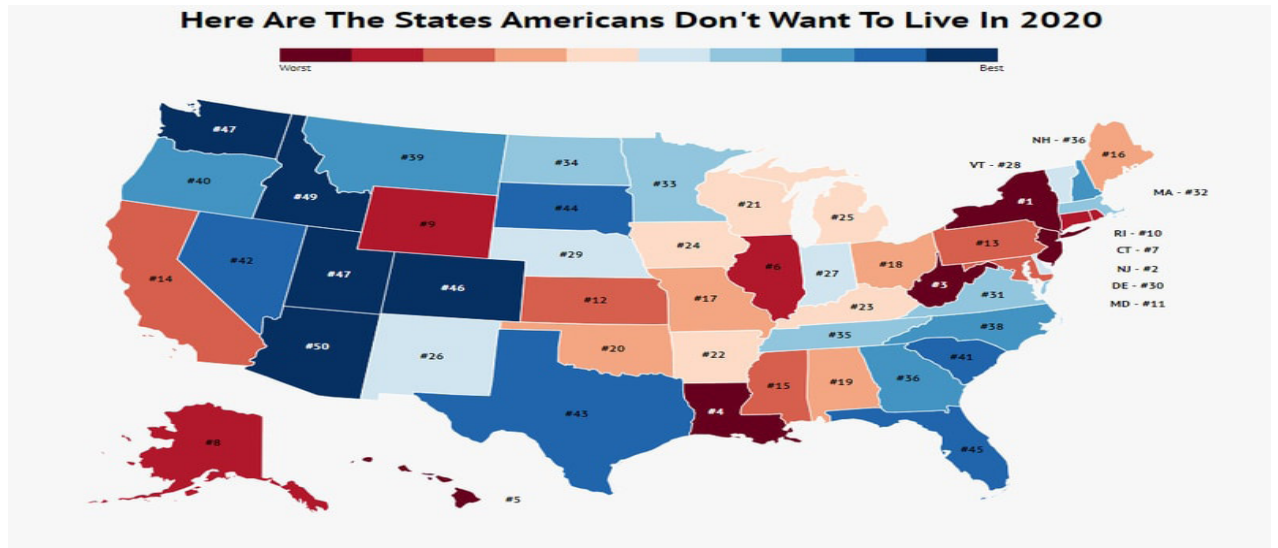
College graduates find themselves entering the job market in a sluggish economy, making it harder for them to start their lives in an already hyper-competitive job market.

"It's really tough out there for young people right now," Tara Smith, a senior public relations major at Hofstra University said. "All internships were cancelled for the summer, leaving a gap in my resume, and lots of my friends are struggling to find a job after graduation."

Some that can find jobs, however, are being forced to relocate, much to their irritation.

"I'm lucky to have found a job, but it's in Nashville," Joseph Ryan, a senior marketing major at Fordham University said. "I've never been there, and I was planning on staying in New York after graduation. All my friends and family are here, and I don't want to move."

Though some mourn leaving their hometowns behind, other soon-to-be graduates say they're happy to be leaving New York, something which they have been planning to do for a long time.



Courtesy of Zippia

"I was always planning on leaving New York after college," James Greenburg, a senior business major said. "COVID-19 was just the nail in the coffin. I'm happy to be leaving."

Some students cite the exorbitant cost of living as a reason to explore other places throughout the country.

"It's insanely expensive to live on Long Island," Caitlin Ferarra, a senior journalism major at Touro College said. "Forget about raising a family here. Unless you're very well off, it's hard to do that here."

According to an article in Newsday, the average price of a home on Long Island is \$480,000 in Nassau County and \$365,000 in Suffolk County. Long Island's average property tax is \$11,232 in Nassau and \$9,333 in Suffolk.

Other students say they are fed up with what they perceive to be an aggressive overreach on the part of the state government.

"I've had enough of these lockdowns, mask mandates, and increasingly high taxes," Christopher Cook, a senior engineering major

at St. Joseph's College said. "I feel like a prisoner in my own home. I can't do anything, and I'm increasingly losing my mind. It's not good for my health."

Aside from high living costs and excessive government control, students also cite a desire to seek a slower, quieter, and less crowded way of life as a reason for leaving the Empire State.

"People are very loud, rude, and aggressive here," Jamie Williams, a senior chemistry major at Adelphi University said. "There's tons of traffic, houses are on top of each other, and everywhere you go is crowded. I don't enjoy living here anymore."

Despite all of the chaos unleashed by COVID-19, some students still express a desire to stay in New York.

"I was born here, and all my friends and family are here," Michael Barrymore, a senior accounting major at New York University said. "I've got an awesome job lined up at PWC after graduation, and I don't want to leave. Hopefully things will get better soon."



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Upcoming Fashion Trends: Will You Guess Correctly?



Photo Courtesy of Jordan Horne

Horne and Gonzales show off their black corset.



Shelley Dean

Samant shows off her fashionable outfit.

BY SHELLEY DEAN

STAFF WRITER

Fashion trends come and go rapidly. With every new day, a new one seems to emerge. Some students keep up with what is popular, changing their wardrobe along with the rotating trends, while others stick with their own personal style.

“Sweater Vests and Corsets are very in right now, and a shift away from mom jeans into a high rise straight leg,” Liv Gonzales, a sophomore acting major said. Gonzales remembers certain trends that emerged during the pandemic, naming sweater vests and corsets as ones that particularly stood out.

Today, Gonzales describes her fashion sense as alternative girl boss. However when she was younger, her fashion was inspired by Disney Princesses, she said she even wore princess costumes to school.

“As I got older I used social media to figure out what was on-trend,” Gonzales said.

Looking forward to the next fashion trend, Gonzales imagines there will be a circling back to styles from the past. “I think we can continue to watch stuff from the 2000s come back into style, we will get that 20-year overlap,” Gonzales said.

“I also think that party clothes will be in the next couple of years because people are

going to be so excited to show off their outfits, once everyone is vaccinated. I think lounge is the mood of 2020 and we’re ready for some club fits.” Gonzales said.

Like many others, Gonzales is excited for a world where more than just her acting class can see her outfits.

Hailey Duchnowski, a junior public relations major has an interest in fashion for a few reasons.

“It’s always changing. There’s a new trend if not every day, every other day. Every week or month. Something that was popular 10 or 12 years ago can come back anytime, Duchnowski said.

“I think it’s going to be a color, like brown is in right now, a lot of neutral colors,” Duchnowski said. She is excited about this and points out that she’s already taking part in this soon-to-be trend, by wearing a flannel brown shirt.

Duchnowski’s personal fashion inspiration is Hailey Bieber. “She can pull off absolutely anything, she can take streetwear and dress it up or down, she can take a plain white t-shirt and match it with anything,” Duchnowski said.

Just like Hailey Bieber inspires many people’s wardrobes, Duchnowski remembers how Kamala Harris’ Inauguration outfit has been making waves.

“Her jacket was a huge staple piece and

everyone loved that, maybe color jackets based on that will be a trend,” Duchnowski said.

Unlike Duchnowski and Gonzales, senior broadcasting major Samantha Samant does not follow fashion trends and prefers her own personal style.

“I don’t partake in fashion trends so I cannot say exactly what the next one will be,” Samant said. “My personal style right now is mostly comfort and quick. Not too much, just relaxed.” Samant said.

Though she doesn’t follow trends, Samant loves fashion. She is a model that gets the chance to wear all different types of clothes. Her appreciation for fashion runs wide.

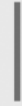
“I love all patterns and colors, I also love the movement and personality of each fabric in a garment, some fabrics have a little more sass in their movement while others flow elegantly,” Samant said.

Even though Samant doesn’t jump at what’s trending, she is able to appreciate fashion on her own time, and in her own personal way.

All three students have an idea of how fashion trends are decided, whether it’s through social media, celebrities, or just deciding what it’s going to be for yourself. No one truly knows what the next great fashion trend will be, but to these three, that’s the most exciting part.

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Tom Brady Makes History with Seventh Super Bowl Championship



COURTESY OF DEPOSIT PHOTOS

BY THERESA MORRISSEY & ANDREW SCARPACI

STAFF WRITER, SPORTS EDITOR

Super Bowl 55 was one for the ages as for the first time ever, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers played a Superbowl in their own stadium, as they “hosted” the reigning champions, the Kansas City Chiefs.

The game was highlighted by a competition between two superstar quarterbacks.

Tom Brady, six time Superbowl champion with the New England Patriots, signed a two year deal with the Buccaneers this past offseason. Brady was looking to win his seventh title, which would officially give him more than any team in NFL history.

Patrick Mahomes, playing in his third NFL season, and the youngest to ever win a championship, would look to lead his team to back-to-back rings, which has not been done since Brady and the Patriots did this in 2003-2004.

After the Chiefs took an early 3-0 lead, it would become a completely one sided game from there. The Buccaneers defense played an outstanding game, and kept the Chiefs from scoring a single touchdown, for the first time in Patrick Mahomes’ career.

The Buccaneers would defeat the Chiefs 31-9. This is the Buccaneers second Super Bowl championship as a franchise.

Rob Gronkowski played in his fifth super bowl and was able make history by breaking the record for Most Super Bowls with a Reception with five. Gronkowski also joined Jerry Rice as the only players with at least five receiving touchdowns in the Super Bowl. Gronkowski was able to reach this goal after coming out of retirement thanks to quarterback Tom Brady.

Tampa Bay Buccaneers fan Rachel Jenkins, a sophomore marketing major, is amazed with what Brady and Gronkowski were able to produce together at their age and with a new franchise.

“I thought it was incredible how Gronk and Brady were able to recreate what they did in New England”, she said. “It was so weird because I always rooted against the Patriots in past Super Bowls because of Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski but now I was cheering for them since they’re with the Buccaneers.”

Conner Lambert, a senior broadcasting major, believes that this game solidified Brady’s legacy to the NFL

“This game is more of an impact on Tom Brady’s career than anything else,” he said. “It showed he was good enough to bring a 7-9 team last season to win a Super Bowl and all during Covid.”

Lambert was disappointed in the lack of display shown by the Chiefs, and feels they have Mahomes no help.

“A game hyped up around these two quarterbacks ended up being all about the Bucs and Brady,” he said. “Patrick Mahomes had no chance with his offensive line not blocking and his receivers dropping so many passes.”

Lambert feels this does not negatively affect Mahomes long term, as he will have many more chances to make his mark.

“Mahomes still has a lot of career left to define his legacy other than this one game,” he said. “Mahomes is a superstar and he’s just getting started.”

Johnny Loughlin, a sophomore accounting major, agrees with Conner that this game

secured the conversation of the greatest from Tom Brady.

“This just proves Brady is his own franchise,” he said. “I think Brady will stay until he hits 10 rings then retire.”

Loughlin has no doubt Mahomes is an elite player at the quarterback position with much more to prove.

“Mahomes will grind even harder for the future of his career and will be the top QB in the league when Brady’s time comes to an end,” he said. “I think Mahomes will excel in different stats than Brady and will be known for his flexibility in the pocket.”

Loughlin is impressed with Mahomes performance and getting over 300 total yards despite the production from his offensive line.

“The pressure on Mahomes all game was sad to watch. He was trying his best to avoid sacks from 4 players at a time,” he said. “Mahomes is just that good even without an o-line he was able to evade and get passes off.”

Although the Super Bowl just ended and he is set to undergo minor knee surgery, Tom Brady has already posted Instagram stories about practicing for the 2021 NFL season. Tom Brady becomes only the second quarterback after Peyton Manning, to win a Super Bowl title with multiple franchises.

While the Buccaneers look to retain several key players in the offseason, they are already the early favorites to be the Super Bowl 56 champions. For Buccaneers fans like Jenkins, the current Super Bowl hasn’t set in yet.

“It still doesn’t feel real, we went from not making the playoffs to being Superbowl Champions,” she said.



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Men's Soccer Returns With High Expectations



A members of the mens soccer team playing a match.

COURTESY OF ATHLETICS

BY ANDREW SCARPACI

SPORTS EDITOR

When the 2020 fall sports season got canceled, athletes and coaches alike did not know what the future held. This all changed on Feb. 1, when the Northeast Conference (NEC) announced that fall & spring sports would be competing at the same time during spring season play.

Every sport will be playing shortened seasons, consisting of only Conference matchups. Men's Soccer will all look to capitalize on this new format.

After the long wait, LIU Sharks men's soccer competition will kick off on Monday, March 8.

With all the back and forth regarding their fall season Men's soccer head coach Michael Mordocco is grateful to get back onto the field.

"We are just thankful that we are able to practice, compete and be around each other," he said.

Mordocco believes the schedule changes are a better fit for his players' health and conditioning.

"It actually enhances our approach given the month advance before our first match and gives us the opportunity to get our players fit without injury," he said. "In the Normal fall season we would get three or four days before our first match."

Mordocco is not concerned about the

weather patterns the spring might hold as compared to the fall.

"Soccer is played in all types of weather. Our young men will be ready to brave the elements of adversity," he said.

Coach Mordocco has high expectations for the team this spring.

"We have one goal in mind, get back to the NEC championship match," he said. "In order to do that we need to finish top two in the league."

With a lot of key players from last year graduating, Mordocco is not concerned about the ability for first time starters and freshmen to step up and make a play a big role.

"We were grateful for our senior leadership from last season, they will be sincerely missed, but we feel that our returning squad have the same qualities and experience to take us forward," he said. "We also feel that our 14 player recruiting class has a lot of talent to make a positive impact immediately. We look forward to integrating them into the group."

Demetri Skoumbakis is the starting goalkeeper for the Sharks. Similarly to coach Mordocco, Skoumbakis is just excited to be back playing with his team.

"It feels great to be back on and off the field. My teammates and I are working extra hard to make this season our best since COVID has certainly changed our mindset," he said. "Now it is our chance to prove that we are capable of not only winning the NEC, but also compete in

the NCAA."

After having a great season last year splitting time with senior goalkeeper Matias Pesalaccia, Skoumbakis looked to improve on himself and maximize his role this season.

"Although I am very pleased personally about last season, losing a final certainly hurts," he said. This year I have been working to the best of my ability to improve my weaknesses and my game, so I can be ready to fill in a big role and surpass expectations."

This is Mordocco's third season coaching at LIU and second under the Sharks Division I program. Last year they went 6-2-1 in Conference matchups, good for second in the conference. They would defeat Bryant 4-0 in the first round of the NEC tournament, but fell short in penalty kicks to Fairleigh Dickinson University in the Championship game.

This year, a short seven game season for each team will determine the top two seeds that face off in the NEC championship on the weekend of April 16. The winner will move on into the NCAA tournament.

