

THE PIONEER

Award-Winning Newspaper of LIU Post

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Wednesday, February 24, 2021

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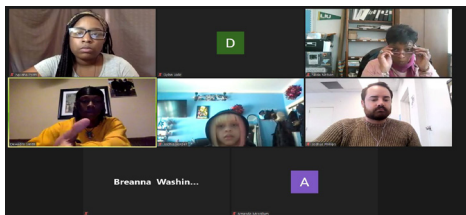
Students Report Mixed Reactions After Getting COVID-19 Vaccine



Sandra Lindsay, the director of critical care at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, became the first person in the U.S. to receive the COVID-19 vaccine on Dec. 14, 2020.

pg 2

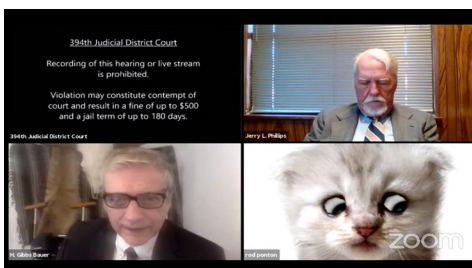
Black Student Unions Hosts Black Business Development Week



The Black Student Union (BSU) and Promise hosted a series of panels to discuss Black business from Monday, Feb. 15 to Friday, Feb. 19.

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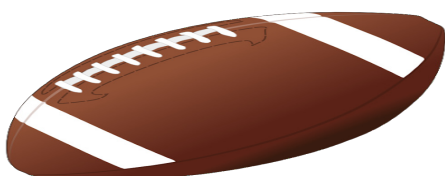
Lawyer Zoom Mishap Goes Viral



With spring semester beginning on campus, clubs and organizations have begun gearing up for what will be an eventful few months.

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A Super Bowl Experience



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

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Tradition Tuesdays Bring New Surprises To Students



Cupcakes available to students during Tradition Tuesday

SEHELLY DEAN

BY SHELLEY DEAN
STAFF WRITER

Grab your blue and gold spirit gear, sharks. Promise has made efforts to improve Tradition Tuesdays.

In past years, students were encouraged to put on their school spirit items and make their way to the campus concierge desk, where they would be given free water bottles, pencils and shirts. This year, free food, and exclusive clothing items are up for grabs.

"Last year they gave away all the same stuff every week, so it wasn't as fun so [my friends and I] stopped going," sophomore accounting major Juliana Deleon said.

Deleon was among the students wearing shark attire last Tuesday, so she was able to grab a cupcake from Promise officials.

"I didn't know they were doing it this year," Deleon said.

She hasn't seen any advertising for the event, but was pleasantly surprised when offered a cupcake on the last Tradition Tuesday.

"I think [Tradition Tuesdays] are better, but I don't think anybody knows about it," Deleon said.

Now that Deleon knows about Tradition Tuesdays, she will gladly be returning in her shark gear next week. Deleon is a student athlete so she has a surplus of spirit gear.

Other students are running into the problem of not having any shark attire.

"I've been trying to get more shark stuff because all of the stuff I have is all Pioneer stuff," sophomore English major Clare Coursey said. She is glad that Shark Nation has opened back up, but is still working on collecting LIU gear.

"Maybe if they gave students free gear at least one day a

week we could use it afterwards," junior musical theatre major Sophie Quiñonessaid. She says that she would participate in Tradition Tuesdays if she had more shark gear, but she too has a closet full of Pioneer shirts and sweatshirts.

Promise is making an effort to get the improvements publicized.

"We do have stuff on our Instagram story, and flyers in all of the resident halls and buildings on campus," success coach Tracy Reardon said. Reardon was managing the cupcake table for Tradition Tuesday on Feb. 16, spotting students in campus gear and offering them one.

"Next week we have sweatpants, so we're hoping that kind of like diversifying the kind of giveaways will make students choose which ones they want to go to," Reardon said.

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Students Report Mixed Reactions After Getting COVID-19 Vaccine



COURTESY OF HEATHER EARHARDT

BY CHRISTOPHER TRICK

STAFF WRITER

Sandra Lindsay, the director of critical care at Long Island Jewish Medical Center, became the first person in the U.S. to receive the COVID-19 vaccine, on Dec. 14, 2020.

Since then, almost 3 million people have received the vaccine, which requires two rounds of shots with a 28-day interval between injections.

Some students feel positive about the vac-

cine because they are excited to see progress during the pandemic.

"I'm glad the vaccine is finally being distributed," freshman nursing major Heather Earhardt said. "People have had enough of waiting around for this problem to be fixed."

Sophomore nursing major John Doocy agreed with Earhardt.

"It's about time this vaccine is distributed, but I understand that the elderly are the most vulnerable, so I was fine with waiting to get it," Doocy said.

Other students, however, have expressed reservations about the vaccine, citing health reasons and side effects as a concern.

"I'm concerned that if I get the vaccine, I'm going to become sick again," junior English major at Fordham University Ashley Cox said. "I had COVID-19 about a month ago, and I don't want to relive that again."

Earhardt received the vaccine on Feb. 1, and she says her experience since then has been mostly positive.

"It was a long wait to get the vaccine, but I'm glad I did," she said. "I felt a little weak for a few days after, but I've since recovered. My arm still hurts a little, though."

Doocy received the vaccine on Jan. 19. He says his body reacted negatively after the shot.

"I felt horrible, like my whole body had just shut down," Doocy said. "I know sometimes people feel a little sick after vaccines, but this

was on a whole other level. My body felt like it had just been hit by a truck. I know it's what I had to do, though. If I didn't get it now, I don't know how long I would have to wait before I could get it again."

Other students have also received the vaccine, and claim to have had mixed reactions to the vaccine.

"It was weird, like I was fluctuating between feeling fine and feeling sick," junior nursing major Josh Miller said. "I felt fine after receiving the vaccine, but for like a week afterwards, one day I was okay, and the next day I felt as sick as a dog."

"I thought this vaccine was supposed to protect you from COVID," freshman nursing major Sienna Taylor said. "I had COVID before I got the vaccine, and afterwards, it was like one day I felt really good, and the next I felt worse than when I had the virus."

Though students have had a variety of experiences after having received the vaccine, it seems like most students agree the vaccine is a step in the right direction towards conquering COVID-19.

"I may have felt awful after receiving the vaccine, but I know it's worth it," freshman nursing major David Williams said. "Most of my friends have gotten the vaccine, and they all agree."

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Events this Week

Wednesday, Feb. 24

- Joan Leslie, Slam Poet | 6 p.m.
Joan Leslie will preform for the campus commu-
nity.
- Madden Tournament| 8 p.m.
Students can join the brothers of Tau Kappa Ep-
silon for a Madden tournament.

Thursday, Feb. 25

- Headliners of Service Joe Theismann | 12 p.m.
Super Bowl quarterback Joe Theismann will
speak to the campus community
- No Talent Talent Show | 7:30 p.m.
Students can showcase their “talent” for a chance
to win a \$100 gift card.

Friday, Feb. 26

- Black on Broadway | 3 p.m.
Students can join alumni Morgan Siobhan Green,
Rhaamell Burke-Missouri, and Diamond Essence
White as they talk about their career on Broad-
way.

Saturday, Feb. 27

- Virtual Paint Night | 7 p.m.
Students can join the CNAfME in a Bob Ross
inspired paint night.



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Correction

In our Feb. 17 issue the Pioneer mistakenly referred to Sarah Kadtke as a music education major when she is actually an instrumental performance major.

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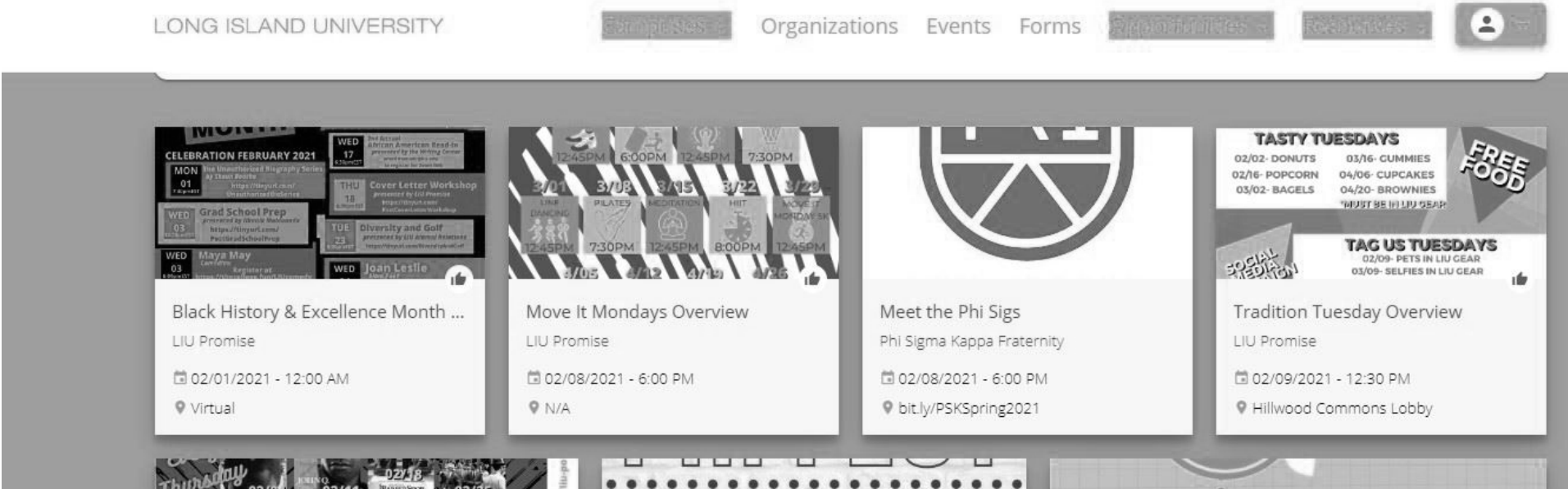
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Students Report Low Turn Out Rates at Virtual Involvement Fairs



A list of upcoming events on Experience Shark Nation

Dylan Valic

BY GABRIELLA CAVALERI

SATFF WRITER

With COVID-19 continuing to be a high risk, another semester begins with all student activities taking place over Zoom. Although virtual meetings are the safest way to get involved, this semester’s involvement fair did not involve a lot of students.

Planning out campus events during a pandemic is hard enough but getting students to participate is an additional struggle. One club on campus, The Thirst Project, is new to LIU and has the disadvantage of starting out during a chaotic year.

Despite the challenge, members of LIU Thirst got creative with their involvement fair by hosting a Kahoot where the winner receives a \$15 gift card. However, even with this incentive the turnout wasn’t great. The same can be

said for the Rainbow Alliance which, despite advertising on social media and the new presence system, had no students attend their involvement fair.

“There’s definitely ways to make virtual events less boring, like having trivia contests or playing games,” freshman business major and president of LIU The Thirst Project said, “but it still comes nowhere close to the wide scope of events you could hold in person. Holding virtual sessions can’t compare the true in person events.”

Talking with peers virtually cannot compare to a face to face interaction and students share a general lack of passion, according to several club leaders. The common conscience among student leaders is that virtual meetings aren’t working, especially for smaller clubs such as Rainbow Alliance.

“Even though we had a lot planned last semester in October and events for talking, guest speakers and video clips, even the Promise office who we were working with felt demotivated by the lack of engagement by students despite their efforts”, game design major and president of Rainbow Alliance Nicholas Frank said.

“I currently don’t think that any in person activity is the way to go, at least for this semester, but there are surely ways for clubs to be engaging; but it depends on the people that join and are present. I feel like larger clubs with more members will have an easier time with this, as our club has shrunk in both active members and engagement,” Frank said.

Student leaders hope that as campus slowly transitions into being completely in person again, that student engagement might pick up again.

Tradition Tuesdays Bring New Surprises To Students

continued from page 1

Reardon also mentioned that other clothing items that students cannot find in the bookstore or Shark Nation, and items such as reusable straws, will be offered in the upcoming Tuesdays.

The Promise staff says that they are working hard to make Tradition Tuesday special for students.

“At the end of the day it’s for you guys, the students, so we want to make sure that students are getting what they want,” Reardon said.

It has been hard for the Promise office to gauge whether or not the improvements have resulted in an increase of student involvement due to COVID-19.

“Sometimes people don’t want to come in here during common hour because that’s the most trafficked area, but once we get back to a little bit of ‘normal’ we will be able to get our engagement up,” Reardon said.

Reardon hopes more students will come and see what they have to offer in the upcoming weeks. With improvements having been made and more advertising being put out, the Promise office looks forward to seeing more students participate.



A student participating in Tradition Tuesday

Shelley Dean

Black Student Unions Hosts Black Business Development Week

BY DYLAN VALIC

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

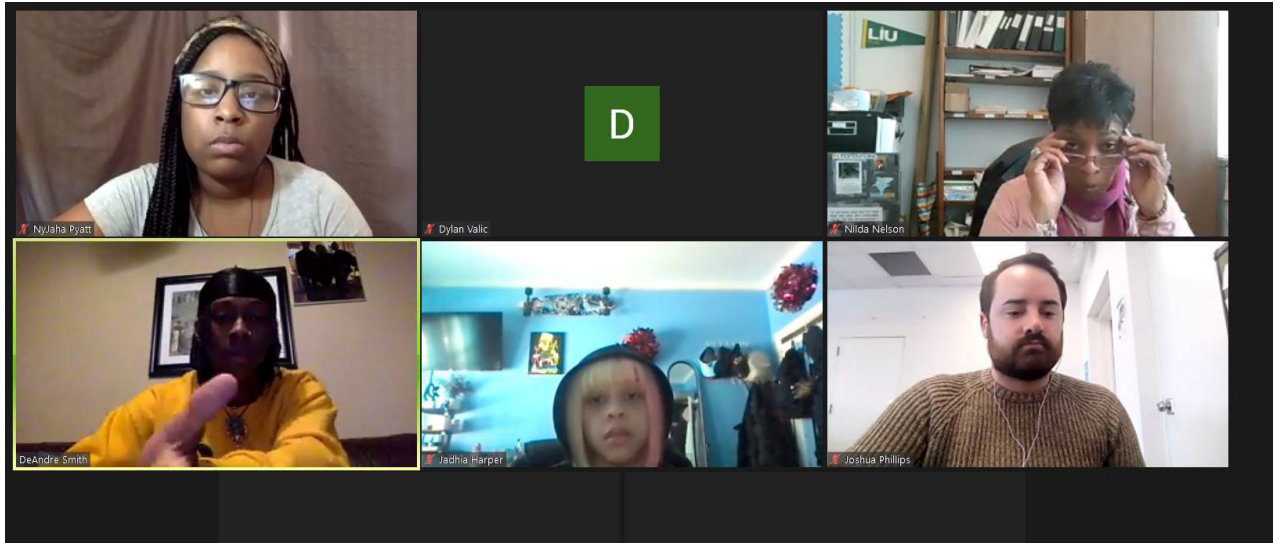
The Black Student Union (BSU) and Promise hosted a series of panels to discuss Black business from Monday, Feb. 15 to Friday, Feb. 19.

Each day of the week highlighted a different business owner who spoke about their business and their particular field of expertise. Speakers featured ranged from owners of clothing and cosmetic companies, such as PrettyEyes Cosmetics LLC, to entrepreneur's.

"We used our resources and connections to reach out to the different companies," a representative from the BSU said. "We explained what we wanted to accomplish and worked out availability for each day of the week."

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, DeAndre Smith, a former Post student, spoke about his clothing brand X Nihilo. The brand, pronounced "Ex Nihilo" means "out of nothing" in Latin.

Smith spoke about the process behind



DeAndre Smith speaking to students about his business

Dylan Valic

starting his own brand, and his motivations. He said that he is "not in it for the money" and that he only designs clothes that he would personally wear.

The event was part of a series of ongoing events hosted by BSU and Promise to celebrate

Black History Month.

"We feel as though the Black Business Development Week was successful," a representative from BSU said. "We definitely would like to do this event again next year and have more businesses on the panel."

25 Years of Catching 'Em All



Emma Robinson

A Pokemon themed Happy Meal from McDonalds

BY CALEB PALMER

STAFF WRITER

Pokemon has been capturing the hearts and minds of kids and adults alike for the past 25 years. What once started as a simple video game on the Game Boy has now evolved into a massive multi-media franchise including an ongoing trading card game, an anime currently in its 23rd season, a massive amount of merchandise and millions of copies of video games sold. With how much of an impact the franchise has had on pop culture, it should be no surprise that plenty of people on campus had their own memories of the series to share.

Steele Whitney, a theater major, was and still is a fan of the franchise. As a child, he had distinct memories of watching new episodes of the Pokemon anime on weekends and of sinking hours into "Pokemon Colosseum," a 2004 Nintendo Gamecube game. Most importantly, Steele has always had an affinity for Pokemon trading cards.

"As a kid, every time my mom and I would go to Target, I would always insist on getting Pokemon cards because I loved collecting them and still do," Steele said.

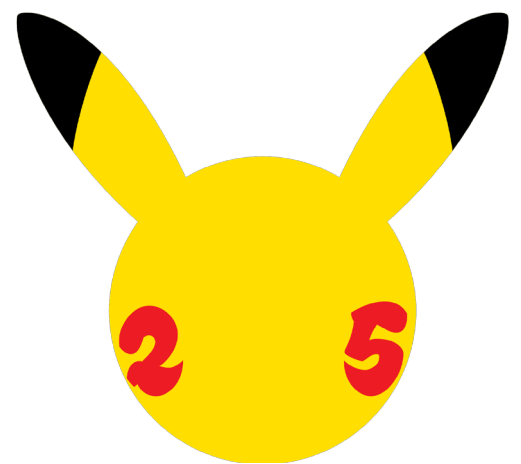
Professors Ashok and Alessandro also had fond memories of the franchise from when they were young. Alessandro owns a collection of VHS tapes that contain the first 100 or so episodes of the Pokemon anime.

"I would pop them in and watch them all the time and I still own them to this day," he said. Meanwhile Ashok has memories of standing in line for the release of 1999's "Pokemon Yellow" and of watching the first Pokemon movie in theaters. "I cried at the part where Ash turned to stone because I thought he died," Ashok said.

Another student, named Thomas, has very strong memories of the franchise as a child. He grew up watching his brother play "Pokemon Red" and was an avid collector of the trading cards. One of the cards he owned was a holographic Charizard. This card is one of the rarest in the trading card game as it is worth several thousand dollars. "Probably my strongest memory was my younger sister ripping my holographic Charizard card in two," he said

"years later she apologized after figuring out how much it was worth."

The Pokemon franchise's storied history remains true in the hearts of not only our fellow students and staff, but of people of all colors and creeds all over the world. As the franchise enters its 25th year and beyond, people all around the world will continue to catch 'em all for years to come.



Lawyer Zoom Mishap Goes Viral

BY NICHOLAS ROSA
STAFF WRITER

A video from Presidio County in Texas has gone viral. County Attorney Rod Ponton accidentally had a cat filter on at the beginning of a Zoom call for a court hearing. Once he realized, Ponton had a hard time getting rid of the cat filter.

“I don’t know how to remove it. I’ve got my assistant here and she’s trying to remove it but, I’m prepared to go forward with it. I’m here live. I’m not a cat,” Ponton said.

Matthew Saracco, a sophomore sports management major couldn’t believe people on the call took Ponton seriously.

“My sister first showed me the video. I thought it was hilarious. I had to watch it over and over again. If I were on that call I would’ve died laughing. I don’t know how those guys didn’t,” Saracco said.

In an interview with BBC Today, Ponton said, “when I got on Zoom everything seemed fine. My picture popped up, I was in the waiting room with the judge. But when the judge called the case, I disappeared and a cat appeared instead of me to my great surprise of course.”

The computer he was using during this call was his secretary’s old computer. His secretary, who is embarrassed about the situation, has a young daughter that probably played with the



The viral Zoom filter incident

Courtesy of The New York Times

camera filter.

“I was having lunch after that hearing, and I was wondering why my phone was blowing up with calls from around the country and around the world,” Ponton told BBC Today. “I didn’t know if I was in trouble or what was going on, but I finally figured it out. I got as big a laugh out of it as everybody else.”

“If I can make the country chuckle for a moment in these difficult times they’re going through, I’m happy to let them do that at my expense,” Ponton said in a phone interview with The New York Times.

Dakota Michaels, a senior psychology

major, feels the video is more than just a funny viral video. “It’s a short and simple video, but it’s more than that. It’s giving the world a good laugh, especially right now when we all need it.”

Judge Roy Ferguson from the 394th Judicial District of Texas said in a tweet, “IMPOR-TANT ZOOM TIP: If a child used your computer, before you join a virtual hearing check the Zoom Video Options to be sure filters are off.”

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Find all of the words in the sidebar in the puzzle.

Test your skills and upload your finished puzzle to social media and tag the Pioneer.



Women's Soccer Returns Expectating A Comeback Season

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. Women's Soccer will all look to capitalize on this new format.

After the long wait, LIU Sharks women's soccer competition will kick off on Tuesday March. 2.

Last year was a rough season for the Sharks as they went 4-6 in conference play, and 5-12-1 overall.

Head Coach Collin Audley was brought in this offseason to take over the position and maximize the potential of this talented roster. Despite all the added circumstances this year has brought, Audley is committed to not letting it take away from his first season at LIU.

"This year has brought challenges that none of us have been through before. To my knowledge there is not a playbook for leading an athletic program during a global pandemic," he said. "I don't think that being a young coach or an old coach will be the deciding factor in the success of the program. I fall back on fundamental performance and moral skills, that's what I try to convey to the team as well."

Audley is certain his players are just as motivated to push through and compete at their best.

"I must also say that the Student-Athletes I work with have been exceptional throughout," he said. "They deserve a ton of credit for their relentless commitment to the program."

Audley admits it has been very challenging to work with all the back and forth regarding their fall season.

"I do think the uncertainties have been tough on the staff and the players because we are people who like working towards a target," he said. "It's been a moving or non-existent target for us for several months. Changing dates, new health protocols, strange training routines, unclear expectations, multiple quarantines, postponements, cancellations and a deadly virus make it so tough for all of us."

Audley claims everyone involved has done a great job at keeping aware of the circumstances, even when it felt like there was nothing available.

"Good coaches know that the little details make a big impact. So, it can be a bit stressful when you don't have any information at all," he said. "Our administration and community leaders deserve a ton of credit because they have worked so hard to keep the student-



The women's soccer team playing a game

Courtesy of Athletics

athletes safe, communicate to staff, modifying education practices and finding ways to offer a competitive experience this spring."

Audley claims the adjusted and shortened schedule will have no impact on game plan and outlook for the team this season.

"I expect them to express themselves on the field and to enjoy playing the game. I expect them to build relationships and to back each other up. Watching them train the last couple of weeks, it's clear that we are not going to make it easy for our opponents," he said. "I expect lots of challenges and some great moments. It should be really fun."

Audley is not concerned about what the spring weather patterns or anything else might hold as compared to the fall.

"We will play any time of day, home or away, any day of the week. We are not a team or group of people who expect everything to be perfect," he said. "We know that we will need to be adaptable in the way we play."

Coach Audley has high expectations for the Sharks on the field this season.

If you see their body language, you can tell the team is excited to play. The opportunity to grow individually and collectively, compete for an NEC League Title, Win the NEC Tournament and beat teams in the NCAA tournament are all still on the table," he said. "The sharks want to eat."

Kayla DeTreux is the starting goalkeeper for the Sharks. She was extremely excited to find out the season would be official this spring, after all the waiting this past fall.

"It's an amazing feeling knowing that we're getting back into NEC games this year. Hearing about the postponement of our Fall Season left us all devastated, let alone not knowing if it was definitely going to be rescheduled for the Spring," she said. "When we were finally told that we would be allowed to play this season,

whether it was a full schedule or only conference games, it was the best news we had received since the start of the pandemic."

DeTreux is not treating this season any differently or lightly due to the outlook of the schedule.

"Even though the season has been shortened as a result of the pandemic, myself as well as my teammates are not treating it any differently. If anything, we're taking this more seriously than ever," she said. "We want to show both the NEC and the LIU Athletic Department that they made the right decision by allowing us a season this year."

DeTreux is expecting nothing but greatness from herself and her team this year.

"Our intentions for this season are to play our absolute best, work the hardest we ever have before, and of course win," she said. "With regards to my game, I'm looking to protect the net the best that I can and hopefully help lead my team through a successful season."

Amanda Hjelle is a midfielder and captain of the Sharks. Hjelle is very motivated to make the most of this season after all the situations that held them back.

"I'm so excited to start off this season in just a few weeks. It has been over a year since we played a competitive game so there is nothing that I look forward to more right now, and I know that the rest of the team feel exactly the same way," she said.

As one of the top midfielders, Hjelle looks to lead the team the best she can on both sides of the ball.

"In my position, it's important that I keep the team together and make sure that we work as a unit. I'll do my best to back up our goalkeepers and defenders but also to join the attack," she said. "As captain, I also aspire to lead by example by always working hard in both practice and games as well as encouraging my teammates both on and off the field."



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A Super Bowl Experience



Eddie McQuade at the Superbowl

Courtesy of Eddie McQuade



Eddie McQuade at the Superbowl

Courtesy of Eddie McQuade

BY ANDREW SCARPACI

SPORTS EDITOR

Eddie McQuade, a senior sports management major, got the opportunity of a lifetime when he had the experience of intern at the Super Bowl. Over his time there, McQuade got to witness and work firsthand in what went on to prepare for the big game in Tampa, Florida.

The Organization that Eddie traveled down with was called Living Sport. McQuade said he found Living Sport on LinkedIn.

"In order to graduate from Post you have to do an internship. So going into the fall I knew I had about 12 credits left to graduate so I was saving it for the spring," he said. "I was emailed a link with a bunch of LinkedIn internships through my advisor, so I started scrolling through it. Eventually I saw 'Living Sport Tampa 2021 Super Bowl' and immediately went all in to get into the program."

McQuade had many times where he was unsure if it would work out due to the timing and communication.

"At the time I saw the application they had already started doing interviews, this was like mid October," he said. "Weeks went by and I asked them if I was in the program. I was emailed saying 'we're still going over your application' and I was honestly losing some hope considering it was right around thanksgiving break."

McQuade said he stayed patient and waited for the perfect time to take advantage of.

"Right as we came back from Thanksgiving break, The program emailed me saying that

three spots just opened and I was gonna be one of ten candidates for the interview the next day," he said. "I killed it the next day and was brought into the family. Even though the whole process was definitely nerve racking, I wouldn't change it."

McQuade said the best part was when he found out exactly what the program would offer in exchange for the time put in.

"I liked how they were gonna get us to the Superbowl, tour Tampa Bay & network with professionals in the sports industry," he said.

McQuade loved the job he and his team had specifically laid out for them.

"I worked directly with the populous at the game and showed people how to use the Policy Path App along with working the fan events over the three days before the game," he said. "They were located at three different locations around Tampa Bay & it was an amazing experience."

McQuade claimed the best part was when he got to enjoy watching the game after working for the days leading up to kickoff.

"My best memory without a doubt was being inside Raymond James Stadium during the Super Bowl. I never in my wildest dreams ever would've thought I'd be lucky enough to be at one let alone the one right in a pandemic," he said. "Watching Tom Brady vs Patrick Mahomes will be a Super Bowl that'll be talked about forever and I'm honored to say I was there to watch Brady get his seventh title".

McQuade said the people he met and the relationships he created will be something he cherishes forever.

"I learned about the city of Tampa Bay & the 39 other people I went on this trip with," he said. "The 40 people on the internship came from all over the country and the world to get to Tampa bay for 10 days and it created a life-long bond."

McQuade was ecstatic to get the opportunity to work at the Superbowl, and had a lot to take away from the experience.

"I learned how to grow as a person, how to get involved in the sports industry and how people whom you've never even knew existed can have the biggest impact on your life," he said. "Tampa Bay is a beautiful place and I would recommend it to anyone who wants to visit Florida."

