

SEEKING RECOGNITION IN SILENCE

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The water polo team at Fresno City College swims tirelessly in the shadows, their achievements obscured by the glare of more popular sports. Despite all their dedication and talent in the pool, they remain overlooked and unrecognized by the college and local media.

Disheartened, the team feels a sense of disappointment as their efforts go unnoticed, yearning for the recognition they rightfully deserve.

Sometimes when women's sports are mentioned, it's dismissed by someone saying, "I don't watch women play sports."

At FCC, there are many sports teams on campus. Some receive attention more than others: the water polo team is among those that do not.

Water polo does not attract a large audience and lacks the discussion it deserves.

Hilary Boos, the head coach of the water polo team and swim and dive, has over 20 years of coaching experience and 17 years in education. This is her third year coaching at FCC.

For the members of the FCC water polo team, the discouragement of their unnoticed efforts is appreciable as they reflect on the glaring absence of coverage and recognition they receive.

"We don't get any coverage," Boos said. "I

don't see anybody at our games at the school, and I get it because we're not on campus. Nobody knows who we are. Nobody knows who I am."

FCC women's water polo team practices at high schools because the pool at FCC isn't adequate to play, causing them to practice late so they don't conflict with any of the high school teams.

"You know, it's hard when you're not on campus, and people don't see you," Boos said.

Tori Valdez is a player on the FCC water polo team and plays utility, which is a versatile secondary member but can take the lead if need be.

Valdez faced certain obstacles while playing this sport, like how getting through practices can be challenging and building that team chemistry between one



FRESNO CITY COLLEGE WOMEN'S WATER POLO AND SWIM AND DIVE, HEAD COACH HILARY BOOS, AND HER PLAYERS DOING LAPS IN THE POOL AT THEIR PRACTICE ON MAR. 14, 2024. PHOTO BY DEVIN TAING.

another.

"I think in the Central Valley it gets a good amount of publicity because of how good the Fresno State water polo team is but I think it could be talked about more to high school students who want to play," Valdez said.

So if you are thinking about joining water polo or want to see them play in action, go watch and support the FCC water polo team.

ANOTHER PLAYER

BITES THE DUST

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NFL Free Agency is underway for the 2024-2025 season, marking a pivotal moment as teams seek to boost their rosters ahead of the NFL draft.

Starting Monday, March 11, 2024, teams have two days to negotiate deals with free-agent players as an opportunity to get them on their team roster. All negotiations must be submitted and under the team cap, by Wednesday, March 13, 2024.

With the salary cap being \$255 million, per team, \$30 million above last year's cap. This year's free agency period has been notable, with some of the league's biggest names changing teams.

Russell Wilson, who was traded from the Seattle Seahawks to the Denver Broncos during the 2021-2022 season, has agreed to a one-year contract worth \$1.21 million with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Denver will pay out the remaining \$39 million of his contract, which they had with Wilson. This unexpected move surprised many in the football world.

Another significant trade was the departure of Saquon Barkley from the New York Giants. Barkley, who had only played for the Giants, became a free agent after the team decided not to franchise tag him, opting instead for a one-year contract with a predetermined salary.

He has since signed a three-year contract with the Philadelphia Eagles worth \$37.75 million, with \$26 million fully guaranteed. Including sponsorship deals and other contracts, Barkley's earnings could reportedly reach up to \$46.75 million.

Team decisions will be more clearer following the NFL Draft, which will take place April 25-27.



ALL 32 NFL TEAMS DECLARING THEIR PICKS FOR FREE AGENCY. COMPOSITE BY SAMANTHA WASHBURN

REPRESENTATION FOR ATHLETES

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The Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a club made by student athletes for the betterment of all athletics at Fresno City College.

Kindall Pierson, FCC softball player, is the secretary of SAAC and the event coordinator. She knew she wanted to be on board with this club as soon as she heard about it.

"A way for student athletes to be heard a bit better," Pierson said.

She understands that coaches and student athletes alike may not get the attention they deserve, which is why a club can be great for both people.

Student athletes not only balance school and their sport, but everything else that comes with being a student-athlete like travel, practice and work outside of school. It can be a lot for a person, but it can also be what holds an athlete together.

"It's a way of teaching you how to be a better version of yourself," Pierson said.

Pierson hopes to get the word of SAAC not only at FCC, but they also hope to go to elementary schools in the area to show students who want to get in sports that there is a club for them, to help in their journey.

For FCC, Pierson hopes to get more athletes involved and for them to be able to help not just sports but the community as a whole.

"Just trying to get more

athletes to feel comfortable coming out, and not being afraid to put themselves out there," Pierson said.



STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISOR COMMITTEE PRESIDENT BRISA SERNA WORKING CLUB RUSH, RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS FOR THE CLUB. PHOTO PROVIDED.

FCC's Associate Dean of Athletics Derick Johnson was an early supporter of this club. This is a club that most four year colleges have, so having one at FCC was a no brainer.

"[SAAC] represents student athletes' interests, externally and internally," Johnson said.

Each FCC coach was contacted to see who from their team would want to join the club. From those choices, Rampage reporter and track and field athlete Brisa Serna was chosen as President from her peers and FCC Softball Head Coach Linda Garza is the advisor of SAAC.

Johnson hopes this club can give student athletes a central voice and for it to be easier for him to receive any concerns students may have.

ATHLETES VOICES

Who is a female athlete that inspires you?

Tara Davis-Woodhall (American Olympic Athlete)



LAMAR MITCHELL
Business Management Major

"She is a long jumper and is a current long-jump champion and she is my favorite because she is nice. Her technique is fire, her motivation, her work ethic... everything is fire."

Mallory Swanson (American Soccer Player)



ALANNA HARRISON
Kinesiology Major

"She has been my favorite athlete since I was twelve and it'll always be that way. She is so athletic and she reminds me of myself and you know as a black woman there are always people of color who I look up to."

Juju Watkins (Basketball Player at USC)



NOAH TAYLOR
Psychology Major

"Juju Watkins is my favorite athlete because she is the guard at USC Trojans. She is simply a bucket and she is humble about it."