The Daily Campus

THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT SINCE 1896 • VOLUME CXXIX, NO. 123

Thursday, April 23, 2026




# Quinnipiac cuts D1 women's rugby team



**A member of the Quinnipiac women's rugby team carries the ball in a game against Sacred Heart University. The team that has won several NCAA championship titles for Quinnipiac is being downgraded from a division one sport to a club team.** PHOTO BY COURTESY OF @QURUGBY ON INSTAGRAM.

**by Harika Goteti**
CAMPUS CORRESPONDENT
SHE/HER/HERS
hag23010@uconn.edu

The Quinnipiac University athletics department announced changes to its varsity sports sponsorship, demoting the women's rugby team from varsity to club status and adding a men's indoor and outdoor track and field team instead, according to AthleticBusiness.

Sammi Agostin, a sixth-semester junior on the team who's in the Doctor of Physical Therapy program, said that the team found out in a meeting 20 minutes before their scheduled practice time.

"It was immediately devastating," Agostin said.

Agostin said the team was met by Director of Athletics Greg Amodio and Deputy Director of Athletics Sarah Fraser. Amodio sat down, pulled a script out of a manila folder and stated that due to resource allocation and Title IX compliance, they've chosen to move women's rugby from varsity to club status, effective May 11.

"When we heard varsity to club, everyone in the room started crying." Agostin said. "We take pride in being pioneers of NCAA Division I women's rugby, and having that stripped away for something that wasn't our fault — We haven't even had a losing season. It feels so bad. In fact, we actually bring money to the school and have a profit margin."

Former professional rugby player Ilona Maher, a two-time Olympian and Olympic medalist who won bronze at the 2024 Paris Olympics, played rugby at Quinnipiac for three years.

On an Instagram story, Maher tagged the school and their athletics program and captioned the post "Shame on you."

The team achieved major success by winning three consecutive Division I national championships in 2015, 2016 and 2017, according to Goff Rugby Report.

A change.org petition to reinstate Quinnipiac women's rugby has over 24,000 verified signatures.

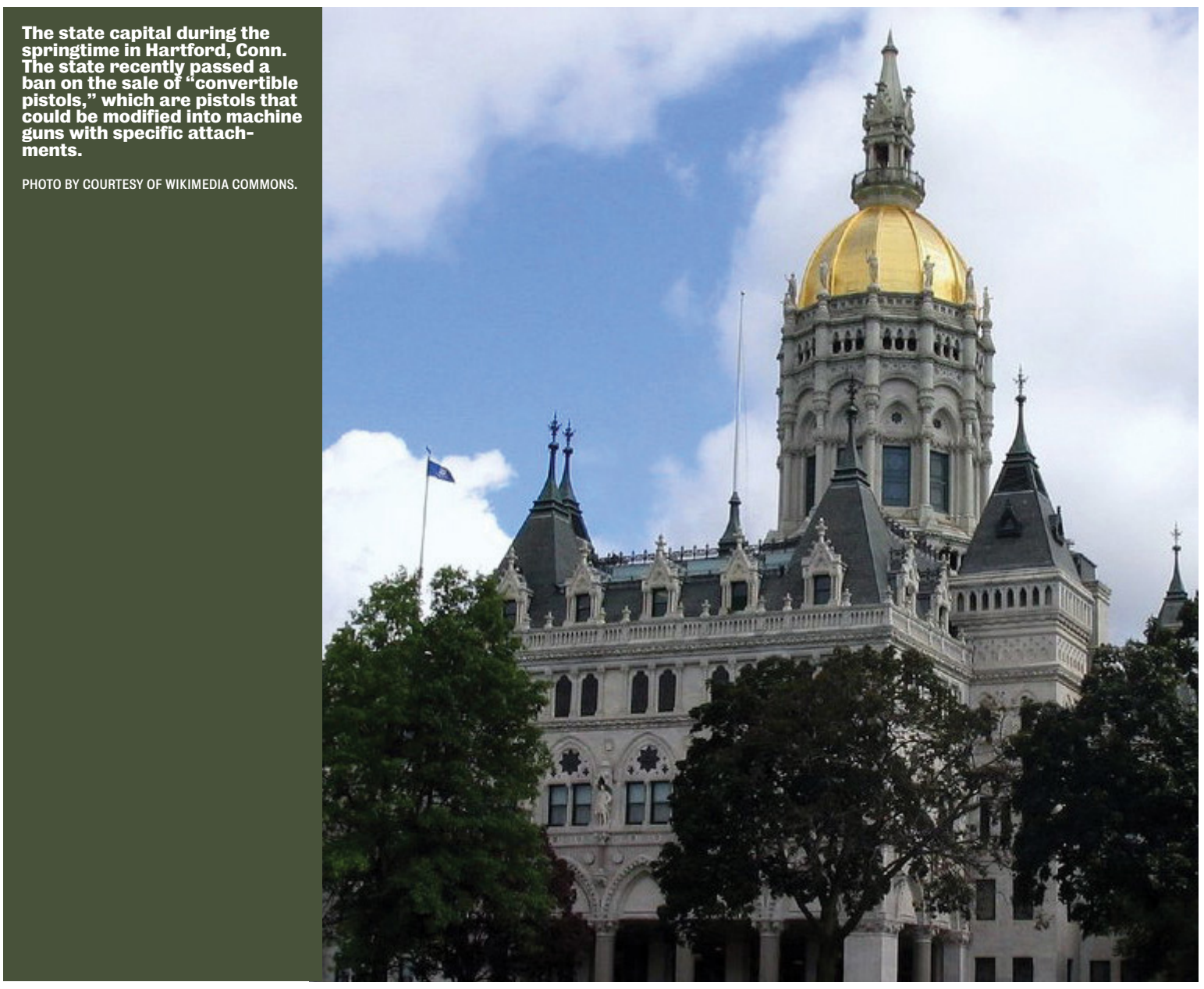
Lucy Lamborn, an eighth-semester Quinnipiac student who captains the team said the team has started a petition and a GoFundMe to raise legal fees to "investigate why this decision was made, especially since [the administrators] aren't reaching back out to [the team]."

Lamborn said the number of people that have signed the petition is double the student population at Quinnipiac.

"Clearly, our mission goes beyond our community," Lamborn said. "We have families from California, the UK, New Zealand and USA Rugby supporters behind us."

Lamborn said that the team is asking for "the respect [they and their coaches] deserve."

"Their actions have displayed that they do not think we matter, but we have just as much of a right to exist as anyone else," Lamborn said. "Quinnipiac Rugby was the second Division I program in the country and has been the most stable since 2010... We are calling on the community to speak out."



**The state capital during the springtime in Hartford, Conn. The state recently passed a ban on the sale of "convertible pistols," which are pistols that could be modified into machine guns with specific attachments.**

PHOTO BY COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS.

## State News:
### Sale of "convertible pistols" banned, former State Representative dies

**by Pierce Colfer**
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR
HE/HIS/THEY
pierce.colfer@uconn.edu

State House of Representatives passes ban on sale of "convertible pistols"

The Connecticut House of Representatives passed a ban on "convertible pistols" Wednesday, which bans the sale of pistols that can be altered to become a machine gun by attaching a pistol converter, CT Mirror reported.

The bill passed with an 86-64 vote. All 86 votes in favor came from Democrats, with 15 Democrats joining all House Republicans in voting against the bill.

The bill, Substitute House Bill 5043, An Act Concerning Convertible Pistols and Unfinished Frames or Unfinished Lower Receivers, was originally introduced by Gov. Ned Lamont and hopes to stop companies from manufacturing legal weapons that can be illegally altered to become automatic, according to CT Mirror.

The bill will not affect people who already own weapons that fall under the bill and will not prevent people who own convertible pistols from selling them to friends or family, according to CT Mirror.

The bill's opponents argued that it shouldn't be illegal to own an item that, by itself, isn't illegal because it could be altered into something illegal or deadly, according to CT Mirror. State Rep. Craig Fishbein, a Republican, compared it to banning pool chemicals.

The bill is set to go into effect on Oct. 1.

Former CT State Rep. Stephen Dargan passed away

Former Connecticut State Rep. Stephen Dargan of West Haven, 71, died Wednesday from cancer, CT Insider reported.

Dargan served 13 terms as state representative, first being elected in 1990. Dargan left the role to serve on the state Board of Pardons and Paroles in 2016.

Dargan is remembered amongst his colleagues as being fun-loving and hardworking, according to CT Insider.

Connecticut Attorney General William Tong wrote that he was "deeply saddened" about Dargan's passing in a press release.

"Dargan was a close colleague in the legislature where we worked together on important legislation to improve the criminal justice system and protect public safety," Tong wrote. "When I started in the legislature, Chairman Dargan was a giant -- Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety, highly respected and well loved by his colleagues. He never took himself too seriously, and I could count on him to give me a good ribbing when I deserved it. We loved him, all of us, and our state was made better, and much safer, because of Steve Dargan."

Rep. John B. Larson of Connecticut's First Congressional District called Dargan "an outstanding leader for the people of West Haven and the entire State of Connecticut" in a press release.

"I was proud to serve with him in the Connecticut General Assembly as a colleague and a friend," Larson said. "He was a person with a heart of gold, a good sense of humor, and a deep understanding of what the people he was sworn to serve needed and had the dedication to get it accomplished. As Chairman of the Committee on Public Safety, he rallied our state after the tragic Sandy Hook shooting to enact some of the strongest gun safety laws in the nation – and save lives."

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