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## The Grizzly, October 24, 2024

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Ursinus College Presents

# THE GRIZZLY

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## Zach the Bear's Birthday Party!

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Photo Credit: Debbie Slavutsky

Ursinus' beloved mascot, Zach the Bear, invites everyone to his first ever birthday party Saturday October 26th! With the campus buzzing with events surrounding Homecoming weekend, students and alumni alike will have the chance to stop by Kaleidoscope Plaza from 11:45-12:45 to say hi to the birthday bear. Activities will include carnival games, coloring sheets, birthday cake, face painting, bubbles, and music. For any alumni bringing along their Bear cubs, a meet and greet with the birthday bear is the perfect way to keep the little ones occupied!

"Homecoming is one of the longest

standing traditions at Ursinus! Incorporating the bear's birthday brings school spirit to Ursinus on the day of [the] event," commented Alex Bieleski, Assistant Director for Alumni Engagement. And no one knows school spirit like Aidan Nadell '25, the not-so-secret wearer of the bear suit.

Nadell was one of the biggest inspirations for the event. He wanted to bring to life "who" the bear really is. Before commencement of the birthday party could begin, an official name for the mascot had to be established. "We put a lot of thought into what the name would be. There's been The Grizz

thrown around, Zachie, Zacharias," said Nadell. With an official name now in the books, going further in creating a type of character for the bear is possible. "These conversations started in the spring when I realized that my birthday is next Friday on the 25th. All I want for my birthday is for the mascot to have a name. So, how do we get that done? Throw a birthday party for the mascot!" remarked Nadell. With Ursinus' plans of continuing Zach the Bear's birthday on Homecoming weekend for years to come, Nadell hopes the name will help carry on the legacy he helped build. "I want to be able as an



## Zach the Bear's Birthday Party! (con't)

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alumni to come back and see they're still doing great things with this."

Any alumni who have taken on the mantle of the bear suit are also being celebrated. With current bears-in-

training for next year's mascot duties, the Admissions Office is ensuring the passion and drive Nadell brings to Zach will be carried on each year. Ursinus intends to celebrate Zach the Bear's

birthday for years to come, honoring our beloved mascot and his wearers!



## Ursinus Baseball Investing in the Future

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There is an old adage that you need to spend money to make money, and it seems that Ursinus Baseball is trying to do just that. In this case, making "money" means success on the field, and Coach Kyle Lindsay and the Ursinus Athletics department are making significant investments in the baseball team in search of more wins in the spring of 2025.

With the fall season just getting underway at Thomas Field, Ursinus Baseball has begun to make some additions in the hope that they will be beneficial to the team for years to come. One of two brand new batting cages has been erected down the left field line, with the second set to go up in the near future. Along with the brand new cages, Ursinus Baseball is installing new Pitch AWRE technology that films every play from every angle, with a six HD camera setup that provides automatic highlights and an instant replay portal that can be utilized for scouting and player development.

Senior pitcher David Morgan, sees limitless possibilities for the new Pitch AWRE platform, explaining, "We're all really excited for what [Pitch AWRE] can do for the pitchers. It gives us the

opportunity to go back and look at our pitching mechanics during the game and remember what pitches we threw that we may have given up a hit on and potentially see why."

These significant additions do not come without significant cost for Ursinus Baseball and Ursinus Athletics, with the field upgrades costing tens of thousands of dollars in fundraising money. Lindsay is clearly making a concerted effort to improve the facilities for his players in an attempt to enhance practices and best use the limited space that he has for such a large team.

Finishing the 2024 spring season with an unsatisfactory, 12-26 final record, it was time for changes to be made and with the nature of college baseball, changes made for the immediate present and the future would easily be the most beneficial in the long run. Dan Bass, Ursinus Baseball ace, recounted last year's disappointing outcome, saying, "it didn't go how we expected it to," and expressed his excitement for the new additions to the field. The new cages and new Pitch AWRE cameras will be invaluable to player development for Ursinus Baseball as well as being a notable selling

point for future recruits.

Players are ecstatic about the upgrades, with one batting cage that is quickly deteriorating and the other having blown over during a harsh storm last season. Jordan Williams, Ursinus Baseball senior infielder, is extremely grateful for a new look down the left field line, feeling that the cages will "allow us to be more productive during practice and will be beneficial to the program going forward." Furthermore, Ursinus Baseball has become accustomed to their limited camera view not only for livestreams, but also to analyze performances, players, and scout, and with the new Pitch AWRE that will be a problem of the past.

The ramifications of these expensive additions are yet to be seen, but one thing is for certain, Coach Lindsay is doing what he came here to do and that is to improve the Ursinus Baseball program. While sustained success is the ultimate goal, small steps like improving the facilities for the team are costly bullets to bite, but a necessary move for the future of the program.





# Bear Bazaar is Back

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On Saturday, October 26th, Ursinus Students will get a unique chance to try their hands at running a small business at the “Bear Bazaar” event. Hosted by the U-Imagine center, Bear Bazaar gives students a chance to sell their products on campus in Olin Plaza during Homecoming weekend. Each participant will be given a designated area and table in the plaza to display their creations and passions. The idea is to give students real-world business practice via the high traffic of the weekend - alumni, family, and friends will all be interacting at the pop-up market, so students will get valuable experience communicating and selling their products to members of their community and beyond. Even better, they will have a chance to make a profit by making sales.

In the past, Bear Bazaar has given

all kinds of businesses a spotlight. Students have sold their handmade jewelry, baked goods, and custom clothing companies. Some have even promoted their identities as influencers and used the market to grow their social media presence. Even if they do not have a fully fledged business, students have sold old clothes, shoes, and other miscellaneous items in a yard sale manner. Businesses of all kinds have succeeded and profited at the Bear Bazaar.

It can be daunting to launch or practice your business as a full-time student, which is why the U-Imagine Center is there to help. They help the owners create branding such as logos, slogans, and visuals to enhance the selling potential of the product, as well as offer one-on-one advice about how to treat customers and be an effective salesperson. This makes the setup

process easy to navigate for the seller, and gives them an advantage over other entrepreneurs due to the expert mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs of the U-Imagine Center.

All students are encouraged to participate, especially if you have a specific product, skill, or social media presence you have always wanted to profit off. Stop into the U-Imagine Center anytime and ask about how to get started. If you do not wish to sell, then be sure to stop by the Bear Bazaar as part of your homecoming weekend festivities. Mohammed Abdelatty '27 plans to attend, saying, “I’m thrilled to see the entrepreneurial spirit come to life and am very curious as to what type of student businesses will be showcased.” Abdelatty is absolutely correct - it will be exciting to see what creations Ursinus Students have to show off!



Bear Bazaar 2021  
Photo Credit: Ursinus Website



## “A Republic, if you can keep it”

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As election day approaches, activism and interest in politics not just at the national level, but also at the local level, are becoming more crucial than ever. On Sunday, October 6, we sat down with two Ursinus students who attended an open event hosted by The Collegeville Democrats and Kamala Harris for President entitled “Canvass Kickoff with Senator Casey and Governor Shapiro.” Chris McCarthy ‘27, an International Relations and Psychology double major, shared the reason for his attendance, stating:

“I chose to go to this event because I feel like every person who is passionate about politics should learn about their own local political community. This event demonstrated how politics are run on a local level, which affects us all nationally. I find that not many people have been discussing the race for Senator between Bob Casey and Dave McCormick and have only been discussing the presidential race. People may often overlook how crucial our Congress is.”

McCarthy emphasizes the importance of local elections, as he believes they have a huge impact on our daily lives. “The small events like the one I attended hold an enormous impact on the future of our country and my hope is that we can stop simply campaigning for our... presidential candidates, but go to local events to really make a change and educate people about those who hold other offices. Many of us only want to go to events that feature famous public officials, myself included, but I’m happy that I got to meet with a small group of like-minded people who hold genuine passion for their beliefs and I urge all of us at this school to be more active in our communities if we wish to make a change.”

Vincent Pfattner from the Class

of ‘27, an International Relations and Politics double major, shared a similar sentiment, adding, “I chose to attend the event because I’m passionate about politics and have previously taken part in activities organized by the Collegeville Democrats. I saw this event as a great opportunity to connect with others who share similar views in the community and to learn more about the speakers’ perspectives. Both speakers frequently addressed issues such as abortion rights, the threats to our democracy, and gun violence.

The event was primarily focused on making a case for Bob Casey and promoting his reelection campaign by highlighting his accomplishments during his term and pointing out perceived flaws in his opponent, Dave McCormick.” As for the agenda of the event, McCarthy elaborated:

“There were a lot of different people who were present and spoke at the event who held various offices on the local and national level. To start off, I found it refreshing that State Representative Joe Webster was there, helping organize this event for his community. Last semester, he spoke to the Environmental Studies department about the policies that he was putting forth to protect our local environment. He showed the same energy and passion during both events and demonstrated how the local policies that he introduced affect us all nationally. Another speaker was our Governor, Josh Shapiro. Truthfully, his attendance was a large driving factor for my attendance... He passionately endorsed Senator Bob Casey’s reelection.”

“Governor Shapiro also focused on the history of our republic from a quote from Benjamin Franklin

regarding citizens who were questioning him about whether a monarchy or Republic was created. He told them, ‘A Republic if you can keep it.’ I found this to be such a powerful quote, especially during these times. A republic is only founded on the basis ... of people and the people are the ones who have to uphold it, which is something Shapiro heavily stressed. WE have to be the ones who advocate for our basic human rights and cannot let anyone take those away from us, something which we have to do by electing officials who respect us as people.”

With more and more political division in the country, it is refreshing to see more younger individuals becoming informed and politically involved. McCarthy also noted in this discussion that there were a very limited number of people under the age of 60 in attendance, a fact he expressed a slight bit of disappointment about. It is quite easy to be focused on the huge campaigns we see on the news and on our social media feeds daily, however many still feel helpless to affect them. A small step is taking into consideration offices at the local level. The Kickoff to Canvass was the opening event to members of the community interested in going door to door and pushing for the election of Democratic Representatives and Kamala Harris.



Canvass Kickoff Event  
Photo Credit: Christopher McCarthy



# Autumn Word Search

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YMMVUEIIIEUUZFYVPTFWBLTBS  
 AHHADZJSDNDGYPOOKAPZUNXEC  
 QPVB BRUHWTVCBUVLKFTQIOJVA  
 DIPDNKIIFUN CGXKZDLZBEFZR  
 MRELEOMIQLOQSZAUCSXLPDRE  
 POLDEGWGKEEDGKNMECMOTWOYC  
 IUJJXSGLPDJATZLJKHNNQWUNR  
 EGAIWUXNXGIAVPNDBRBOHERHO  
 BRJAXTZANZMYIEZQCIDERAIPW  
 JGJNVHHPUHJNZZSSCKHHLAKHC  
 UHBJZOACMYDSPWYAHJUSBONHH  
 KPKVLDVHODVLVZGMFIYWLZZFQ  
 NTIVOLRHHRDWGLVMXJREVNJSF  
 IMFOLCNAIBNMXIQSHQRAPWYBI  
 MZEODNBREMNLJSIBSCRTWZILW  
 WBTUOAOVNXYFHWXKXKFEDNUSW  
 VOQCVNAEJSEKXMTERRERFVKNX  
 YVHFRQOSNZTOILYSAAXVGSVDP  
 YWHNFMNTFNJHCKJXLTTZZEFIQC  
 GTUNQQOFVFLFGLCDGWETCNPQR  
 NYRWRJEIQHGKOBKDGSRKAOEB  
 TLNNUYOZDJSMUOIBIAXAZLEDS  
 SBRWMOLFFWEZRUSAGXYEIKRRE  
 WYGRYXWLVDMVPWPYPJLXXHPN  
 HWWAVSOWMXCHRA CORNLRMLHVZ

scarecrow

harvest

sweater

crisp

sweater

leaves

apples

corn

acorn

cider

gourd

pie



# Ursinus First Impressions

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Another fall semester at Ursinus means another batch of new first-year students getting to know the college. Students' first impressions vary, but those whom I interviewed have mainly positive opinions about the college so far. Two first-years I interviewed had lower expectations of what their experience at Ursinus would be, and have been pleasantly surprised by their first month at the school.

The first student, Londyn Scott, said, "I kind of thought it would be lifeless and dead with such a small population. I didn't think there would be much of a social scene. I didn't think there would be as much academic diversity as here, either; there would be so many different classes, majors, and professors." When I asked him how his experience here has differed from that thus far, he

stated, "My professors are great; they're passionate about what they do, and they're very skilled at it." He then went on to say, "I love the environment the most. The activities that are held, and the people who are here, too. Even the academic culture."

One might think Ursinus' small student population would lead to a lack of social activity when, most of the time, that is not the case. Parties over the weekends are typically present and open to all students. Additionally, sports, clubs, and other student and college-run activities are enough to keep most students busy.

Another student I interviewed, Aidan Blackwell, shared his qualms about the sports programs before arriving at Ursinus. "I didn't think the athletics would be good, specifically

track," he noted. "I think the track program here is actually quite good, and so are the other sports. I do not regret my decision to participate in track here." I was sure to ask both students about any negatives to the college that they would want to share.

Although he noted earlier that there is a larger social scene than he initially thought, Scott added, "I still think there could be more people. It can sometimes get a little high school clique-ish with the social groups. I wish there were some more clubs and things to do, but that comes with a small school, that happens." Blackwell, meanwhile, commented on something I believe every Ursinus student can agree on as a negative: "That's the wifi. You can quote me on that one. People will agree with me."



Students congregating in a first-year common room  
(Photo Credits: Ursinus)





## Ursinus Football Shows Improvements, Thwarts Conference Rivals

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“Just one more stop.” That’s all that ran through the Bears’ heads this past Saturday, as they looked to hold on to a 23-17 lead in a rivalry game against Franklin and Marshall. The team stood at 4-0, one of their best starts of the decade. But Ursinus had struggled mightily in conference play over the past few years, failing to take down stellar rivals Dickinson, Franklin and Marshall, and Muhlenberg. The question echoed through the crowd: “could this year be more of the same?” The team answered that question and more on Saturday, holding the Diplomats on their final drive to lead the team to their best start since 2010. Through key improvements across all three phases of football, the team has ensured success.

While the Bears were able to finish strong on Sunday, the team faced a similar situation a year prior, with a much different result. A last-second catch by senior receiver Jack Sutton stunned the team, leaving them just 3-3 in conference play on the year. The Bears’ handling of clutch situations proved to be a point of struggle a year ago, with one-score losses to both the Diplomats and the Muhlenberg Mules due to an inability to make key plays on either side of the ball in the game’s crucial moments. But through five games, the team has completely flipped the script. Needing a stop with just three minutes left in a tight match against Muhlenberg, the Bears held the Mules without a first down, setting the stage for the team’s crucial stop with two

minutes to go against Franklin and Marshall. The late-game heroics have been sparked by elite play from the Bears’ pass rush late in games. Linebacker Connor Carter ‘24 was able to get a massive sack late in the game against the Diplomats, with his partner Marc Clayton ‘24 and defensive lineman Aaron Rios ‘25 providing serious pressure late against the Mules to seal that one. The group, coached by former star edge rusher Ryan Bodolus, leads the conference in 4th quarter sacks, able to wreck games in the most important moments consistently. With matchups against vulnerable offensive lines in Johns Hopkins and McDaniel coming up (last and second to last in sacks allowed) look for the Bears to continue feasting late in games.

Ursinus’ offense was an obvious strong point last season, as the team boasted the third highest scoring offense in the entire Centennial Conference. But the team has skyrocketed to the highest scoring offense in the conference over the last six weeks, a dramatic step from a season ago. The standout difference between the two seasons has been their rushing offense, with Ursinus averaging a whopping 50 more rushing yards per game in comparison to a year ago. Ursinus running back Tony Holden ‘24 leads the conference in rushing by almost 200 yards with 666, turning in by far the most impressive season of his career. The prowess of the senior has completely opened up the Ursinus offense, espe-

cially in the red zone. The Bears have improved from a 77% to an 82% scoring percentage in the most crucial area of the field, through their ability to consistently convert short distances with Holden and the run game. In allowing the Bears to become the conference’s best in turning opportunities into touchdowns, the team looks to be its most dangerous in years.

The Bears have improved significantly offensively and defensively, making them a serious contender. But an under-the radar improvement has been their special teams group. Kicker Jordan Carr ‘24 has converted 71% of all field goals, up from 57% a year ago. The kicker also has improved as a punter, pinning his opponents often with the best average punt distance in the conference. While special teams are rarely emphasized, these improvements can allow Ursinus to win better field position consistently, as well as ensure points on every possession.

Ursinus still faces its biggest test ahead, despite their stellar 6-0 start. A Homecoming duel with #23 Johns Hopkins looms ahead, with first place in the Centennial Conference possibly on the line. But with improvement across the board, this Bears team feels more prepared than ever. Through key progress in all 3 phases of the game, an accomplishment they’ve awaited since 1996 could be just around the corner.

**Bears back Tony Holden  
 ‘24 takes a handoff.  
 Photo Credit: Donovan  
 Dyittt**





## Men's Basketball Gears Up For Takeoff!

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**B**asketball. You think of it as a winter sport, except the Ursinus Men's Basketball team has been in the gym since September 23rd getting ready for the upcoming season. With a strong roster of 16 athletes, the Bears are ready to show off their talents in just one month as they kick off the 2024-2025 campaign with a tip-off tournament on November 8th.

Led by fifth-year senior Trevor Wall and junior Nick Nocito, the Bears are expected to do some damage on the offensive end, especially with 6'10" forward Cole Grubbs '24. The Bears are welcoming three first-years who are excited to start their collegiate athletic journey with the team: Porter Kelly '27, a 6'4" guard from Memphis, Tennessee, Jamie Murphy '27, a 6'3" guard from Long Island, New York, and Nico Gordon '27, a 6'8" forward from Surrey, England.

Head Coach Kevin Small says, "I am so excited to be back on the court. This is such a special group and they have been working so hard both on and off the court in preparation for the season."

The team's fitness test consisted of a 64-minute sprint interval workout, simulating a regulation game. They have been practicing twice a week with coaches, lifting three days per week, and playing pickup on their own time.

The group is dedicated and committed to putting their best effort into everything they do for each other and it truly shows.

Grubbs says, "I've never been a part of a team like this. We all truly love each other. We always say we're a family, and it's true. We fight like brothers but at the end of the day there is nobody else I'd rather have by my side than these guys". Grubbs, a Virginia native, has made an impact on this team since his freshman year and continues to set the example for what it means to be a part of the Ursinus Men's Basketball Team.

The Bears kick off their season on November 8th in a tournament with Wilkes, Washington and Lee, and Immaculata. They play tough non-conference competitors, such as TCNJ and Widener, in preparation for a tournament in Fort Lauderdale, Florida where they will play in the Cruzin' Classic. They kick off Centennial Conference competitions on January 11th against Washington College.

This year, the Centennial Conference has split for select sports, basketball being one of them. Rather than playing each team twice, they will play the teams in their division twice, and every other team once. Their division includes Washington College, Swarth-

more, Muhlenberg, and Haverford. While this may be an adjustment, the hope is that it allows more playoff spots and thus, a longer season.

With a longer season, rounding out to about five to six months, it is critical that the team stays as healthy as possible. In recent years, a number of players including seniors Will Allain and Cole Grubbs and junior Nick Nocito have battled through injury.

Nocito says, "It is never a good feeling watching a teammate get hurt, but we all know that we have to step up to get the job done. When I tore my ACL after my freshman season it was devastating but I took the time to complete physical therapy and was fortunate to come back and continue playing. I could not have done it without the support of the rest of the guys helping me out and believing in me."

The Ursinus Men's Basketball Team shows what it means to work for and with each other. They are excited to be back in the gym striving for greatness as they prepare for their opening games. In order to succeed, they push the limits and work towards something bigger than themselves. Mark your calendars for November 8th and pack the den as the Bears take on Immaculata in their Tip-off Tournament.

**Bears Guard Nick Nocito  
drives for a bucket.  
Photo Credit: David Morgan**

