

The Pace Chronicle

VOLUME VII, ISSUE 19

PACE UNIVERSITY, PLEASANTVILLE, NY

WWW.PACECHRONICLE.COM

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2017

Pace Caught in Crossfire of Section 1's Decision

KWADAR RAY
Sports Editor

Pace University will host the Section 1 2018 boys and girls basketball championships sometime this February.

Section 1, a section of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA), announced the decision via press release last Monday to move the event from the county center to Pace's Goldstein Fitness Center.

The move has sparked an immense amount of criticism from the Westchester community with regards to the decision to move the championships from the venue that hosted it for nearly every year since 1933.

"They're disrupting history," said Saunders High School men's basketball head coach and Pace alumni Anthony Nicodemo. "They're not moving

it from a place where it's been played once. It's been almost 80 years, so you're moving something that people feel connected to."

"The entire basketball community revolves around the county center," Nicodemo said. "People don't talk about winning the championship, they talk about getting to the county center. It's a destination and a goal for players to reach. Any disruption of that is going to anger and upset people, and I think that's what we're seeing now."

Section 1 did not consult with any coaches or athletic directors before making the move.

Nicodemo believes there were "shady" dealings, ego and money involved with the decision.

"At the end of the day, people sitting up in glass houses who really have no interaction with the coaches or the kids think they know



Section 1's decision to move the men's and women's basketball championships to the Goldstein Fitness Center has sparked outrage. Photo Courtesy of Pace U Athletics.

best, and they don't," he said. "The Section 1 office has very little interaction with the coaches or the kids. You should be going to the people on the front lines when there's any decision like this,

and they chose not to."

Brandon Collins, a junior at Pace, said while he was a member of Walter Panas High School's basketball team, Section 1's higher-ups did not have a relationship

with the players.

"We didn't know too much about them, how things [was] set up, or how they ran things," said Collins, who played in the

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Desperation. Love. Ambition...

GERALD OLVERA
Feature Writer

...And many more feelings from the heart and thoughts from the mind were shared Thursday afternoon in the Butcher Suite.

Vox, the arts and literacy journal, celebrated their fall semester launch party for 2017. A collective group of literary and artistic students showcased a new book of photos, poetry, and prose. This collection of work has been gathered since the beginning of the semester.

Students and staff were able to submit their work from September to the first week of November. The luncheon was a thank you to all the participants who submitted pieces of art and literature.

"This is an outlet for creative expression," Vox Poetry Editor, Skyler Metviner said. "We all came together to celebrate as writers and artists."



An author reads from her submission to Vox, the arts and literary journal of Pace. Photo by Gerald Olvera

Submissions can be theme based or just any type of art or literature. Vox gives the option to vote on a theme or to not have even have one. Students and staff can even submit anonymously.

Vox members selected winners from art, poetry and prose categories. These individuals had the option to display art or read their

literature out loud to everyone in attendance.

Stephanie Nazario, winner of prose category, shared her fictional piece 'A Bronx Love Story Pt. 1.' The story was a glimpse into the life of a girl from the Bronx. Nazario read the words and took the crowd on a roller coaster of excitement, love, confusion, and heartache.

"Reading the stories and poems audibly gave the authors the ability to express exactly what their intent was," Vox Co-Prose Editor, Melody Pujols said. "It also allowed readers to have an interesting interaction with a creator other than just a one-sided relationship with the story itself."

Writing alone wasn't

the only selling point of the gathering, the pages were filled with photos that were submitted over past few months.

The book cover itself was decorated with a photo submitted by a student. Samantha Mayrose won the art category with her picture titled "In Flight." A large elegant crane was photographed as it began to take flight.

The launch party allows Vox to specifically focus solely on the creativity of students through written works and art.

Each year the amount of submissions and interest into the organization has increased. Vox has even accrued a handsome amount of followers on Instagram.

"This event I feel is extremely important," Vox Managing Editor, Alex Franciosa said. "Especially because it helps keep the creativity alive on a campus that doesn't have a lot of English majors."

OPINION

Give Undergraduate Students Access to Film Equipment

ADIBA SIKDER
Feature Editor

Pace prides itself on providing students with hands-on experience in the career they want to pursue which may sound pretty amazing, but it's not necessarily true for every department and major, especially the film department.

Most film students gain a majority of their film experience at the end of junior and senior year of their college

career and still may not feel comfortable holding a camera because of the lack of time they have had with the actual equipment.

Practice makes perfect, right? However, how can students get practice when Pace doesn't have enough equipment for students to get the practice that they need?

The Media Lab at Willcox does not allow students to check out film equipment, unless it's specifically for a class project and even then,

there may be students in the group that hog the equipment and don't allow other students in the group the room to learn and make mistakes.

Personally, when I took Media Production I (MCA 252), most of the camera and equipment work was done by upperclassman that had more experience and knew what they were doing. I only got to touch the camera for about fifteen minutes in total while taking that class.

Now, as a junior, the only

reason I have more camera experience is because I'm taking Cinematography One and I had to put my foot down during class projects and demand more time holding the camera.

Although the class provides students with more camera experience, it is extremely difficult for film students to get into the classes that they need in order to get this experience.

Camera equipment is limited and there can be as

few as ten seats in classes that are required for film students to take in order to graduate, but getting enrolled in these classes can seem almost impossible because students from other departments take them as electives or they are given away to people with earlier registration times, such as athletes or honors students.

I understand that athletes and honors students are not to blame for their registra-

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Students Overcome Their Fears on ‘Open Mic Night’



Jeremy Langdale singing loud for Pace to hear. Photo by Carmen Ballon

CARMEN BALLON
Feature Writer

Students conquered the stage during WPAW's open mic night this past week. Many performers of all kind, came out to show their talents.

"We let people share their talent. Whatever that may be. Some people do songs, or they play instruments, or they do poetry. It's very open," said John Watson.

Brian Powell, a freshman who was nervous to perform, finished with a crowd of applause. He explains how important this event is for the community.

"I feel like it's important because it's a comfortable environment for

people to get out there and conquer their fears."

Every year, WPAW hosts this event to give the opportunity to students to share their talents, with good food too!

John Watson, senator of WPAW explained his joy for the event.

"Some songs I've never heard of... and you got people clapping along and singing too. It's really cool, everyone is very supportive."

Even regular students attended to support the community.

"I'm really good friends with the eboard and I just wanted to come out to support," said Eric Alonzo

Food, music, and friends, what more could you ask for?

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Opinion: Film Equipment

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tion time, but it's unfair that they get to have the exact schedule they want and better classes than everyone else on campus, especially when students are putting themselves in thousands of dollars of debt for the same quality of education.

In order to get into Cinematography One, I had to reach out to the professor of the class, the head of the department, the secretary of the head of the department, and OSA just so that they would make an exception for me, which is a ludicrous situation.

If it's going to be so difficult to get into the classes that film students need when their putting themselves in thousands of dollars of debt to go here, maybe it's time to make a change and allow access to the expensive film equipment that their tuition money is going towards.

Letters to the Editor Welcome

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Alpha Phi Delta Seeks to Help Veterans

JAKE FOZARD
Feature Writer

This past week, Alpha Phi Delta fraternity held a fundraising raffle, Hope for the Homefront, with the proceeds going to Operation Homefront, which is a non-for-profit organization that provides social and financial aid to families of U.S. military veterans.

With prizes like watches and speakers, there was plenty of incentive to purchase the various tickets being sold, if not for the cause that the event's cash is going toward.

"[It's for] the people who fought for us, for their families specifically. Unfortunately there are many veterans who don't have enough money to give to their families, [who can't] provide for their families because they aren't at home," says Carlos Mercedes-Meran, Vice President of Programming for Alpha Phi Delta. "With this philanthropy, we give their families the opportunity to have these basic things."

Operation Homefront, started in 2002 after the September 11th attacks on

the World Trade Center, seeks to provide assistance to families through the distribution of financial assistance for things like rent, food and school supplies.

The organization also provides temporary transitional housing as well as mortgage-free permanent housing for United States veterans and their families.

Operation Homefront seeks to provide a support structure for the families with events including Star Spangled Baby Showers, the Back-to-School Brigade and Holiday Meals for Military, offering these programs for households faced with the serious repercussions of military deployment.

"We looked around [for a nonprofit] and [Operation Homefront] helps families, they help them get something as simple as school supplies for the children of veterans," says Meran. "[The] way that they take care of family, that's what we're about too."

This isn't the first time Alpha Phi Delta has been involved with veterans either, according to Tylor Salomon, Social Chair for

Alpha Phi Delta.

"Early in the semester, we were having a bake sale, gathering money so we could buy supplies to buy supplies like perishables to donate to veterans," says Salomon. "The company we were going through to make sure the money went to the right place told us to collect perishables, so we sold cookies and brownies during common hour at Pace in Kessel. After that we [were able to buy] a lot of food, probably enough to fill a pool table."

Although not many attended the event outside of Alpha Phi Delta members, money was still raised during the peak hours of Friday night, and that money that will be well spent, according to the Better Business Bureau and Charity Watch.

Charity Watch is a watchdog corporation that ranks, among other things, how much of the collected money actually goes into programs a given charity runs, with Operation Homefront funneling nearly eighty percent of their proceeds into their programs, giving them a grade of A



Operation Homefront aims to help U.S. veterans. Photo by Jonny R

compared to other charities.

The Better Business Bureau has also signed off on Operation Homefront, having met all 'accountability standards' the BBB uses, one of which includes the salaries executives of these nonprofits receive.

While the event was really more of a relaxed meetup for those in attendance than anything, the money raised is a positive thing for fraternities looking to give back for whatever reason, since fraternities such as Alpha Phi Delta are

in fact required to have each member serve at least eight community service hours each semester.

According to Salomon, all that really matters is that you're there putting in the time.

"If you see the brothers of Alpha Phi Delta, how they dress- first impression is really key- you'll see we're not just [typical] frat guys," says Tylor Salomon. "[On] Friday, we could be doing whatever we want, but we're here, taking time to help veterans."



Singer Joe Marson. Photo courtesy of Twitter

Pace Hosts Joe Marson

PAOLO FERREIRA
Feature Writer

Pace University's Programming Board had a special guest singer come to visit and perform. Joe Marson is a contemporary soul-singing artist with guitar playing ability. Marson has been playing and creating music for 15 years and continues to love what he does. He

started singing when he was just a teen and continues to try and move people through his voice.

"I want my music to have an overcoming vibe and just let everyone know it's okay," he said.

Growing up, Marson suffered from depression and is a huge advocate for positive and overcoming thinking. As the show went

on, he sang some of his own written music and also covered some other music. Marson has performed all around the world and enjoys sharing his talent and stories with others.

He loves jazz music and Hip-hop to listen to but he sings very smooth and soulful music and said he wants his listeners to know "it's

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Alpha Lambda Sigma Raises Money for Pediatric AIDS

ADIBA SIKDER
Feature Editor

Students were auctioned off with fun activities in order to raise awareness and money for pediatric AIDS at Alpha Lambda Sigma's annual Red Gala in Gottesman on Friday.

Although several students were dressed in formal attire, formal attire was not required for students to come in and participate in the fundraiser.

The event started with an introduction to Alpha Lambda Sigma's philanthropy with a short video describing the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS foundation and why students should actively participate and donate to the cause.

"Everyone dresses up and it feels like an actual gala because that's how it is in the real world. You get dressed up and remind everyone why they're there. It's one of our most popular events," said Kayla Quinonez, a sister of Alpha Lambda Sigma.

The Red Gala is Alpha Lambda Sigma's most popular and most successful fundraiser because it raises the most amount of money. Last year, ALS raised over \$800 and expected to raise the same amount this year as well.



Sisters of Alpha Lambda Sigma at the Red Gala. Photo by Adiba Sikder

"People can easily drop hundreds on an event as fun as this. A lot of the people here already know each other and they want to support each other," said Damian Nguyen, a junior at Pace.

Several sisters of Alpha Lambda Sigma and participants from other organizations participated and were auctioned off with fun activities.

"One of the sisters are auctioning off a free Dunkin date and someone else is cooking dinner for someone, so it's all really fun stuff,"

said Brianna Gonzalez, a sister of Alpha Lambda Sigma.

Several students that came to the event were severely touched by the cause because of personal experiences with the disease.

"My cousin died recently of AIDS. We had no idea that he had it because he kept it a secret for so long and he was in denial about it so he didn't actively get treatment for it. I think it's amazing what ALS is doing because it raises awareness for the cause," said Nitara Ortiz, a junior at Pace.

Other students felt as though the event was being done in bad taste because the auction trivializes the disease that everyone is there to donate for.

"I get what they're trying to do, but I don't think that they're doing it appropriately. Everyone here is focused on trying to win something fun, food, and socializing. I think that no one is really here for the cause," said Jaime Reuter, a junior at Pace.

Although the reactions throughout the night were

mixed, Alpha Lambda Sigma successfully raised hundreds of dollars for the Elizabeth Glaser foundation and plan on continuing the Red Gala tradition for future semesters.

"The Red Gala has been around since the birth of Alpha Lambda Sigma. Even though some people don't like the event, we all care about our philanthropy and will continue to raise as much money as possible at the Gala," said Emma Maloney, the president of Alpha Lambda Sigma.

Marson

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authentic" because "when I sing I try to convey how I felt or continue to feel."

Marson was heavily motivated by Ben Harper's music and how he carries

himself and ultimately then decided to become a singer. When traveling around the world, he has met some of the people that have pushed him. Another inspiration for him is the Red Hot Chili Peppers, which he has a tattoo of their logo on his forearm, who influenced

him when he was young and he had the opportunity to meet them. When growing up in San Diego, California, he did move a lot but when he decided to become a musician his first goal was to learn, "Under the Bridge" by who other than the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Learn-

ing what he thinks is "the perfect song" and is the most transcending songs in popular music because of its soul and depth.

After talking to Marson, you will realize he is so passionate about his love for music and wants everyone to connect with

his emotions. Jeff Buckley also inspired him for every genre he has played and appreciates his range in styles. With someone with his passion and creativity, to find a way to overcome his limitations and find out that he's truly doing what he loves and it shows.

University Should Provide Busing to Residential Hotel

JOSIAH DARNELL
Opinion Editor

Dorm life is a huge part of the college experience. It's a chance for students to get a sense of what it's like to live on their own. It's also a stepping stone into the real world with the fact that you have a roommate and/or suitemates to get along with, even though some habits may not be the most pleasing.

On the other hand, dorm life is an extremely convenient way to hang out with new friends and gel with students from different backgrounds. Every student should have the opportunity to experience dorm life every semester they decide to reside on campus. Unfortunately, that can't be said for every student here on the Pleasantville campus.

A certain amount of students that attend the Pleasantville campus are not commuters, yet they don't live on campus. The amount of students enrolled here has exceeded the

amount of living space that can be offered. Due to this, Pace had to turn to alternative options to house these students.

That alternative was a hotel in Elmsford. The hotel is about five miles away from the campus and students are still expected to make it to classes on time without missing a beat.

On top of that, students are expected to find their own way to and from the hotel. There is no means of transportation provided by the University to accommodate these students and their living situation. That just seems totally unfair to me. The fact that they are already five miles away from campus there should be a bus that runs at least two to three times a day to bring these students back and forth.

It's unfortunate that they can't be on campus with the rest of their peers, but now they have to struggle to find a way to get to their first class of the day and back to the hotel after

their last class of the day. Specifically, those without cars.

I contacted Ms. Françoise Crepsio, Director of University Transportation, to ask why there isn't a bus that runs to the hotel. She explained that she was "unaware that there were students in Elmsford."

She also explained that she checked with Residential Life about it and they told her that, "students were advised to assume their own transportation and that transportation was not part of the agreement for living there."

I was completely shocked by the email and didn't know how to take it, because while many of us here have the ability to wake up minutes before our classes start and still get there on time they have to wake up maybe half an hour to an hour to make sure they do the same. Some rely on Ubers and Lfts to get them through, but that takes a toll on the pockets.

They are students of



Pace University bus. Courtesy of google.

Pace University and there should be some way to make their commute more

convenient. Having a bus to run that way is one of the simplest options to me.

Adjust the School Calendar: Start Classes Earlier

JOSIAH DARNELL
Opinion Editor

As soon as December hits the first thing on student's mind is when are we getting out for winter break. We know that finals week is coming up, and the semester is coming to an end. The only problem is we have to wait until three days before Christmas day until we can officially say we're on winter break. That is just too deep into December to fully enjoy the Christmas

spirit in our hometowns. Other colleges get out at the beginning of December, like either the first or second week, but these same colleges start classes much earlier than we do.

We don't start classes until after Labor Day, which is a week into September. A lot of colleges are already in their third week of classes by then and that's because they start the fall semester around the third or fourth week in August. Being that they start earlier, they get to

finish earlier.

There is no reason why we can't start the same time the other colleges do. I'm sure students wouldn't mind starting classes in August if that means having an earlier winter break. After talking to a sophomore, Marc Arbolada, he stated, "It makes no sense for us to start so late, the quicker I can get through the semester the quicker I can get home for Christmas." Marc also happens to be on the football team and he expressed his views

about that as well.

The football starts training camp on August 6th. That means they are here, on campus, for an entire month before school starts. That's a huge gap between football and classes and that makes their semester even longer. Instead of the normal four months that usually make up the fall semester, they have five.

Then there are the students that come from a far distance. We have students from Hawaii, California,

Florida, etc. Plane tickets are expensive especially around holiday time. With the semester ending so close to Christmas that affects travel time and cuts down the amount of family time these students have. A lot of these students don't get the chance to see their families at all during the course of the fall and at some point they just need to feel the comforts of home again without worrying about the price of tickets and losing precious family time.

Pace Caught in Crossfire of Section 1's Decision

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county center twice, helping Walter Panas win the championship his in 2014.

Despite all the controversy, Pace's associate AD Mike Winn says the university is proud of its relationship with Section 1, and looks forward to hosting the championships, which takes place March 2-4.

"We have a longstanding relationship with Section 1 athletics," Winn said. "We've been hosting different events of theirs and different championships of theirs in the past."

Athletic Director Mark Brown says his goal is to maintain a good relationship with the community. Brown thinks the event will be a success.

"We pride ourselves on being a good community partner and we do host a lot of high school events here, and I think that our institution does that extremely well," Brown said. "So, I'm excited about the opportunity to host this event, as well as I am about hosting all events we're able to bring to our community."

"We'll run a top-notch championship that weekend and give those high school athletes and coaches an opportunity to compete at the highest level at a great venue," Winn said. "We're confident that it's going to be a great experience."

Winn also said the event will mostly be occurring during the weekend, with the expectation that the campus won't be packed with students, faculty and staff.

"It'll start during the evening, so most of faculty and staff will be gone," Winn said. "The majority

of the games will occur on Saturday and Sunday. So, it's not as if it's happening during classes. The parking lots should be empty and we'll make sure there's no other major events happening on campus."

However, Nicodemo believes Pace is caught in the crossfire of this unpopular move and no matter what, the public will be upset at the change.

"Pace could host the best event ever and people are going to find fault in it because you're taking away a beloved venue, and I think Section 1 is setting Pace up for failure here because people are going to find fault in everything that goes on due to the way this went down," he said. "As beautiful as the Goldstein Fitness Center is, it's not the county center. Pace was put in a really bad spot and that's not fair to the university."

Winn said he is aware of the anger the move has caused and he understands why many are upset.

"We can respect people's emotions, but we hope they trust we're going to run a great event for them," he said.

There are fingers from all over being pointed at Section 1. Coaches, ADs, and even politicians like Westchester County state senator George Latimer have made statements denouncing the decision.

"Not happy with the decision to take Section 1 Basketball Playoffs out of the County Center," Latimer wrote. "It's a time honored tradition."

However, those who are most affected by the move are the student athletes.

"The atmosphere is crazy at the county center, it's just a staple within Section 1 and the basketball championships," Collins said. "For me, when my older brother played there when he was in high school and I went there to see that game, I wanted to be there and luckily I did make it there. But now, a lot of players who had that goal won't be able to fulfill it."

Nicodemo said when his players were notified of the decision, they were frustrated.

"My players are certainly upset," Nicodemo said. "These groups of players

were here as sophomores when [Saunders High School] got the championship last time, and I think we have a shot to get there this year so they're pretty disappointed. It's kind of the coach's job to refocus them but I don't think it's a player in Section 1 not disappointed by this decision."

Nicodemo advised those upset about the decision to speak up and let their voices be heard.

"If every single high school and every AD walks in and say 'this is unacceptable,' then Section 1 is kind of in a box," he said. "The

hope is that the coaches get to their ADs and they can band together and let the higher-ups of Section 1 know that this is not something we're going to accept."

Nicodemo believes social media is the right platform for he and others to express their dissatisfaction.

"With social media, people can express their anger and hopefully, the higher-ups in Section 1 can swallow their pride a little bit and understand that they made a mistake. And make no bones about it, this is a mistake."

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Concussions End Player's Career But Not His Love for the Game

Head Injuries Force Senior to Stop Playing Basketball

KWADAR RAY
Sports Editor

The basketball court is no sanctuary. It can be a place of pain where players suffer injuries that range from sprained ankles to concussions.

After three concussions in three seasons, Pace senior Victor Jusino had basketball, a game he had played for twelve years, taken away from him.

"It was very frustrating," Jusino said. "I haven't had the best luck and I've missed time in all three years of my college career due to concussions."

Jusino suffered his first concussion during his freshman year after an opposing player's knee drove his head to the floor while diving for a loose ball. He suffered his second one his sophomore year at Georgian Court during a collision while taking a charge.

Coincidentally, each concussion occurred during the week of final exams.

After suffering his third concussion during his junior year, Jusino believed he would be back on the court in short time. After all, he returned after his previous two concussions.

"Initially, I just thought

of it as any of the other ones I had," Jusino remembered. "I thought my head would hurt for a couple of weeks and then I'll come back like normal."

However, when he returned to practice, he did not feel the same; his battles with concussions had taken a toll on his body and ability to execute basic basketball activities.

"Just moving around was an issue," Jusino said. "Even simple things like rebounding, shooting, and looking up and down was not correct. It made me realize there was something worse wrong."

After discussions with doctors, coaches, trainers and family, Jusino decided it was best for him to no longer play for the Pace Men's Basketball team.

There is a competitive fire that burns deep in every athlete, and thus, the decision to end their playing career is never an easy one.

"It was very emotional at first," Jusino said. "I had to hold back tears. It was rough because it's something you've been doing your whole life, but you have a whole future ahead of you and you have to think about that," Jusino said.

Even though Jusino is no longer a player, he is still around the team nearly every day after being named the team's CEO, a title fit for the business major.

"I figured I could use this last year to be around the team and help out the younger guys," Jusino said. "Any guidance or any help I can give them is an added plus for a team that is very young."

"It's not that big of an adjustment because I still go to everything I can for them whether it's practice, lift in the morning, conditioning, or the games," Jusino said. "I'm there just like I was as a player. For me, I feel the same but there's that little difference in those three hours of basketball because I'm no longer playing, just observing."

As an observer, Jusino has gathered a new perspective on the game.

"Stuff I didn't know as a player, now I understand it," he said. "I remember when we would be at practice and coach would stop the drill and he'll be upset at us, but you really did not know why. Now, you sit back and watch, you see little things that add up and you see why he gets frustrated. You see how something like practice or conditioning leads into the game."

The Men's Basketball team has been far from world beaters this sea-

son, but Jusino says he's impressed with the team's play so far.

"Honestly, I like the way the guys are playing this year," he said. "They bring it every game. They've had a couple of heartbreaking losses, so no excuses, but for a young team that has started three freshmen at certain points this year, I think they're doing a great job with everything. The new players are adjusting to the league very well."

The team's play as a unit gives Jusino hope for the future of the team.

"They want to win more than anything," he said. "The unselfishness, to me, is very reassuring. It's a cause for optimism. Obviously, in the past, we haven't been all that great but looking forward, I think they'll be fine."

Jusino's battles with concussions every year are now in the past, and he wants to keep it that way.

"I really don't want to think about it to be honest, he said. "I just see it as something that happened and I want to leave it behind."



Senior Victor Jusino battled with concussions every season as a member of the Men's Basketball team. Photo Courtesy of Pace U Athletics.

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