



GOATS AT A GLANCE

VOLUME VII - JANUARY 2025

HELLO, SECOND SEMESTER!



Combine Academy welcomed its Goat family back to Lincolnton this last month. We know that students enjoyed their time back home: spending their days with family and friends, resting their bodies from athletic competition, enjoying mom's home-cooking, and taking their minds off of SAT prep and academic endeavors. While that first week was spent getting acclimated back to campus life, we did have our first snow of the season. For many students, this was their first time experiencing snowfall! It has definitely been an abnormally colder winter this year; we had a couple of full weeks with below-freezing temperatures. While we look forward to warmer weather in the coming weeks, a little cold weather hasn't stopped this crew! Here this week -- we are in the mid 50s. Fingers crossed this warm weather stays!

The academic hall quickly transitioned to a new semester this month. Students received their new courseload for the spring semester, and we have already started preparing for our Spring graduation festivities. The academic department has welcomed four new teachers this semester, and it has been exciting to watch our academic program evolve and develop. In Creative Writing, Mrs. Ellis has her students learning about the revision process and are headed into a poetry unit. In Financial Literacy, Mr. Burchett invited students to create electronic vision boards, and they started discussing budgeting, particularly needs vs. wants when it comes to finances. Oh, and the importance of savings - the 50, 30, 20 rule! Mr. Stouffer's math classes continued where they left off from the fall semester in his year-long courses. His classes were already preparing for the first unit tests of 2025 this last week. Our teaching staff didn't skip a beat-- getting right back into routine and rigor.

Our coaching staff enjoyed reuniting with their teams. Like our teachers, our coaches got right back into the routine. National basketball played throughout the winter break, traveling to the Bahamas and Atlanta; they had some competitive play, but they enjoyed a little bit of sun and ocean air while in the Bahamas. Elite basketball traveled to Belgium for the Xmas Tournament. The team played five games - and also visited Brussels, Brugges, and Paris during the European jaunt. All of Combine's basketball teams continued with their competition that first week back with Varsity and Global traveling to Winston-Salem, and we celebrated our senior Goats most recently this last week during home basketball games. Golf continued their practice and training, particularly for a local tournament last weekend in Catawba, NC. The team had six of their athletes place in the top ten. They have enjoyed the newest addition on campus, an outdoor putting green, and they are looking forward to warmer temperatures here this spring to continue to perfect their craft. Soccer is currently in Florida and they are planning a February trip to Costa Rica. They will have some competitive match play, but they will also entertain a few excursions while they are there: a Professional match against Costa Rica U-17 National Team and even visiting the Starbucks Alsacia Coffee Farm, for example. And, last but not least, baseball. We have been waiting for this moment all year. All of their hard work and preparation is going to finally pay off. Their opening season games were this week, starting with two games on Tuesday, February 4th and Wednesday, February 5th at Young Harris, as well as two home doubleheader games. They have a busy season -- with nearly 50 games during their season -- they sure do pack a lot into just a few short months.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JANUARY'S STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Elmer Jiminian
Tristan Merritt
Sterling Bohn
Gui Fernandes
Sanad Ghazal
Matias Baldi
Jayden Miranda
Oscar Chang
Tobi Dada
Juan Andres Rodriguez

CHECK OUT OUR SPRING 2025 CLUBS

Sports Film
Yoga
Business Club
Chess Club
GOATS Success
FCA
Breakfast Club
Cooking Club
Cornhole Club
Lincolnton Eats
Meditation Club
Life Skills Club
Service Club



*Lincolnton Eats on 1/31
frequented a nearby
downtown favorite, Local
Roots!*

Need a cut? A new look?

Carolina Styles and Cuts

Coming to campus weekly!



"John Davis, a professional barber since 1996, has been serving the Lincolnton, North Carolina, community since 1998. In 2008, he opened his own barbershop, Carolina Styles and Cuts, where he combines over 25 years of expertise with a passion for delivering precision cuts and exceptional grooming services. Throughout his career, John has been dedicated to mentoring kids and generations, helping guide them to success. Beyond the chair, he is deeply involved in the community, actively helping others and making a positive impact. He would like to thank Combine Academy for the opportunity to serve its students and make a difference in the school community."

Passion for Excellence & Entrepreneurship

Next session coming in
February!

CAMPUS UPDATES



Athletic Makeovers on Campus



Campus Putting Green

A new 30 x 30 putting green has been installed for Combine's golf team. This was a project conceptualized by our current team. Two gazebos and outdoor seating will be located on the outskirts of the green for student enjoyment.

Baseball's Finishing Touches

The turf field was installed earlier this fall, but the baseball facilities continue to get their upgrades. Throughout the winter months, the bull pens were reconfigured, new fencing installed around the field, and new stadium seating has been added! Baseball is going to have a great year!

COMBINE ACADEMY'S SECRET WEAPONS

Meet Coach Ben Betts and Coach Bob Reasso, both directors of their respective sports at Combine Academy with impressive collegiate career experience. Combine is blessed to have their knowledge and expertise readily available to not only their coaching staffs but also our student-athletes. During our January 24th Friday Seminar, Reasso and Betts presented to the student body, sharing their knowledge of the college athlete, the recruiting process, and words of wisdom when it comes to this particular time in our student athletes' lives. Whether it is the mental perseverance that is so pivotal to uphold during these years or the need for routine and structure, Coach Reasso and Coach Betts highlighted several key qualities and mindsets needed to be a successful 21st century collegiate athlete. As a student body, we thank both of these gentlemen for their time and dedication during our Friday Seminar.

Coach Reasso spent the majority of his 30+ year Hall of Fame career as the head coach at NCAA Division I Rutgers University. Then, in 2013, he was appointed as Head Coach at Pfeiffer University, located in Misenheimer, North Carolina. Over the course of his career, Reasso was a two-time National Coach of the Year, led teams to 16 NCAA tournament appearances, 4 final four appearances, 2 national championship appearances, and compiled a record of 436-209-79. During his coaching career, Reasso coached 60 players that have gone on to play professionally, with 24 of those players playing in the MLS, and 24 NCAA All-Americans.

Coach Betts has coached at the D1 level for over 30 years. From his D1 head coaching position at SC State from 2003-2006 to numerous assistant coaching positions across the country: Oklahoma, VCU, College of Charleston, Tennessee State, and Georgia Southern to name just a few, Coach Betts has had 5 NCAA tournament appearances and has coached notable players, like Blake Griffin, Robert Covington, and John Konchar. Coach Betts played four years at Roanoke College, and he originally grew up in Madison Heights, VA.



Rose Ellis



Rose Ellis is teaching Creative Writing this Spring. Painting with words, as she calls it, is one of her greatest gifts and favorite hobbies. Her largest creative project has been developing, contributing to, and editing a community magazine for a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania. She is up to date on practices related to basic research, formatting, and composition at the collegiate level. Her undergraduate degree is in psychology, which greatly refined her skill set. Currently, she is working on an M.Ed. in teaching and is on track to graduate this spring with distinction. She has taught elementary through high school for about ten years in various settings and subjects and is also licensed to practice educational therapy.

Jenny Smith



Jenny Smith will be teaching English IV and English IV Honors this semester. She graciously supported our academic community this last fall as a substitute teacher, and she came on board this spring as part of Combine's formal instructional team. Mrs. Smith is knowledgeable, compassionate, and relatable. She is committed to the needs of her students in order to maximize growth and mastery.

She and her husband are originally from Southern California, but they raised their family in Atlanta, Georgia. They have three grown children and two grandbabies. Their middle child played college baseball, so she is tremendously familiar with the life of a student-athlete.

Welcome New Teachers

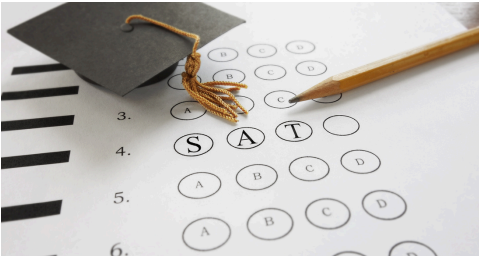
Combine would also like to welcome Coach Dom McKinney and Coach Mary Williams to the world of academics this Spring. Coach Dom is teaching Psychology and Media Arts & Design while Coach Mary is teaching Health. They joined the Combine family this summer, and we are happy their athletic world is now blending in with academics.



60 Seconds With a Goat

Meet Combine Academy's Goats

Combine Academy has 167 student-athletes enrolled this Spring from all over the world. From Belgium and France to Costa Rica and Australia, Combine is blessed to have such a diverse group of players and learners. And, it is about time our Goat community gets to meet them a bit more personally. Check out Combine's newest project, "60 Seconds with a Goat"! Learn more about who we are and what our students are all about, thanks to campus videographer Tre Walton. Each week, Combine will highlight at least two student-athletes, and their videos will soon go live on not just Instagram but also Combine Academy's Website under "About Combine".



SAT

March 8
May 3

PSAT

March 3

As parents and students are aware, Combine requires that all upperclassmen students (11th & 12th graders) complete the SAT during the course of the year. Many students capitalize on the facts that the test is administered on campus and take it more than once. Students can take the test as many times as they would like. We are nearing the end of College Board's hosted dates. The final dates to complete Combine's required SAT expectation or to take the test prior to the end of the academic year are **March 8th and May 3rd**. The PSAT (9th & 10th graders) will be administered on Monday, March 3rd. Any questions about SAT/PSAT, please email Stephanie Cicala.



Announcements

Important Tidbits

Attendance:

This is just a reminder that pre-arranged absences cannot be updated in QuickSchools (QS) until the day of. Parents/students will receive notification of an absence, but please be reassured that attendance reconciliation occurs by the end of each week and can be checked in QS. If an absence is not updated within the academic week to reflect excused absences due to illness or pre-arranged travel or appointments, please feel free to email Stephanie Cicala. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Fall 2024 Grade Reports:

Fall report cards have been uploaded to students' QS accounts. The document can be viewed by following these instructions:

| Parents/Siblings | Gradebook | Attendance | Schedule | Bills | Reports | Documents |
|----------------------|-------------|---------------|----------|---------|----------|-----------|
| Custom Fields | | | | | | |
| YEAR/SEMESTER | REPORT DATE | GRADING CYCLE | | PDF | | |
| 2024-2025, Fall 2024 | 12/27/2024 | Fall 2024 | | Preview | Download | |