**NJ sues drug company for inflated costs**

**RYAN STIESI  NEWS EDITOR**

The State of New Jersey filed a federal lawsuit against Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, for allegedly deceiving consumers about the dangers of two of the company’s opioid products with high potential for abuse — Nucynta and Nucynta ER.

The lawsuit seeks a judgment requiring Janssen to pay damages for false claims submitted on behalf of New Jersey over a 15-year period. It also alleges that the company used literature and web content designed to appear independent to persuade health care providers and patients to expand its market share.

**Booker bill will benefit Rutgers student veterans**

**CHRISTIAN ZAPATA  NEWS EDITOR**

With approximately two dozen Rutgers student veterans standing behind him, Sen. Cory Booker (D-N.J.) has announced plans to extend the benefits of the GI Bill.

In front of Veterans House on the College Avenue campus yesterday, Booker argued for a better deal that improves educational benefits for students returning to school after serving time in the military, according to an article from NJTV.

“One of the issues revealed to me through that very discussion were the critical gaps in current U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs educational benefits. Right now, there are rungs out of education benefits due to the required remedial courses they need as a foundation for continued study,” he said in the article.

Booker will introduce legislation next week focused on extending GI Bill benefits beyond the current 36 months with 30 months to go toward helping one-third of recently-separated veterans who need remedial work.

“Signed into law by former President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1944, the GI Bill has helped to reinforce millions of veterans into the workforce with funding for college, graduate school and training programs, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Under the bill, veterans are eligible to receive money toward the costs of schooling and training,” Booker said.

“Yet the current GI Bill does not account for the 15 years of entitlement and benefits from the last 30 days of consecutive service or more, according to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs,” Booker said.

“Booker’s new bill would make it easier to transfer GI Bill benefits to unenrolled children and roll back previous penalties for military careers with more than 16 years of service.”

“Improving the prospects for veterans improves the lives of all New Jerseyans because veterans are the backbone of our communities. They possess unique insights, they have incredible skills and veterans in New Jersey are servant leaders for life, not just the time that they were in the military,” Booker said in the article.

University President Robert L. Barchi was also in attendance at the ceremony last said over the last decade the University has stepped up support of its veterans and those currently serving.

“And we’re proud right now to say that Military Times ranks Rutgers No. 3 in the nation,” Barchi said in the article.

Juan Carlo, an ROTC junior, expressed his feelings toward Booker’s work.

“It feels good knowing Senator Booker is fighting for the rights and benefits of veterans, it’s something I think you don’t see enough of in politics anymore,” he said.

Booker also stated his support of a bill that seeks to protect the Mueller investigation into Russian meddling in the 2016 election, his contemplation of a 2020 run for president and said he would consider former Gov. Chris Christie’s (R-N.J.) eligibility as Attorney General if and when President Donald J. Trump makes the request.

“I’m taking a little break right now, getting back to work. Over the holidays I’ll give some thought to whether or not I will give my thought to running for president of the United States,” he said.

**In a statement to The Daily Tar-**

**gum**

**That lawsuit filed by the State of New Jersey alleged that Janssen Pharmaceuticals Inc., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, deceived consumers about two of its opioid products. The company denied the allegations in a statement.**

**“harmful conduct” by Janssen, which included an “unbranded marketing campaign.” The lawsuit alleged the company used literature and web content designed to appear independent that was actually from Janssen and oversaw a campaign designed to embed certain information about the viability of long-term opioid use in the minds of doctors and patients.**

**It also alleged that the company targeted elderly and “opioid-naïve” patients to expand its market share and attempted to differentiate its own opioid products from competitors by promoting Nucyna**

**t and Nucynta ER as safer and less addictive, among other allegations.**

The lawsuit seeks a judgment requiring Janssen pay civil penalties, disgorging ill-gotten gains and pay damages for false claims submitted to the state, as well as all alleged unlawful practices under the Consumer Fraud Act, correct its alleged misrepresentations and...
Weather Outlook  
Source: Weather.com

**TODAY**  
High of 40, Cloudy

**TONIGHT**  
Low of 26, Cloudy

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The Daily Targum  
November 14, 2018

The Campus Calendar  

**WEDNESDAY 11/14**  
Rutgers Climate Institute presents "Rutgers Climate Symposium 2018: Climate Change and Food Security" from 8:15 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Busch Student Center on Busch campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Institute for Quantitative Biomedicine presents "Superior Learning of a Viral Enzyme Substrate Specificity Landscape Using Deep Sequencing and Molecular Simulations" from noon to 1 p.m. at the Institute for Quantitative Biomedicine on Busch campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Center for Counseling, Alcohol and Other Drug Assistance Program and Psychiatric Services presents "Mindfulness Meditations" from noon to 1 p.m. at the Rutgers Student Activities Center on the College Avenue campus. This event is free and open to the public.

Robert Wood Johnson Medical School presents "Neurology Grand Rounds" from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. at the Clinical Academic Building on the College Avenue campus. This event is free and open to the public.

If you would like to submit an event for the Campus Calendar section, please email marketing@dailytargum.com. For more information, please visit www.dailytargum.com. Due to space limitations there is no guarantee that your event will be listed.
Rutgers ‘rains’ in award for 50 years of weather tracking

LEONARD TAN
STAFF WRITER

Ever wonder how much rainfall Rutgers accumulates throughout the year? The University was recently awarded for its commitment toward tracking 50 years worth of continuous weather observations.

The National Weather Service awarded the Rutgers New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station (NJAES) and Rutgers Cooperative Extension (RCE) in recognition of those who volunteer their efforts and time to input daily local weather observations in a database available to anyone interested in learning about the region’s climate.

Anthony Broccoli, chair of the Department of Environmental Sciences and co-director of Rutgers Climate Institute, manages the station alongside a group of undergraduate students who work with him.

Every day, data is collected at 8 a.m. and sent over to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration database. It is made available on the Rutgers weather website to anyone interested and includes the high and low temperatures, precipitation in the last 24 hours, snowfall, soil temperatures and amount of evaporation, according to Rutgers.edu.

The station is maintained largely by student volunteers who strive to make weather observations every day. Under Broccoli’s supervision it has not missed a day.

Broccoli said this award is a culmination of their efforts and those of past station employees. But, despite recent recognition for the last 50 years worth of weather observations at Rutgers, the station’s history spans much farther back.

David Robinson, a distinguished professor in the Department of Geography and New Jersey state climatologist, said the station dates to the 1900s and recently received recognition after being moved back and forth between the greenhouses on Cook campus to the Rutgers Gardens where it now resides.

Each time it was moved, the station was assigned a new national number, effectively rewriting its history book. Despite having a century worth of recorded weather observations, the station is considered to have existed for only 50 years, Robinson said.

Since weather observations started at Rutgers approximately a century ago, their focus has shifted.

Steve Decker, director of the Meteorology Undergraduate Program in the Department of Environmental Sciences, said they were initially focused on agriculture back when the School of Environmental and Biological Sciences was still called the College of Agriculture, and have since expanded to measure air quality.

Tools used to collect this data have changed very little throughout the decades, Broccoli said. If there are changes in the weather, it is not coming from a change in instruments, but from the weather itself.

Observing the weather for about a century can lead to records of extreme occurrences. Decker said New Brunswick had reached temperatures of 105 degrees Fahrenheit twice in July of both 2010 and 2011 and had a snowstorm of 26.9 inches — the most ever observed from one storm.

These occurrences are rare and met with a gradual temperature increase.

“New Brunswick has been warming, and so temperatures today are roughly 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than they were a hundred years ago,” Broccoli said.
COSTS
NJ spent approximately $12.5 M. on more than 41,000 claims from 2010 to 2017

CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“abate the public nuisance that its (alleged) deceptive marketing has been a substantial factor in creating,” according to the press release.

The lawsuit also blamed Janssen’s marketing of Nucynta and Nucynta ER for “dramatically” increased health insurance costs absorbed by the state and, ultimately, New Jersey taxpayers through false claims for chronic opioid therapy.

According to the press release, the complaint claims that New Jersey bears the cost of prescription drug coverage for low-and-middle-income residents through its Medicaid programs, for active and retired state employees through two different, private-company-administered Employee Health Plans and for state employees injured on the job under Workers’ Compensation.

The complaint maintains that between 2010 and 2017, the state spent an estimated $125 million on more than 41,000 claims for Nucynta or Nucynta ER submitted to its two Employee Health Plans — part of $378 million spent by the state overall for opioid prescriptions submitted to the Employee Health Plans, according to the press release. During roughly the same time period, the state paid out a total of more than $800,000 to cover Nucynta and Nucynta ER claims submitted to the state’s largest Medicaid MCO, and under Workers’ Compensation.

Under the New Jersey False Claims Act, Janssen is liable for three times the state’s damages, according to the press release.

Specific examples described in the complaint include one New Jersey Employee Health Plan patient who received 125 prescriptions for Nucynta and Nucynta ER — totaling more than a 2,700-day supply — during approximately a one-year period. These prescriptions cost the state more than $48,000 for this patient alone and were written by a healthcare provider who allegedly had received hundreds of visits from Janssen sales representatives, according to the press release.

Grewal said the state cannot turn a blind eye on the issue and intends to make the company pay for its damages.

“It is particularly disturbing that so much of this misconduct took place in our own backyard,” Grewal said. “New Jersey’s pharmaceutical industry is the envy of the world, with a long history of developing vital, life-saving drugs. But we cannot turn a blind eye when a New Jersey company violates the law and threatens the lives of our residents. We intend to hold Janssen accountable for its deception, and to make the company pay for the public health crisis it helped to create.”

Car plows into Social Security office building, injuring 20 people

ASSOCIATED PRESS

EGG HARBOR, N.J. (AP) — Police say 20 people were injured when a car crashed through the front of a Social Security office in New Jersey.

Egg Harbor Township police say the crash happened around 10 a.m. Tuesday when 56-year-old Donna Woodall was attempting to park. Authorities say the Atlantic City woman crashed her car into the lobby of the building where many people were waiting.

One of those injured was in critical condition, one was in serious condition and the rest sustained minor injuries. Authorities say the crash appears to be an accident. Its exact cause remains under investigation.

The building was deemed to be structurally sound after the crash.

A 56-year-old was attempting to park her car when she accidentally crashed into the lobby of a social security office in Egg Harbor, New Jersey. Police said that 20 people were injured in the crash and that it appeared to be an accident. GOOGLE MAPS

New Jersey Attorney General Gurbir S. Grewal announced the lawsuit yesterday, marking the third time a case has been brought forward by the attorney general’s office against an opioid manufacturer. NJ.gov
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Dietary supplements require regulation

We must attack issue at its source

There is more to gun violence than highly-publicized mass murders

Kaan Jon Boztepe is a School of Arts and Sciences junior double majoring in philosophy and history. His column, "Kaanotations," runs on alternate Wednesdays.

In other words, we are having the wrong conversations.
Virtual reality is the future of video game technology

GAMER NEXT DOOR
MITCHELL KEVETT

A couple of days ago, I finally picked up a new (to me) GTX 1080 graphics card to replace my long obsolete GTX 780Ti in my PC, and what a world of difference the additional VRAM makes. I picked up an Oculus Rift Virtual Reality (VR) headset a couple of years ago when they were first released. The headset did not work very well with my 780Ti, but it ran games nonetheless, and I was deeply impressed. Even with a choppy frame rate, VR is an incredibly immersive experience, one that everyone should try as soon as they can. Now that I finally have acquired a 1080 graphics card with its hasty 8GB of GDDR5X video memory, I can achieve the 90 fps threshold for VR. If you have never played a VR game on an outdated PC setup, playing below 90 frames per second feels choppy, awkward, and outright nauseating.

We are only in the early stages of game and hardware development for the VR platform, but it already completely revolutionizes the way games are played. Good VR experiences make you feel like you are literally inside the game. Inside the headset, your entire field of view is covered by two screens, one for each eye, and your physical movement is accurately tracked to give you a second to none sense of interaction with gaming environments. I have yet to pick up motion controllers for my Oculus Rift, but playing VR games with a controller or my racing wheel is inherently enjoyable. Lucky’s Tale”, a free game that ships with every Oculus Rift, plays like an amazing tech demonstration for how third-person experiences could be developed for VR going forward.

“The most fun you will likely have will be in showing the platform to people in your life that do not normally game, like your parents, aunts, uncles ...”

The game feels like you are playing around with a little diorama set. The experience is adorable, colorful and diverse in presentation. Through its stereoscopic 3D technology, VR gives you a sense of physical depth that no other platform can replicate, and games like “Superhot VR” utilize that perk to its fullest extent. In it, players are given short gameplay sequences — 10 to 20 second action movie-esque scenes — in which they must take down bad guys with whatever weapons are nearby. The sensation of having a bullet whiz past your head like in “Superhot VR” is unsettling and immersive.

Do not even get me started on the rollercoaster tech demonstrations. These few-minute-long experiences give players the feeling that they are riding in an out-of-control rollercoaster. These games like “Superhot VR” utilize that feeling to their full extent. In it, players are given short gameplay sequences — 10 to 20 second action movie-esque scenes — in which they must take down bad guys with whatever weapons are nearby. The sensation of having a bullet whiz past your head like in “Superhot VR” is unsettling and immersive.

If you have the money, buy a VR setup — you will not regret it. The most fun you likely will have will be in showing the platform to people in your life that do not normally game, like your parents, aunts, uncles or that weird cousin you see once a year at holiday gatherings. There are not a ton of Triple-A quality games that fully support VR just yet, but in the next couple of years I fully expect to see the platform become the next big thing. Many of the games out now for VR feel more like tech demos than actual, fleshed-out experiences, but the few shining examples of quality development that does exist serve as benchmarks for the medium’s inevitable future success. At the very least, find a way to try VR out, it will change the way you look at entertainment forever.

Mitchell Kevett is a School of Arts and Sciences senior majoring in history and minoring in political science. His column, “Gamer Next Door,” runs on alternate Wednesdays.
As streaming becomes a crucial source of revenue, the music industry faces the challenge of how to make new albums stand out in a crowded marketplace. What makes an album unique and successful?

Many musicians and fans alike discuss the success of albums and the reasons behind their popularity. Some argue that the release date and marketing strategy play a significant role in an album's success. Others believe that the quality of the music itself is the key factor. What is the role of the music industry in shaping the future of the music business?

In recent years, the music industry has undergone significant changes. The rise of streaming services and the decline of physical sales have altered the way music is consumed and distributed. How have these changes affected the way fans interact with their favorite artists?

The music industry has always been a source of inspiration and creativity. From the earliest days of recorded music to the digital age, artists have pushed the boundaries of what is possible. What lessons can we learn from the successes and failures of the music industry, and how can we ensure that it continues to thrive in the years to come?

When a famous musician dies, there are countless social media posts, candlelight vigils and craven deals for their vaults. How does the music industry remember and memorialize departed artists?

In November 1968, millions of Americans had the unique opportunity to revisit The Beatles’ legendary White Album. Fans were transported back into the catalogs to mourn, to remember, to preserve their own memories of fan art, to rationalize the art form as a whole. The Beatles’ music has been a constant in our lives, a soundtrack to our memories, a reflection of our experiences. The Beatles’ legacy has endured, surviving the test of time and continuing to inspire generations of fans.

For fans of The Beatles and other iconic artists, the legacy of a deceased artist is a powerful and emotional experience. From the re-release of classic albums to the creation of new music, the memory of a beloved artist lives on. How do we remember and honor the memory of a deceased artist, and what does this tell us about the role of music in our lives?
Happy Birthday! You’ll have a lot to think about this year. The changes that come your way will not turn out as expected. Practice moderation and avoid getting involved in ventures that you cannot afford emotionally, physically or financially. Question any offer that requires you to trust someone else to handle your personal or professional affairs. Your numbers are 8, 14, 22, 28, 31, 33, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Look over documents carefully before you sign. Dealing with institutions will put you in a vulnerable position if you don’t have expert advice. Evaluate every aspect of whatever situation you face before you make a commitment. Personal changes are apparent. 4 stars

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Your past experience will pay off when it comes to your work and your relationships with your peers. Taking charge and making sure that things get done on time will result in an unexpected opportunity or unusual testimonial. 2 stars

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): An emotional situation will have an impact on your relationship with someone. Take the time to listen to what’s being said and you’ll be able to bring about the changes that will enhance your relationship and enrich your life. 5 stars

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don’t delude yourself. You cannot conform to the way other people do things. Use your imagination to come up with an idea that will take others by surprise and help you stand out from your peers. 3 stars

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): If you can dream it, you can become it. Change begins within and can turn your day into an exciting new start. Trust your instincts and believe in your ability to conquer your fears and achieve your goals. Romance is highlighted. 3 stars

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don’t let someone else do their job for you. If someone overreacts, give them space. If what other people do bother you, if you feel you have to conform to the way other people do things. Use your imagination to come up with an idea that will take others by surprise and help you stand out from your peers. 3 stars

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Expand your mind, you’ll learn something that will help you get ahead. Short trips will lead to engaging conversations with people who can motivate you to try something new. A physical activity will lead to self-improvement. Romance is encouraged. 3 stars

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotion will take over if you get into a confrontation with someone regarding your responsibilities. Look for an innovative way to deal with anyone questioning your abilities or what you are doing. Someone you thought you could trust will let you down. 2 stars

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Accept inevitable changes. Don’t give someone the wrong impression. Be willing to look at new data, concepts and suggestions and figure out a way to incorporate what you are offered into your plans. Don’t let personal issues interfere with work. 3 stars

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put your heart into whatever you are working toward; an opportunity will come your way. Aphrodisiac will encourage better health, greater confidence and compliments. Romance will change your life and lead to positive lifestyle changes. 5 stars

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Emotional manipulation will get you into trouble. Stick to the truth and question any information you are given that appears to be incomplete or unlikely. Don’t share information that may be used against you or to take advantage of you. Protect passwords. 3 stars

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

Yesterday's Solution

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9 & 3 & 1 \\
2 & 4 & 6 \\
\end{array}
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8 & 6 & 4 \\
5 & 2 & 9 \\
7 & 1 & 3 \\
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Yesterday's Solution

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8 & 6 & 4 \\
5 & 2 & 9 \\
7 & 1 & 3 \\
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COMPANY

3 Knights reach double digits, combine for 20 rebounds

CONTINUED FROM BACK

bright this season. She commanded the court and let her presence be known.

Following the game, a ceremony was held in honor of Stringer’s 1,000th win. Some notable, emotional congratulations came from members of the 1,000 win club, which features such names as the late Tennessee head coach Pat Summitt, Stanford’s head coach Tara VanDerveer, UConn’s head coach Geno Auriemma and North Carolina’s head coach Sylvia Hatchell. She also got comments from former Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant, late tennis star Billie Jean King and former CEO of Nike Phil Knight.

“At the end of the day these players are people,” Stringer said with teary eyes. “They work so hard to make things happen. We as coaches couldn’t accomplish anything without the players.”

C. VIVIAN STRINGER

Head Coach

Rutgers hosts Michigan State for midweek matchup

ALEX FABUGAIS-INABA

The Rutgers volleyball team will face Michigan State at the College Avenue Gymnasium on Wednesday at 7 p.m. in a mid-week match.

The Scarlet Knights (6-23, 0-16) are coming off of mixed performances over the weekend in Illinois, but head coach CJ Werneke is hopeful for more progress to be made in the team’s last four home matches of the season.

Last weekend, Rutgers lost both of its matches against No. 4 Illinois and Northwestern, but still managed to take a set from the Wildcats for their first set win against the Chicago school since joining the Big Ten in 2014.

Despite the fact that the Knights fell to No. 4 Illinois, 25-20, 25-22, 25-11, Werneke was proud that the team kept its opponent in close proximity for the first two sets before falling off toward the end of the match.

Surprisingly, Werneke was not pleased with Rutgers’ performance the following day against Northwestern, even though the Knights captured the third set.

“It’s not like we’re tapped out or maxed out. So taking a set while not even playing our best could still accomplish some good things,” Werneke said.

With that in mind, Rutgers needs to find a way to finish stronger toward the end of each set and each match. Over the past weekend, it was only able to score 11 and 14 points in the last set and each match. Over the past weekend, it was only able to score 11 and 14 points in the last set against its opponents.

Additionally, the Knights are becoming more consistent scoring in the twenties against some nationally ranked teams, but are unable to close the set with a win.

“We’ve more familiar to what it feels like and looks like to be in those situations. So now we’ve just got to continue the same execution the last 5 points as we did the first 20,” Werneke said.

This is not the first time the Knights have played the Spartans this season. Rutgers battled them on Sept. 29 when it was able to notch a win in the first set, 25-18, before falling in the other three sets.

Michigan State’s head coach Cathy George applauded the Knights’ progression throughout the years.

“Rutgers is vastly improved, and they pushed us — we realized that we had to play aggressive and poised. I think we really showed that in our third and fourth sets when we really put things together,” George said, according to msuspartans.com.

On Wednesday night, Rutgers should find a way to turn the tables and maintain its aggressive playing from the beginning to the end of the match.

The Knights are ranked 24th in the country with 2.67 blocks per set, as of this week’s rankings, behind the Spartans’ 2.68 blocks per game for 21st. They have been consistent in their defensive play.

In Michigan State’s most recent match, it lost to Iowa in four sets. After the Spartans captured the first set, the Hawkeyes came back to take the final three sets, 30-28, 25-19, 25-23, in a tight match.

“We had leads, but showed our inexperience in closing out sets and matches. It’s something we’re working on, but it frustrates us tonight. We did a lot of good things — we saw a lot of big performances this week over our two matches, but tonight we couldn’t close it out when we had control,” George said.

Both Rutgers and Michigan State struggle closing out sets and matches, so the Knights have the opportunity to capitalize on their opponents’ weakness. Luckily for them, they’ll be playing in front of a home crowd, coming in with the upper hand.

“It’s always nice to be home,” Werneke said. “It’s a little bit of a competitive advantage, but you don’t have to travel, especially heading into that second match, or even the first match. When you’re comfortable in your home surroundings, you’re a little more refreshed and a little bit fresher than the other team.”

For updates on the Rutgers volleyball team, follow @TargumSports on Twitter.
Knights 3-point shooting key for successful season

COBY GREEN
SPORTS EDITOR

For the fourth straight season and the third under head coach Steve Pikiell, the Rutgers men’s basketball team started its season 2-0 after two blowout wins over Fairleigh Dickinson and Drexel.

The Scarlet Knights have opened the season shooting the ball extremely efficiently, going 53 percent from the field and a whopping 56.5 percent from 3-point range.

The team has gotten good performances from both returning players and newcomers, as Rutgers has outscored its two opponents by a combined score of 185-121. The Knights reached 90 points in both games and held the visiting Knights and Dragons to a combined 39 percent shooting from the field.

Here are three takeaways from Rutgers’ season opening weekend at the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC):

UPPERCLASSMEN SNIPERS

Junior forwards Issa Thiam and Eugene Omoruyi produced similar numbers last season, with Thiam contributing 7 points, 4.4 rebounds and 0.6 assists per game and Omoruyi putting up 7.9 points, five rebounds and one assist per game. Thiam started every game and was a potential threat from the 3-point line, while Omoruyi was more of a defensive anchor.

Thiam has picked up where he left off from last season, and then some, shooting extremely well from the field at 61.5 percent, including a 70 percent clip from 3 (7-10). Omoruyi has joined him in both games in the starting lineup and seems to have put a lot of work into his 3-point shot. He has gone 6-7 from 3 after going 0-5 last season on his attempts from deep.

Omoruyi also is currently the team leader in average points with 19 after a 24 point game against Drexel on Sunday.

FRESH-FACED IMPACT

A trio of freshman have made the most of their minutes this early in the season and have even stolen the show at points. Guard Ron Harper Jr.’s alley oop dunk at the apex of the Knights’ second half blowout of Fairleigh Dickinson had the RAC at the loudest it’s been since the season began.

Both Harper Jr. and fellow guard Montez Mathis are averaging 10 points per game, with Harper Jr. shooting 56 percent from the field, and Mathis struggling a bit with his shot early at 31.6 percent.

Sophomore forward Myles Johnson has been big on the defensive side of the ball as the backup to graduate student center Shaquille Doorson. He’s averaging six rebounds per game and also leads the team in blocked shots with three in each game. Johnson is sure to be a shoe-in for the starting spot once Doorson leaves after this season.

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES

Shooting from beyond the arc was a touchy subject for Rutgers last season, who shot a paltry 29 percent from the 3-point line. Pikiell mentioned after the game against the visiting Knights that he was glad not to have to hear any complaints from fans about the 3-point shooting for a day or two. The fans had a point, since the Knights took exactly 500 3-pointers last season, but only hit 145 of them. But things have been much different this year.

Rutgers is 26 of 46 from the 3-point line so far this season (56.5 percent), in large part to the aforementioned Omoruyi and Thiam, and sophomore guard Peter Kiss (4-5) and Geo Baker (4-8). The Knights are shockingly shooting the ball better from the outside than the inside and hit 14.3 pointers against the Dragons — the second most in a game in program history.

Despite this production sure to decline as the season goes on and the Big Ten schedule begins, 3-point shooting was Rutgers’ Achilles heel last season. If the team can at the very least stay respectable from beyond the arc and use it to its benefit, the Knights have the potential to have a nice season.

For updates on the Rutgers men’s basketball team, follow @cgreen204 and @TargumSports on Twitter.

Sophomore guard Peter Kiss has shot 4-5 from beyond the arc in his first two games as a Knight, and has scored at least 15 points in both games. GARRETT STEFFE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER / NOVEMBER 2018
Jenkins has 2nd double-double of season, Cryor drops 10 in debut to propel Stringer to historic win at RAC

The Rutgers women's basketball team hosted Central Connecticut State yesterday at the Rutgers Athletic Center (RAC) where head coach C. Vivian Stringer earned her 1,000th career win, joining four other Division I women's basketball coaches who have accomplished the feat.

The Scarlet Knights (3-0) led for the majority of the game and defeated the Blue Devils (0-3), 73-44.

Junior guard Ciani Cryor made her season debut after she did not play in the first two games due to a violation of team policy. She was originally scheduled to make her debut against Louisiana State on Dec. 15. Cryor stepped in early and helped push Rutgers to a win.

The Knights started the first quarter with a 17-8 lead. They had eight turnovers in the opening quarter, which was not a great start to a historic night. Senior forward Caillin Jenkins led in the first quarter with four rebounds followed by senior center Victoria Harris who grabbed three boards.

Starting strong, Rutgers led in field goals, 3-pointers and free throw percentage. Holding Central Connecticut State to 8 and 9 points in the first and second quarters, respectively, the Knights allowed themselves more room to breathe, but that didn't stop them from plowing through their opponent.

It led 37-17 at the end of the second quarter, but Central Connecticut State made a slight push in the second half. The tempo in the third quarter slowed down compared to the two previous quarters. With Rutgers only scoring 15 points and Central Connecticut State putting up 16, the quarter was much closer in scoring. The Devils led for the majority of the third quarter, different than their previous games.

In their two previous games, Central Connecticut State was strong in the first and last quarters in scoring, but in a tension-filled game, it made up for lost opportunities in the first two quarters. In total, the Knights had 13 fast breaks, while their opponent had zero.

Fifth-year senior forward Stasha Carey had a solid four blocks in the game. She was able to record a 57 percent free throw percentage on 4-7 attempts, the most attempts on the team.

The fourth quarter ended with Jenkins leading the game in rebounds with a staggering 12 and total points with 14. She also boasted a .778 shooting percentage, leading the team in more ways than one.

Cryor had a perfect 100 percent shooting average in her first game of the season at the RAC. Her future playing on the team looks brighter.