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BC freshman kicks new 63-yard field goal record on Senior Day.
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Volume 92, Issue 13 *Web Edition* SERVING BREVARD COLLEGE SINCE 1935 Nov. 13, 2026

# BC community gathers in prayer for injured football player

**Madeleine Pollock**
Managing Editor

Around 100 students, staff, and faculty gathered at Ives-Lemel Family Field at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 12, to say a prayer in support of sophomore wide receiver Stixx Spencer, who was recently injured during practice. The prayer was led by the Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life, Dr. Sharad Creasman, and Spencer's friend, senior Jadyn Harlow, who had Spencer on the phone.

"Here at Brevard, we came together to pray for encouragement, strength, resilience, and bravery, and spidey senses," Harlow said. "We gathered as a college to show love, support, and the meaning of family."

"[Spencer] experienced a traumatic injury while at football practice on Tuesday evening. He is currently in the hospital at Mission in Asheville," Creasman wrote in a campus-wide email about the prayer.

It is too soon to offer further medical updates on Spencer, and we want to be respectful of his family and their privacy during this time.

"Stixx's spirits were lifted today… His Brevard family and friends are doing so much for him," Spencer's mother said on Instagram. "My gratitude is forever with Brevard College and these amazing humans in NC."

"We will continue to pray for Stixx as we will continue to lean on one another to make his journey a little easier," Harlow said.



Students, faculty, staff, and community members gathered to pray for Spencer and his family. Photo by Tori Gates.



Those who attended also signed a card for Spencer. Photo by Tori Gates.

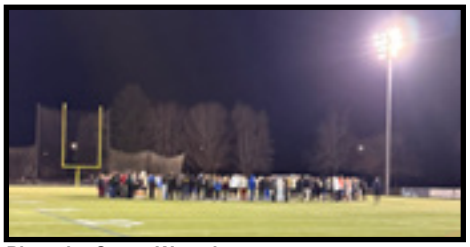


Photo by Casey Wampler.

# Back-to-back conference champs

*Women's soccer's next stop: first round of nationals*

See the story—page 8



Photos by Alecia Janeiro





# Brevard College named 2026 Liberal Arts College of the Year by Education Insider

Brevard College has been named the 2026 Liberal Arts College of the Year by Education Insider, the latest recognition for the College's distinctive approach to undergraduate education and commitment to experiential learning.

The designation is accompanied by an extensive feature in Education Insider magazine. The feature highlights several aspects of the Brevard College experience, including faculty mentorship, the Brevard Career Advantage program, small class sizes, undergraduate research, and internship opportunities.

"Brevard College is a relationship-rich, care-based small college that uses experiential education to prepare students for life after graduation," said Dr. Bradley J. Andrews, President of Brevard College, in the Education Insider feature. "Students are known, cared for, and supported. Faculty become mentors, teachers, and advocates."

The Education Insider profile also describes the College's remarkable setting in the mountains of North Carolina, where the region's natural resources, arts organizations, businesses, and research facilities provide opportunities for learning beyond the classroom.

The profile highlights several examples of how Brevard College students connect their academic interests with professional and experiential opportunities, including research at Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute, development of The Hub, a leading outdoor recreation business, and a theatre graduate's work with the Emmy Award-winning bluegrass band the Steep Canyon Rangers.

"Brevard College's approach demonstrates that a small liberal arts institution can deliver an education that is both deeply personal and professionally relevant," the magazine noted.

The Education Insider recognition adds to a recent series of national honors for Brevard College. The College was recently named a College of Distinction for the second consecutive year, earning national, private, and state designations. Brevard also rose 14 spots in the 2027 U.S. News & World Report Best Colleges rankings, earning a No. 16 ranking among Regional Colleges in the South and a No. 14 ranking among Top Private Regional Colleges in the South. In addition, Brevard College faculty member Dr. Mel Bringle was named the Association of General and Liberal Studies' National Outstanding Teacher during the last academic year.

These recognitions reflect Brevard College's continued commitment to an experiential liberal arts education that combines academic excellence, personal attention, and practical learning. The College currently enrolls 790 full-time undergraduate students, one of the largest enrollments in its history, and continues to expand academic opportunities through new programs in Artificial Intelligence Management and Engineering Science, graduate programs, and an annual undergraduate research conference.

# Freak of the Week: The Bald Eagle

**Tom Webb**
Staff Writer

While to many it may just be the "freedom bird" or "that bird on the quarter," the Bald Eagle, Haliaeetus leucocephalus, is an incredibly fascinating bird of prey beyond its role in the United States' history. From mating to its bad habit of accidentally eating lead-poisoned animals, this bird of prey is an incredibly unique species that can be found throughout the entire United States, including right here in Brevard.

Bald Eagles are considered to be a migratory species, flying north to large bodies of water in the summer to roost and lay their eggs, then before winter traveling down south to deal with a milder winter. It has been found that only some bald eagles choose to travel North in the spring, and those that were born below 40 degrees longitude stay where they are year-round.

These birds are opportunistic scavengers, meaning they will often eat carrion or steal from other birds of prey to get their meals. Bald eagles have also been seen to hunt for fish during spawning season by wading into rivers where runs are occurring.

Bald eagles have one of the largest nests of any bird, with nests capable of weighing up to two tons and spanning over two meters wide. Nests take one to three months to complete by the male and female and do get reused season after season, with the mating pair adding new additions to the nest throughout their use of it.

The mating pairs are considered monogamous, meaning when they find their match, they stay together for both of their life spans. During mating season, bald eagles engage in a unique courtship ritual in which the two partners will soar high into the sky, lock talons together, then dive bomb towards the ground before breaking up and flying separate ways just before they hit the ground.

Due to their opportunistic lifestyle, bald eagles have long been threatened by lead poisoning. Lead bullets used in hunting fragment upon impact, dispersing small, sometimes microscopic amounts of lead into the body of a dead animal. If this animal is left behind, eagles and other scavengers will consume it, meaning they are being regularly dosed with lead. As the bald eagle consumes more scavenged prey, the amount of lead in their body grows until it potentially kills them from heavy metal poisoning. The process of a toxin building up in a wild animal due to the food it eats is called "bioaccumulation".

Today many organizations are attempting to lobby the federal government to ban the use of lead bullets, but progress has been slow. Most organizations are now focused on educating hunters on the damage lead bullets can do and encouraging them to switch to other forms of ammunition. California is the only state today that has completely banned the use of lead bullets, protecting the bald eagle and other species from further lead poisoning.

**Sources:**

McTee, M., Kean, B., Pons, A., & Ramsey, P. (2023). The seasonal threat of lead exposure in bald eagles. ScienceDirect, Volume 889, 164256. https://10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.164256

Bald eagle. (n.d.). Audubon. https://www.audubon.org/field-guide/bird/bald-eagle



**These Freaks are more than just the bird on your quarter. Photo by Aaron Baggenstos, Audubon Photography Awards**

# Brevard College Wind Ensemble to present 'Rock, Rolls, and a March' on Monday, Nov. 16

The Brevard College Wind Ensemble will present "Rock, Rolls, and a March," a concert featuring an exciting mix of contemporary compositions and classic wind ensemble music, on Monday, Nov. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Scott Concert Hall at the Paul Porter Center for Performing Arts.

The concert will feature student concerto competition winner Olivia Ervin alongside Grammy Award-winning performer and composer D.J. Sparr. The program will include Sparr's new electric guitar concerto, Zephyr Roaring Thunder, an innovative work that brings electric guitar to the wind ensemble setting.

The ensemble will also perform several classics, including Gustav Holst's First Suite in E-flat, conducted by Commander C.S. White, a retired U.S. Navy Bandmaster.

From the energy of a new electric guitar concerto to the enduring appeal of classic wind ensemble repertoire, "Rock, Rolls, and a March" promises an engaging evening of musical variety and artistry.

The concert is free and open to the public. For more information, call (828) 641-0605.

# A successful karaoke night

**Eve Rich**
Contributor

Karaoke night is just one of the many activities freshmen can enjoy. On Monday, students gathered in Tornado Alley ready to belt their favorite songs.

The singing started at 5:15 p.m. after some technical difficulties, and didn't stop until 7 p.m. A handful of students laughed and joined in on some well-known songs. Karaoke was all about fun, so no one felt bad for singing the wrong words at times. After about an hour, groups of people stopped by to watch. Some came just from curiosity, and others came to join in.

Events led by peer leaders are offered to all FYE classes. Some can even fill certain requirements for assignments. Most students are encouraged to participate in some social event to help integrate into college social life. With other clubs like sports being prominent, some students find it difficult to find other clubs, saying "they get smothered by the more popular ones".

These events are a great way for freshmen to get out of their comfort zone. There is always at least one event that all students can go to. Most of the time, you can bring a friend, but it's always best to ask. You can see what events happen during the week from the "This week @ BC" email—sent at the beginning of each week.



A student participant sings her chosen song. Photo by Eve Rich.

# OLEE to host screening of alumni Jess Wiegandt Gomez's EMMY-awarded film

**Madeleine Pollock**
Managing Editor

The OLEE program will host alumni and filmmaker Jess Wiegandt Gomez for a film screening of her 2023 Capital EMMY-awarded film, "A River Called Home," on Wednesday, Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. in MG 125. The film was Wiegandt Gomez's MFA thesis project at American University and focuses on the health of waterways.

The event is open to the campus community, but will likely be especially intriguing for those interested in Outdoor Leadership, Communication, Filmmaking, Art, and Environmental Stewardship fields.

"She will share how her background in Outdoor Leadership and Experiential Education helped to get clearance and affirmation from American University to be able to engage in and manage the risks associated with this kind of film work," OLEE Director and Professor Jennifer Kafsky shared.

The event will kick off with some brief background from Wiegandt Gomez, and then attendees will have the opportunity to watch the 27-minute film. The film showing will be followed by a question-and-answer session.

In addition to being a filmmaker, Wiegandt Gomez works as a Wilderness First Responder, freelance cinematographer, editor, and producer. As someone who is very passionate about the outdoors and who holds an MFA in Film and Media Arts with a concentration in Environmental, Wildlife, and Social Impact Filmmaking, her stories often discuss conservation, endangered species awareness, and environmental justice.

# McDowell Speaker Rhiannon Giddens speaks to students, faculty, and public

**Madeleine Pollock**
Managing Editor

Last Tuesday, Nov. 10, Brevard College welcomed folk musician Rhiannon Giddens — a two-time Grammy Award winner and Pulitzer Prize winner— in partnership with the Transylvania County Library, as the guest speaker of the J.R. McDowell Speaker Series. Giddens spoke to students and faculty at the Jones Library at 3 p.m., followed by the ticketed community event in the Porter's Center at 7:30 p.m.

Giddens is best known as part of the Black folk band, the Carolina Chocolate Drops, and for the music she composed and played for the "Red Dead Redemption II" video game soundtrack and the 2025 film "Sinners." She furthermore is part of the Yo-Yo Ma-founded Silk Road Ensemble.

**A candid conversation at 3 p.m.**

The 3 p.m. students-and-faculty-only event was a conversation-based gathering, allowing the curiosity of attendees to guide the discussion. After an introduction from Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty Jennifer Frick-Ruppert, Giddens launched immediately into playing a song.

Giddens was joined by Italian composer Francesco Turrisi for both events, and they quickly mesmerized the audience with their rhythmic way of playing together— with Giddens on a replica of an 1850s banjo and Turrisi on a frame drum.

They both shared some of their formal music training and academic backgrounds, focusing on how their current musical paths were unexpected. "We're not necessarily doing what we were trained to do in school, but the way that we were trained we were able to apply to other things," Giddens says.

She then talked about the history of the Banjo, noting that although it is often considered an Appalachian bluegrass tradition, this is not where it comes from. The Banjo was an African Diaspora instrument from the Caribbean and was not adopted by white folks until the early 1800s, when it started to become more commercialized.

"Commercialism just really distorted our sense of what music is supposed to be for us as people. Instead of it being a commodity, it used to be part of life," Giddens noted.

"We have music that comes from people. We call it folk music, but it's really like traditional music. It's got function," Giddens continues. "You know, like work songs, or lullabies, or prey songs. That's what you had before the music industry."

After playing a few more songs, they then reflected on the effects of the recording industry on music and on improvisation. "I think it's important for us to understand that the recording industry has murdered a lot of innovation," Gidden says. "Before the recording industry, every sound came from a human being that was near you. So for all of human existence, music was attached to a body."

Turrisi talked about some other uses of music prior to commercialization, speaking on a type of ritual and healing music tradition from Italy called Tarantella. Doctors and musicians—typically women— would visit a person who was bitten by a specific type of spider, and then heal them through an upbeat and rhythmic live music ritual that could last for days or weeks.

The event wrapped up with a question-and-answer period, and a piece of advice for students. "You don't have to know what you want to do. But start making connections with people that are doing things that are interesting to you," Giddens said. "You have to be open. You have to be listening to the universe."

**An intriguing formal presentation at 7:30 p.m.**

The event kicked off with a formal introduction from Frick-Ruppert as well as an introduction from a representative of the Transylvania County Library Foundation— the group that manages the McDowell speaker endowment funds that allow for events of this type.

In similar fashion to the 3 p.m. event, Giddens and Turrisi started with a song, before giving a presentation on the history of the Banjo and the Tambourine.

The presentation went more into depth on the tradition of the Banjo as a plantation instrument that was then brought to the United States and adopted into white music. Turrisi highlighted similarities between Banjos and tambourines, noting that many traditional banjo makers also constructed tambourines and drums like the ones he was playing.

They also showed some primary source paintings of enslaved peoples playing these instruments as "minstrels" and reflected on the harmful effects and stereotypes of this.

The most moving part of the presentation came when Giddens talked about a plantation song she had learned called "Pompeii Ran Away," about an enslaved person who escaped. She shared that she played the tune for a friend from the Congo, and he knew the tune from when he was child.

In the Congo, this song's lyrics were "mother told me not to go outside for my friends sold me to strangers. Because I am strong. Because I am beautiful."

It was a powerful representation of the power of music and tradition and showed how music travelled across the ocean with enslaved peoples. Giddens and Turrisi played the tune for everyone, and Giddens sang along in the original language of the song.

The event wrapped up with a question and answer period, and then a call and response song where the audience was able to join in.





**Photos by Alecia Janerio.**

# Feeling bored when it's dark at five o'clock? Here's a list of things you can do within an hour's drive

**Liam Smith**
Staff Writer

We are nearing mid-November, and daylight saving time has everyone feeling slower than usual at dusk. For those of us who are feeling bored, need to get outside of the house or dorm, and do things when 5 p.m. feels like 7 p.m., here's a list of live events like comedy shows, concerts, or community activities that can provide a night of fun in the next week.

For those people who want an energetic night but are not able to travel long distances, there are events right in Brevard. Guests 21 or up can go to 185 King Street to see The Fretliners band play the When the Kettle Sings Tour tonight, Friday 13, at 8 p.m. for less than $20.

On the other hand, for guests wanting to enjoy a night of live music on a budget, 185 will hold an Old Time Mountain Music Acoustic Jam for free on Monday, Nov. 16. The Jam will open doors at 4 p.m., but the show will begin at 6 p.m.

Just a few miles down the road at Oscar Blues Taproom, guests of all ages can enjoy live music all from today to Monday. With one band performing per night, Lefty Carmean & Friends play tonight at 6 p.m., Alien Music Club tomorrow at 6 p.m., Isaac Haden on Sunday at 2 p.m., and the Vaden Landers Duo on Monday at 6 p.m.

Further away, in Asheville, the Orange Peel on 101 Biltmore Avenue, there are events lined up nearly daily for the rest of the year. One that stands out is the appearance of the Australian comedian Randy Feltface on his Gimmick Tour. Adults can enjoy this show for around $47 total at 6 p.m. on Sunday.

On Tuesday, November 17, all ages can enjoy music straight from the music department at the University of North Carolina Asheville for just $15. The show begins at 3 p.m. and does not end until 9 p.m.

For people who want a fun night and don't mind driving over an hour, the Radio Room in Greenville, S.C. Metalcore visits the Radio Room on Monday with headliner Born of Osiris, and opener bands Miss May I, Convictions, and Downswing. It's open to all ages for $36 at 7 p.m.

Though it is over a week away, I could not dismiss the fact that the Radio Room will be hosting the Shrek-Rave on Saturday, Nov. 21. Intentionally ridiculous, this event is a Shrek-themed music event that advertises itself with the slogan, "It's dumb; just come have fun. Who cares. Cool is dead." Adults can get general admission tickets for $25, or VIP treatment for $61.

There is not enough room to continue listing each event from multiple venues, so I encourage those who are curious to check out these venues on social media or their websites. Each host will list the event, date and time, admission requirements, and extra details.

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✉ **Letters Policy: The Clarion welcomes letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit letters for length or content. We do not publish letters whose authorship cannot be verified.**







## Correction on 'Starstruck' visual

On last week's issue on the front page, the photo of Hanah Schinskys piece titled 'Starsss' was incorrectly labeled. Instead, the correct artist and title is Rowand Breen's "Still Life 3." We regret the error and thank Breen for bringing it to our attention.

# A Canadian's look into Veterans Day

**Elli Clark**
Staff Writer

November 11 marks an important date for both the United States of America and their neighbouring country, Canada. I am an international student from Canada, and for the first time in a long time, I'd nearly passed the whole day, having forgotten what day it was. Not simply because the importance was lost on me, but because there was so little in my surroundings to offer any indication that it was any different than a normal day. This got me thinking and interested in doing some research into the other side of history to see how my host country commemorated their Veterans Day. Back home, this is known to me as Remembrance Day.

But what is the history behind this date? For both countries, the story is the same, and it links back to World War I, also known as "The Great War." Although this great conflict officially came to an end on June 28, 1919, the day of recognition is given to Nov. 11, 1918—seven months earlier—for that's when the formal, temporary agreement to cease fighting, called an armistice, was signed. This armistice was put into effect exactly on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.

From this point on, the USA and Canada take slightly different approaches to integrating and recognizing the day.

In 1919, America's president Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the first Armistice Day, and at the same time much of the British Empire inaugurated it on the second Monday in November. Just a couple of years later, however, the Canadian Parliament passed a bill that combined Armistice Day with Thanksgiving. Between 1928 and 1931, many Canadians pushed for the separation of the two holidays. There was a shared consensus that too little demonstration of recognition was being shown. So, the federal government labeled Remembrance Day and dedicated it to November 11 while they moved Thanksgiving to a variety of different dates before officially being put on the second Monday of October. This ultimately prevented a clash of the two.

Over here, in the year of 1938, the U.S. Congress took the important step of designating it as a legal national holiday. Still, though, it wasn't until 1954 that President Eisenhower changed its name from Armistice Day to Veterans Day. This was to specify who the holiday was meant to recognize. Leading up to that year, World War II had required the nation's largest mobilization of soldiers, sailors, Marines, and airmen in history. This pushed the change to Veterans Day to ensure all veterans were honoured.

Veterans Day and Remembrance Day take on their own perspective in terms of ground principles. For the former, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs shares the purpose of the day as "a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good." For the latter, the Government of Canada expresses it as "a special time to honour the memory and legacy of fallen Canadian, veterans, and current service members who have served and sacrificed so much for [the] country," and where " the memory of their sacrifices will continue, and the values they fought for will live on in all of us."

I've gathered some insight too from some of my American peers about their experience growing up and celebrating Veterans Day. For some, depending on the state, many schools closed for the holiday. For those that stayed open, their schools invited veterans to speak and share their stories; they'd pledge allegiance to the flag and hold student essay readings. Some students would visit retirement homes to hold lunches and thank veterans. Other than that, they lacked any significant memories of significant efforts to reflect upon the past.

Back home in Canada, in many provinces, it is mandatory for assemblies to be held in schools to commemorate the day. I have very vivid recollections of these assemblies, where we were encouraged to participate in events like the two minutes of silence, the playing of the Last Post, the recitation of In Flanders Fields, and the wearing of poppies. Students, too, would spend time in class writing heartfelt letters to soldiers and putting great effort into composing videos to show tribute. I could close my eyes now, and I could hear the sound of the bagpipes clear as day, as if I was back in elementary school.

The most shocking part of being away from Canada during this time is not spotting a red poppy on the shirts of everyone I see. What is the significance of the poppy? Well, during World War I, the land located across the Flanders region of western Belgium and part of northern France became one of the major battlefields. After the soil of that land had been churned and nearly devastated, it was the appearance of the growing red poppies that became a striking image. This flower became a symbol used in the famous Canadian poem by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae, In Flanders Fields, and later a larger symbol for remembrance.

What I have discovered through all this is that, although they share the same date, Veterans Day does not stand to be the exact equivalent of Remembrance Day. I wondered if perhaps the similarity instead was shared between the USA's second holiday, Memorial Day. But still, the only outstanding remarks about that holiday were mentions of schools being closed.

Here at Brevard, I wonder if there might be bigger endeavors to take the time to share remembrance for the brave from all over. Of course, the perspective I have gained may not be a collective portrayal of the American experience. If that is the case, I am always open to hearing more about what form of memories you all hold from past years on November 11.




**The famous Canadian poem, "In Flanders Fields," by Lieutenant-Colonel John McCrae. Photo via the website for the Canadian War Museum.**

# Araneda kicks into NCAA record books, Tornados trounce Monarchs on Senior Day




**Photo by Isabella Zambuto '28.**

Brevard College freshman kicker Alex Araneda drilled a 63-yard field goal to set a new NCAA Division III record for the longest field goal made as the BC Football team (7–2, 4–2 USA South) surged to a 48–3 triumph over Methodist (1–8, 0–6 USAS) on Senior Day Saturday at Ives-Lemel Family Field.

Araneda, a first-year Tornado from Montclair, California, broke the previous 62-yard record held by Matthew Aven (Claremont M-S, 2013). The field goal marked the first points of the contest for the Tornados at the 8:21 mark in the first quarter.

Brevard jumped out to an early lead, outscored Methodist 14–0 in the first half, and used a 31–0 run in the second half to seal the 48–3 win.

The Tornados honored 15 seniors in a special pregame ceremony, as Jordan Barnett, Cole Billings, Alex Bolton, Jaylen Byrd, Isaiah Brown, Tucker Cleary, Joseph Cuellar, Caleb Melton, Messiah Ramseur, Carter Raulerson, LaRoddrick Rucker, Tae Sellers, Abdulmalik Sholanke, CJ Thomas, and Bernard Werts were all recognized.

Brevard rushed for 286 yards, its seventh 200-plus-yard rushing performance, while holding the Monarchs to negative 39 yards on the ground, thanks to BC's defense racking up eight sacks and a season-high 16 tackles for loss. BC's offense went 4-for-4 in the red zone, as the Tornados scored four touchdowns on the ground, one through the air, and one defensive TD.

Christian Conley completed nine passes for 107 yards, finding Michael Pannell for a 30-yard touchdown strike. Conley punched a one-yard touchdown on the ground, while Favian Williford scored two and King Faison added one touchdown rush. Marvin Reed Jr. eclipsed 100 yards for the third time in 2026, totaling 113 yards on 13 carries.

BC's defense held its opponent to single digits for the third time this season, stifling the Monarchs all afternoon. Sylas Scruggs led all Tornados with seven tackles, while Isaiah Brown added four tackles, three TFL, and two sacks. Curtis Bowden Jr. and Caleb Melton notched 2.5 TFL each, while Donovan Reid and Abdulmalik Sholanke totaled two sacks. Seth Murray added two TFL, with Reid and DJ Stevenson forcing fumbles. Stevenson recovered the fumble he forced, and Will Hadden III took a 35-yard interception return to the end zone.

Gavin Pegram totaled 163 return yards, setting up a touchdown with a 45-yard punt return. Spencer Crum hit a 22-yard field goal, with Declan Sweeny (54-yard punt) and Glen Kelly (43-yard punt) handling the punting duties.

Brevard closes its 2026 campaign on the road next Saturday, November 14, traveling to Rocky Mount, North Carolina, to face NC Wesleyan at 6 p.m.

# Tornados topple the Monarchs on Senior Day

**Jordan Ramey**
Staff Writer

The Tornados took on the Methodist Monarchs on Saturday, Nov. 7, in the Senior Day matchup. The Tornados had 18 seniors to celebrate, and nobody wanted them to go out with a loss. The seniors played in front of around 1,300 fans, and let me tell you, the Tornados did not disappoint against the conference foe.

The recurring theme of the Tornados offense being heavily reliant on the run game was the story of the offense in this performance. The Tornados totaled 286 yards on the ground. Once again led by Freshman phenom Marvin Reed Jr., who totaled 115 yards in his performance. Sophomore running back Favian Williford also had a great performance as he averaged over 13 yards per carry and was able to reach the end zone twice for the Tornados. Freshman quarterback Christian Conley went 9 for 11 with 107 yards and a touchdown in his performance against the Monarchs. Senior offensive lineman Bernard Werts and LaRoddrick Rucker are going to be missed next season as they were dominant performers all year on the front for the Tornados.

The Brevard defense seemed to rebound this game as they had a dominant performance in shutting down the offense of the Monarchs. Only 181 yards of total offense was allowed to the Monarchs, and the Tornados forced 2 turnovers as well as racking up 7 sacks. Senior defensive lineman Isaiah Brown was named the player of the game as he had 2 sacks, 3 tackles for loss, and 4 total tackles in his farewell game from Ives-Lemel Field. Sophomore defensive lineman Donovan Reid also was able to record 2 sacks as the Tornados dominated up front. Senior linebacker Will Hadden left his mark on Ives-Lemel as he was able to intercept a pass and take it all the way to the house for a touchdown.

Thank you to all of our seniors for your hard work this season! The Tornados will be traveling to Rocky Mount, NC, to take on the Battling Bishops of North Carolina Wesleyan this Saturday, November 14th at 6:00 P.M. The Tornados are playing for their best record in program history as they look to finish 8-2. Good luck, guys!

# Women's soccer wins second straight USA South Tournament against SVU, collects fourth trophy in three years

## *The Tornados travel to Virginia Beach to play the first round of nationals against Swarthmore*

The Brevard College women's soccer team (14–1–5) scored early and held Southern Virginia (11–8–2) scoreless for BC's 15th shutout of 2026 as the Tornados won the USA South Conference Women's Soccer Tournament for the second straight season.

With the victory, the Tornados earned the league's automatic bid to the 2026 NCAA Division III Championship Tournament for the second straight season.

Junior transfer Peyton Coggins fired a shot into the back of the net in the 18th minute off an assist by sophomore defender Addison Goins, providing all the offense that the Tornados would need in the championship bout.

The Tornados took three shots in the first half of action, but did not attempt another for the remainder of the match, locking down defensively to earn the shutout win.

Abby Nunez turned in yet another stellar performance in net, making a career-high 11 saves to preserve BC's shutout. Brevard's starting back line of Natalie DeBella, Sophia DePasquale, Goins, and MK Smoak played all 90 minutes to propel the Tornados to victory.

BC withstood a total of 23 shot attempts, 11 shots on target, and seven corner kicks from the Knights.

The women's soccer team is set to travel for the opening rounds of the 2026 NCAA Division III Championship Tournament, as the Tornados will face Swarthmore on Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at the John A. Trinder Center on the campus of Batten University.

The meeting marks the first ever between the Tornados and Garnet in women's soccer.

Brevard earned the USA South's automatic berth into the NCAA postseason as the Tornados earned their second straight USA South Conference Tournament Championship with a 1–0 triumph over Southern Virginia last Saturday night in Buena Vista.

Junior transfer Peyton Coggins fired a shot into the back of the net in the 18th minute on an assist from sophomore defender Addison Goins, providing all the offense the Tornados needed in the championship bout.

Abby Nunez turned in another stellar performance in net, making a career-high 11 saves to preserve BC's shutout. Brevard's starting back line of Natalie DeBella, Sophia DePasquale, Goins, and MK Smoak played all 90 minutes to propel the Tornados to victory.

BC withstood a total of 23 shot attempts, 11 shots on target, and seven corner kicks from the Knights.

Brevard brings one of the nation's premier defenses to the national stage, with the Tornados currently ranking second in the country in save percentage (.918), narrowly trailing site host Batten's .938 mark. BC is sixth in the country with a .750 shutout percentage, while Nunez leads the nation with 14 shutouts and is third with a .916 save percentage.

Swarthmore finished the 2026 campaign with a 12-2-3 overall record and an unbeaten 8-0-2 mark in conference play. The Garnet dropped a 1-0 decision to Dickenson in the Centennial Women's Soccer Tournament, earning an at-large berth with their no. 23 NPI ranking. Swarthmore was ranked 17th in the nation in the latest IWSOC DIII National Top 25 poll.



**The BC women's soccer team celebrates their victory 1–0 against SVU, taking them to the first round of nationals in Virginia Beach to face Swarthmore. Photo by Alecia Janeiro.**