

# THE WRIGHT TIMES

February 2023

4300 N Narragansett Ave, Chicago, IL 60634

FREE

## May-our Voices Be Heard — Chicago Voting Begins in February

**Joe Faliszek**  
**Staff Reporter**

As many Wright students head to the polls to vote for Chicago's mayor for the first time, they're faced with one of the closest races in recent years with no candidates regularly polling above 30%.

Early voting has opened and polls close for the first round of voting on Feb. 28.

With no candidate projected to reach 50% of the vote, Chicagoans will likely find out whose hands will be guiding the Second City for the next four years following a run-off election on April 4.

What is really up for determination at the end of Feb. is which two candidates will be squaring up in the run-off.

If you are not registered to vote you can register in person before or on election day with two forms of ID, one of which needs an address, at your nearest Illinois Secretary of State's Office, or online.

U.S. Representative Jesus "Chuy" Garcia led a WBEZ/Chicago Sun-

Times/Telemundo Chicago/NBC5 poll conducted during the first week of Feb. poll with 20% picking him.

Chuy ran for mayor in 2015, where he made it to the runoff, but ultimately failed in his attempt to beat incumbent Rahm Emanuel.

He has consistently butted heads with Mayor Lori Lightfoot throughout her incumbency.

Garcia has been involved in Chicago politics for quite some time, starting as an alderperson in 1986.

Ex-Chicago Public Schools CEO Paul Vallas is in second with 18% of those surveyed having him as their first choice.

Vallas champions himself in prioritizing public safety, and plans to hire more police officers if elected.

Vallas has also been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police.

Vallas believes that the fight to stop violent crimes starts in education, and is an advocate of implementing Social and Emotional Learning resources in schools for this reason.

Mayor Lightfoot received 17% in the poll.

Arguably the biggest reason why there are so many candidates in this year's race is due to Mayor Lightfoot's unpopularity, with 60% of respondents in WBEZ/Chicago Sun-Times/Telemundo Chicago/NBC5 poll having an unfavorable view of the mayor.

The mayor has fulfilled some campaign promises, including the establishment of the first independent civilian oversight board for the Chicago Police Department.

Lightfoot also dealt with the Covid-19 Pandemic that started less than one year into her term.

Perennial candidate and businessman Willie Wilson came in with 12% of those polled having him as their first choice.

Wilson is famous for efforts including his donation of 30 million masks to various groups across Illinois, bailing low level offenders out of jail, giving direct aid to at-risk homeless people, and giving away free gasoline at several

Chicago gas stations.

Cook County Board of Commissioners member and ex-public school teacher Brandon Johnson received 11%.

Johnson's polling has seen a resurgence recently. He is a proponent of making CTA public transit free, implementing libraries in every public school, and tackling violence with a holistic approach.

He has received endorsements from the Chicago Teachers Union and Cook County College Teachers Union.

Illinois House of Representatives member Kam Buckner received 2% in the poll. Buckner has a "four star" plan that focuses on safety, education, helping local businesses, and stabilizing the city's finances.

He also has made it a goal of his to get Chicago's population to 3 million by 2030

Community activist Ja'Mal Green also polled at 2%.

He wishes to create a public bank for the city and increase economic opportunities for Black and

Brown residents.

He also wants to have police pay for their own misconduct rather than taxpayers.

Green has a history of activism, including demanding at a federal courthouse that charges be brought against Jason Van Dyke after he killed Laquan McDonald.

4th Ward alderperson Sophia King is the third candidate to poll at 2%.

A core tenet of King's campaign is more fully funding violence prevention programs. In addition to this, she believes in creating the "Silicon Valley of the Midwest" and wants to optimize the city's use of opportunity zones to create more affordable housing.

11th Ward alderperson Rev. Roderick Sawyer received 0% in the poll.

He joins several other candidates in supporting "treatment, not trauma."

Sawyer also believes in equitable funding for public schools, and criminal justice reform.

18% of poll respondents said they were undecided.



**THE WRIGHT SIDE**

LITERARY ARTS MAGAZINE

**NOW ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS!**

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT — every small action in your life rippled out to put you in this exact moment. we all have that one instance that defined us; that small action that had a reaction which unfolded in ways we'd never imagined.

artists, poets, writers and all alike — tell us about your butterfly effect.

submit docs/tiff files to [thewrightsidessubmit@gmail.com](mailto:thewrightsidessubmit@gmail.com)

## The Wright Times 2022-2023 Staff

*Editor-in-Chief*  
Sam Chapman

*Copy Editor*  
Darina Lubenov

*Staff Reporters*  
Jeanna Angeles  
Stephanie Brooks  
Lucia Escalera  
Joe Faliszek  
Mori Gracia  
Yasmine Kouli  
Adrian Panopio  
Cory Wheeler  
Berenice Zaragoza

*Freelance Reporters*  
Brady Bauer  
Cati Benincasa  
Ben Cordova  
Lydia Schoessling

*Web Design*  
Joseph Gonzales

*Social Media*  
Colin Panagiotaros

*Faculty Adviser*  
Adam Webster

*Mission statement:*

The Wright Times is committed to keeping our readers informed about news at and related to Wright College and providing a platform to tell our community's diverse stories.

The Wright Times is the student-run publication of Wilbur Wright City College of Chicago. Wright College is located at 4300 N Narragansett Ave, Chicago, IL 60634.

The Wright Times is printed by Top Web LLC, located at 5450 N Northwest Hwy, Chicago, IL 60630.

For any comments or inquiries, please reach out to our Editor-in-Chief, Sam Chapman:  
[samchapmanwtn@gmail.com](mailto:samchapmanwtn@gmail.com)





# Chicago 45th Ward Aldermanic Elections Preview

**Joe Faliszek**  
**Staff Reporter**

The 2023 Aldermanic Elections are taking place on Feb. 28, 2023, at the 45th ward, home to Wright College, has a particularly competitive race.

There are six declared candidates in the 45th ward race – a fairly large amount for an aldermanic race, especially when compared to the four who ran in the 45th's 2019 Aldermanic Election.

The six candidates up for election are as listed:

**Alderman Jim Gardiner:**

Throughout his tenure, Gardiner has championed himself as someone who can bring change

to the ward.

His main points of focus are community safety through policing, lowering property taxes, and increasing economic development. Gardiner has been endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police.

**Marija Tomic:**

Tomic is a local resident and a mother of two. The daughter of first-generation Croatian immigrants, she grew up in the Jefferson Park neighborhood and is disillusioned with how it has degraded over the years.

With a focus on safety in her campaign, she is calling for the ending of police redeployments and the restoration of mental health services with the hopes

of alleviating crime before it can happen.

**James Suh:**

A father of two, Suh prides himself on being an elected Local School Council member and an active member of the Parent-Teacher Association at his daughter's school.

Like many of the other candidates, Suh believes public safety is a core issue in the 45th, and he himself was victim to an armed robbery at his local small business, Car Care Auto Spa.

Suh is also no stranger to butting heads with the incumbent, having organized rallies against the stalling of a major development project at Six Corners in 2019.

**Megan Mathias:**

Mathias is a local attorney and the mother of three CPS students with a campaign focused on reducing crime, protecting reproductive freedom, and getting rid of unnecessary city taxes.

She plans to implement community policing by invigorating police mental health services as well as having officers "walk the beat" when on patrol.

**Susanna Ernst:**

Ernst is a founding member of both the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association and Jefferson Park Forward. A longtime resident of the ward, she has been an active member of the community for over 20 years.

A strong proponent of community organizing, Ernst believes collaboration is a key factor in improving the various neighborhoods.

**Ana Santoyo:**

Santoyo is a local socialist activist and a first-generation college graduate, having graduated from the City Colleges of Chicago in 2010.

A champion of affordable housing and defunding the police, Santoyo believes the ward's constituents need an alderman who will stick up for the working class.

## 45th Ward Candidate Susanna Ernst Interview

**Joe Faliszek**  
**Staff Reporter**

pleasure of sitting down with one of the candidates, Susanna Ernst,

Forward, Ernst is a longtime resident of the 45th and has been an active member of the community for over 20 years.

few months when I'd actually step onto the political scene.

**What do you have to offer that your opponents do not?**



Photo Courtesy: The Ernst Campaign

**What got you involved with politics and community activism?**

I figure that the best way to impact my surroundings is to get engaged. From day one, ever since I moved into the 45th, I started getting involved with the community. I met some folks from the neighborhood who said they felt like they didn't have a voice with local leaders and politicians, and we decided to form a group. That collective grouping was actually how the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association got started. The root of everything is that I want to be involved in my community because it makes my life better, and the lives of everyone else around me better. It wasn't until the past

**Why did you decide to run for alderperson?**

I feel like we're at a crossroads in the city. Our neighborhood demographics are changing and the city demographics are changing ... Current leadership has not allowed everybody to come to the table in the 45th and help move our area forward. I think I can be a leader that provides opportunity for everyone who wants to make our communities better, and we're not getting that right now.

**What are the three core tenets of your campaign?**

Public and street safety, economic development, and collaboration.

I can easily separate myself from the rest through my long-term involvement in the community by doing a myriad of things that are about community leadership and engagement. I co-founded four non-profit civics groups, and I have been working within the context of the ward for over 20 years. I have experience with the city departments, citywide organizations, bringing activities for the arts and investment in entertainment to the northwest side, etc. I was involved in participatory budgeting within the 45th so I understand how the city mechanism works and the city budgeting works. The experience I have with the community and with the City of Chicago, among all my other opponents, is unparalleled.

The Chicago Aldermanic Elections are taking place on Feb. 28, and the campaigning is reaching its climax.

One of the Wright College Community's wards, the 45th, has a particularly competitive six-candidate race.

The Wright Times had the

to discuss her platform.

This is the first of a series of interviews with 45th ward candidates and subsequent articles will be published online.

A founding member of two principal community groups, the Jefferson Park Neighborhood Association and Jefferson Park

# Florida Government Asks College Board to Revise AP Course

**Lucia Escalera**  
Staff Reporter

back on the original material being taught in the AP African American Studies course.



Photo Courtesy: FLGov.com

Opposition in Florida's government of the College Board's AP African American Studies course has left many surprised, especially at Wright College.

After facing intense backlash from Ron DeSantis and other conservative leaders, who originally banned the entire course, College Board has skimmed

Removal of critical race theory.

Black movements involving both LGBTQ+ and feminism, and politically-fought topics such as Black Lives Matter were some of the few subjects within the course that upset conservative leaders alike.

DeSantis opposed the course, stating that "ideological conformity" was inappropriate for students in an educational setting.

College Board has since amended its original framework for the course and has listed the aforementioned topics as optional end-of-the-year projects. The changes are under review by the Florida education board to determine whether the course meets the state's standards.

This move has made some question the integrity of the course and of possible pushback of African American studies in higher educational settings, such as colleges.

According to Larnell Dunkley, a professor of English and African American Studies at City Colleges of Chicago's Harold Washington campus, commented that "Florida and DeSantis are another attempt to marginalize African Americans and their struggles from the past to what is currently happening."

As part of professor Dunkley's course, learning new perspectives and bringing

awareness to issues that affect people of color and minorities is "the standard of what education should be."

Dunkley's African American Studies course is offered online for students from various CCC campuses to enroll in.

Katia Jackson, a student enrolled at Harold Washington, is a student enrolled in professor Dunkley's African American Studies course.

"As a Black woman in America, I'm well aware how my skin color will affect my life, but for students attempting to learn and understand the hostility towards African American Studies, Jackson said. "DeSantis's censorship [of the AP African American Studies course] creates an unjust disservice for students who want to learn of the history that is often white-washed."

Jackson has stated that she willingly enrolled in professor Dunkley's course, even though her major is photography, because she appreciates Dunkley's

unbiased and factual teachings in a course that has received severe criticism.

Even students not enrolled in the African American Studies course have expressed their agreement in keeping the course open-minded and available for future students.

Veronica Betancourt, a student at Wright majoring in History, expressed her desire for courses such as African American Studies to remain free from political agendas and continue to teach future students the factual realities of history.

"History will repeat itself – we've seen it happen – and censoring history and current events will only continue a cycle of ignorance. Students should learn history with fact-checked evidence, not close-minded narratives that aim to benefit a select group," Betancourt said.

## Wilbur Wright Students Comment on States' "Don't Say Gay" Bills

**Stephanie Brooks**  
Staff Reporter

In the Spring of 2022, the passing of the "Florida Parental Rights in Education Act," also known as the Don't Say Gay Act, raised questions across the country.

The act states that all students, kindergarten through third grade, may not participate in classroom instruction about gender or sexual orientation.

Earlier this month, a Missouri state senator took the Florida law a step further. SB 134 proposes that all minors, kindergarten through twelfth grade,

could not receive this education unless it is with a professional mental healthcare worker.

This is, of course, with a parent's consent.

The bill contains other elements including teachers being required to inform parents of a child's gender identity if that student expresses confusion about their gender identity or requests to use personal pronouns that differ from their sex.

This raises the question, how will this impact people both in the respective states and elsewhere?

The Wright Times News staff

had the opportunity to discuss the law with a few students in a Wright College Humanities 144 - Intro to Women and Gender Studies class.

When asked about how this will impact communities in Florida and Missouri, first-year Wright student Sam Ritter had some of their own concerns.

Ritter explained that she thinks this will be psychologically damaging to both heterosexual and homosexual communities.

First-year Wright student Crystal Ramirez added to Ritter's comment.

"It's a silly thing, the law," Ramirez said. "The push to not

allow people to talk about their home and personal life could be damaging to everyone."

Second-year Wright student Vivian Karwatowicz explained that she believes kids need to be familiarized with sexual orientation.

"The more we conceal things the less children and society will grow," Karwatowicz said.

Wright students with family and friends in these two states have their own personal concerns over loved ones.

First-year Wright Student Ella Polec explained that having family outside of Illinois and in Florida and Missouri right now

is extremely stressful.

"The bills being passed will cause family members, especially younger cousins to grow up with cultural gaps," Polec said.

Dr. Patricia Renda leads Humanities 144 at Wright College.

"It is hugely important to teach," Renda said. "Feminism and discussion of genders need to be taught."

The Trevor Project has a 24/7 hotline for LGBTQ youth in crisis at 1-866-488-7386.

The Wellness Center at Wright College is open during school hours for any Wright student that may seek it.



# Wright Students Qualify for One-Time Federal Student Loan Debt Relief

**Yasmine Kouli**  
*Staff Reporter*

The One-Time Federal Student Loan Debt Relief will soon be a hot topic again as its Supreme Court hearings will take place in late February. How much of the Wilbur Wright student community will the hearing actually affect?

The Biden administration is preparing to defend a plan that, if approved, may alleviate many people from a large portion of their student loan debt.

Americans collectively owe

\$1.75 trillion in total student loan debt, according to Forbes.

The Biden administration's Plan may forgive up to \$10,000 in student debt belonging to non-Pell Grant recipients and up to \$20,000 belonging to Pell Grant recipients.

The debt relief will only apply to loans taken out prior to June 30, 2022, according to studentaid.gov.

However, the application portal on studentaid.gov is closed indefinitely.

The application was opened for a short period from Oct. 17 to 21, 2022 before a federal appeals

court ruled to pause the application and debt relief payments until a decision is made.

This debt relief could assist current Wright students, even if it won't cover future loans. 40% of Wright students said they have student loans, according to a recent Wright Times survey.

Similarly, 40% said they will definitely apply for the One-Time Federal Student Loan Debt Relief if possible.

Students attend Wright for many different reasons and under different circumstances.

Adriana Briceno is a student who is currently only pursuing

her associate's degree as a means to solidify her stage in life right now.

Briceno said the debt relief would be a driving force for her to pursue a higher education and career position than she might have if it doesn't get approved. Briceno is on financial aid.

Vishua Patel, another Wright student, said that the Relief doesn't affect her at all as she can't receive financial aid or other types of Federal funds because of her undocumented status.

She plans on transferring to either Northeastern University

or Fox College due to their low cost, and plans on becoming a Veterinary Technician.

The Relief provides "more of an opportunity" to pursue their career path in psychology, said a student who wished to remain anonymous.

Without the Relief, they said they would have to wait until they had the money to continue their educational goals.

They believed that the Fund would motivate today's students to attend college and give them the financial help they need to pursue their careers.

## Wilbur Wright College Hosts Chicago Steppers Dance

**Cati Benincasa**  
*Freelance Reporter*



Photo Credit: Cati Benincasa



Photo Credit: Cati Benincasa



Photo Credit: Cati Benincasa



## Wright College's Gamers Club: A Stress Reliever for Students

**Cory Wheeler**  
*Staff Reporter*

As midterms approach, students may need a place to destress. Wright's Gamers Club hopes to help with that by offering students a relaxed and fun environment.

Nick Rodriguez, President of the Gamers club explained that the Gamers club is for people to be able to meet and get to really

know each other through games.

Rodriguez said he wants members to be able to experience the same fun that I have, by joining the club.

"We are not trying to be official or fancy," Rodriguez said. "[we] just want to be chill and inviting."

The gamers club is flexible in their allowing students to partake in the club through various methods.

Students can participate virtually due to the club having a Discord channel, and they hold their Monday meetings in a hybrid setting.

The club also meets in-person on Wednesdays in the faculty dining area located within the Science building.

A typical meeting, according to Rodriguez, involves talking about the week's events and vote on different games to play in the

future."

"Afterwards, we spend time playing games together and having fun," Rodriguez said.

The club tends to have about 12 active members that attend their weekly meetings and has more members on their Discord channel.

The club has held gaming tournaments in the past for popular games like Super Smash bros. At tournaments, they have give

out prizes to the top participants.

Rodriguez commented on the event, saying it was a lot of fun to play games with everyone and have a blast meeting new people.

The club has plans to hold more exciting events in the future, with the next one being "Going for Glory," similar to the event held during fall 2022 finals week.

## Wright SGA's Taco Tuesday Takes on a Colorful and Sweet Look

**Adrian Panopio**  
*Staff Reporter*

board game Candy Land.

Everyone who participated was assigned to a specific team

memorable for her.

Recent Taco Tuesday events focused on creating affirmation bracelets in which attendees can create their own beaded bracelets with any word that they liked.

Another event focused on Vision Boards, where anyone can lay out their dreams and goals for the new year.

Many attendees said they heard about Taco Tuesday from posters and SGA representatives. One can also find upcoming events on the Wright Life website.

These Taco Tuesday events provide students a fun and relaxing time out of their busy schedules.

"Being at Taco Tuesday allows me to hang out with my friends and not do any homework or worry about school —Just having fun," Wright student Javier Vasquez said.

As for the creative minds behind the event, Kelly Vasquez said that there were several people who pitched the idea of Candy Land to be one of the

themes.

"[SGA president Dominika Panek] and others were the ones who came up with the idea for Candy Land," Vasquez said. "They just wanted something fun and exciting."

Vasquez said that it took about six days to put everything together.

But, the planning stage has been in the works during the COVID lockdown.

Max Rivera, a Wright student who also works as a Work Study for Student Activities, said that two Black History Month-themed events are planned for the end of the month, one being a Kahoot event.

The other, not yet set in stone, will focus on a small gallery or museum where students can display their own works of art relating to Black History Month.



Photo Credit: Max Rivera

With a huge and colorful inflatable rainbow arc welcoming you as you walk into the Faculty Dining Area at Wilbur Wright College, the entire room is decorated with bright and colorful candy decorations.

70 Wright College students attended the Feb. 7 Taco Tuesday event. Those attending the event played a life-size version of the

and, like the traditional game of Candy Land, they will "roll" to stop at different stations throughout the room.

"I think it's a super creative idea. To see [Candy Land] in action is so fun," SGA Senator Jennifer Mondragon-Velez said.

Amal Zalloum, a student, stated that the whole event was



Photo Credit: Max Rivera

# Stage Wright Spells Out a Comeback with 2023 Spring Musical

**Darina Lubenov**  
Copy Editor

After a two-year gap from Covid-19, Stage Wright is back to hosting spring musicals on their stage.

This semester, the Stage Wright cast is keeping it true to Wright's educational environment and is hosting a spelling bee on their stage.

"The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee," originally written by Rachel Sheinkin, is this semester's campus musical.

The spelling bee highlights six students, all with their own different backgrounds, and important characteristics that influence their behaviors.

The bee's six students are competitive middle schoolers who were all winners at their school's spelling bee.

Wright sophomore Tracey Ho, who is cast as Marcy Clark, describes her character as a prodigy when it comes to academics.

"She's really smart — She doesn't mean to act like a know-it-all, but she is separate from the other students in a way because of that."

This will be Ho's first production at Wright.

Wright sophomore Leiana Carrasco-Ramos, cast for the role of Logainne Shwartzangrubenniere, is excited to be back singing and working on the stage.

"This is one of my first musicals back since covid," Carrasco-Ramos said. "It's really fun, we have a really great cast. A lot of people are really talented."

Logainne Shwartzangrubenniere, as described by Carrasco-Ramos, is a young girl that has two fathers that are typical helicopter parents. Logainne's character is in all types of clubs, and has multiple leadership roles that are sometimes hard to maintain.

Carrasco-Ramos stated that her character has aspects she can relate to, which makes the part easier to play.

When it came to establishing the plot of the spelling bee, Carrasco-Ramos labeled it as complex and structured around the students participating.

"We are just a bunch of wacky kids with our own issues," Carrasco-Ramos said about the plot, "and our own depictions of things that will go on."

Three weeks into rehearsals as of publishing time, the cast has gone through readings

of the script, had individual sessions with a musical coach, and even began building their own set.

Having a student-led cast and tech crew gives Wright students the chance to try something new. The theatre department offers stage makeup classes, stage crew classes, and StageCraft, which is building the set.

On the right side of the stage sits a 3-decker wooden staircase constructed by the entire musical cast.

"Someone like me who has never built anything in my life, I can say I helped build this which is really cool," Carrasco-Ramos said about the decker.

This semester, Wright Professor Tom Murdock is the musical's director, and their set designer is Professor Patrick Ham. Ham assisted the students with building the set, but Murdock leads the students during rehearsals.

Caterina Benincasa, who is cast as Olive Ostrosky, is also preparing for her first appearance on stage with Murdock's theatrical strategies.

"He definitely is a director that is trying to prepare us for real-world situations so if we ever do choose to pursue

theatre or performance art," Benincasa said. "We would know what was expected of us from other directors and choreographers."

Olive, Benincasa's character, is another spelling bee contestant, who is one of the few students whose lack of opportunity, and childhood, shines through her actions.

With experience in tech from last semester's production, The Humans, Logan Gonzalez is cast as Chip Tolentino and Jesus. This will be Gonzalez's first time on stage.

"I'm very excited to get this out, and I am excited to present it with my classmates to the people who come out to see it," Gonzalez said.

Chip Tolentino, according to Gonzalez, was last year's spelling bee champion, and Chip is back at the 25th bee to keep his trophy.

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee production at Wright is set to premiere on March 24, 2023, and through March 26, 2023.

There will be one matinee performance on Thursday, March 23, 2023, for Wright students to see during class hours.

## "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" Cast

**Rona Lisa Peretti**

Maeve Sheedy

Understudied by Serena Diaz

**Vice Principal Panch**

Wendy Acosta

**Marcy Park**

Tracy Ho

**Chip Tolentino**

Logan Gonzalez

**Logainne**

**Shwartzangrubenniere**

Leiana Carrasco-Ramos

**Leaf Coneybear**

Thomas Velisaris

**Olive Ostrovsky**

Caterina Benincasa

**William Barfee**

Ray Ramos

**Mitch Mahoney**

Paul Scavone

## Read the latest student life news online:

<https://WRIGHTTIMES.WIXSITE.COM/WRIGHTTIMES>



# Lady Rams Making Playoff Push as Multiple Players Win Awards

**Brady Bauer**  
Freelance Reporter

ment in the locker room after the game is what it is all about, it definitely was the start to some-

Later on in the week Tyler built off her prior performance, as she scored 20 points and

against division opponent Olive-Harvey, Mayne exploded for a career high 28 points in an all around effort where she was also able to grab 10 rebounds, and come up with six steals.

"I anticipated their passes to get the steals," Mayne said. "When going for the rebounds, I looked at the way they shot the ball to see which side of the basket I should be on for the boards."

To finish the season, Mayne Tyler said her goal for herself and the team is to be able to hang up a banner in the gym for school.

Daria Jordan, a point guard for the Lady Rams, came back to the team at the start of January and instantly helped the team not only as a scoring threat, but also by playmaking for others.

Her strong play since returning has earned her not one, but two player of the week awards.

The first of her awards resulted in her strong play from Jan. 16 to Jan. 23, shortly after she returned to the court.

Asked if she felt any rust from the time off, she said that she wouldn't call it rust, but that she definitely did have some first game jitters from missing the first half of the season.

Jordan believes if she is eligible from the start that her experience and scoring ability, "could've helped us get a few more wins," Jordan said. "This is a young freshman team, full of great potential and was just

missing that voice and leader on the court."

"Winning the player of the week from CCC just simply made me happy because it showed me that I was still capable of being a threat on the court despite missing the first half of the season," Jordan said.

Jordan doesn't just get it done on the offensive end, but she also helps anchor their defense. In just nine games Jordan has come up with 40 steals, for a 4.4 steal per game average, to go along with her 19.1 points per game.

"My mentality on defense is that I'm always thinking about forcing turnovers. By being so lengthy and always following the ball, I'm always on my toes to get those steals by playing the passing lanes," Jordan said. "Our coach always says defense wins games and with those multiple steal games force, we always capitalize on offense."

Jordan said she's noticed the connection her and Mayne have on the court.

"I have been noticing when we play other teams, they are more focused on me and where I came from since I didn't play against them earlier in the season, but Tyler has always been a great threat to the other team in my eyes," Jordan said. "She's such a great player, and her IQ is very high, and she just dominates every time she is in the paint."



Photo Credit: Brady Bauer

The Wilbur Wright Lady Rams strong play in the second half of the season has given them a fighting chance to get into the postseason, and potentially raise a banner for the school.

Since the start of the new year the Lady Rams basketball has been on a steady roll. On Jan. 3, the Lady Rams' hard work finally resulted in their first win of the season.

Since earning their first win, the Lady Rams have put together two separate three game winning streaks.

The team's confidence has risen since they were able to pull off their first win, a 74-70 effort against Sauk Valley Community College.

"Seeing the team's excite-

thing," said Vaporia Smith, head coach of the Lady Rams.

During this stretch of play, the Lady Rams have had a record of 6-3, which has been good enough to get them into second place in conference play.

In back-to-back weeks, two players on the Rams' strong play earned them player of the week awards.

The first player to receive the reward was forward and team captain Tyler Mayne. Mayne was given the award for her strong play during the week of Jan. 10 through Jan. 16.

In her first game of the week, Tyler was able to score 17 points and pull in 11 rebounds in the team's win against Triton College.

finished the game with ten rebounds, to help the Rams earn a win against Prairie State.

"Winning the player of the week means everything to me because I have been through some hardships in life, and this award just makes me feel as if I have accomplished something important not just for myself, but for my team," Mayne said.

"My coach's leadership and my team's support has helped me achieve this goal," Mayne said. "My recent play has been more about my teammates setting me up when my energy is low."

Receiving the player of the week award didn't stop Mayne from continuing to play hard for the team.

In the teams Feb. 7 win

Keep up with The Wright Times on Social Media!



@WrightTimesNews



@TheWrightTimesNewspaper