

Contentions with consolidation



Alyssa Stewart

EDITOR IN CHIEF

State laws, student fees and shifting Student Government (SG) leadership continue to be questions on the minds of faculty and students as the July 1, 2020 consolidation deadline approaches.

After USF President Steve Currall provided a consolidation update Sept. 10 to the Board of Trustees (BOT), he received a fair amount of backlash from St. Pete and Sarasota-Manatee representatives as well as state

officials.

The two branch campus representatives feared that too much power was being given to the Tampa campus and they are not alone in this.

There are now conversations circulating about Currall's plan conflicting with Florida legislature.

Florida elected officials are not happy with the plan as they said it conflicts with a Florida law that prevents too much authority at one campus, according to the Tampa Bay Times.

In an email released to students and faculty, Currall acknowledged the frustration from the community and said the plan is merely a "framework to provide perspective."

"I continue to invite

feedback as I proceed with additional listening tour visits in the coming months," Currall said.

While administrations from the branch campuses are disputing Currall's plan, Dean of Student Danielle McDonald is looking on the bright side of consolidation.

She said she believes the plan will provide students with new programs and opportunities that they were never exposed to before.

"St. Pete has a sailing team, so this could be an opportunity for students from Tampa or Sarasota-Manatee to take advantage of," McDonald said. "All three campuses will also have the opportunity to be involved in fraternity and

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Currall will provide another consolidation update Dec. 3 at the next BOT meeting. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

Book on USF's history receives a \$35,000 facelift



Leda Alvim

MULTIMEDIA EDITOR

Famously known to showcase USF's history throughout the years, the Book of Bull is getting a fresh new look for the first time since 2017. However, these

changes are matched with a weighty price tag of \$35,000.

The funds allocated for the project come from a partnership between Student Government (SG) and the Alumni Association. According to the Vice President & Executive Director of the Alumni Association Bill McCausland, SG allocated \$15,000 of its funds while the Alumni Association contributed \$20,000 to the printing and designing of the Book of Bull.

The project, overseen by the Alumni Association and SG aims

to update facts and historical events about USF. McCausland said the Book of Bull gives students access to resources USF offers and facts about USF that many are not aware of.

"This book can help stimulate what is available to students while providing a historical perspective of what has transpired since we were founded in 1956," McCausland said. "It solidifies a lot of that historical take, the current programs and the overall traditions that make USF special."

The fourth edition of the Book of Bull will be printed by Rinaldi Printing, a Tampa-based printing company headed by USF graduates.

According to McCausland, it costs approximately \$1.50 to print each copy of the Book of Bull. A total of 25,000 copies will be printed, which will last approximately two and a half years.

On a partnership between Rinaldi Printing and the Alumni Association, the printing company gave a discount that

covers the remaining printing costs of the Book of Bull, according to McCausland.

Among the changes, the updated Book of Bull will have eight additional pages compared to old editions, including a new page dedicated to President Currall, Career Services and additional pages about SG, the library, dining services and residential life. The third edition of the Book of Bull currently has 100 pages.

The printing process will

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CLAUDEL

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During his time with RC Strasbourg, Claudel racked up 20 goals and 11 assists, which caught the eye of USF coach Bob Butehorn.

"We got wind of him back in late December, maybe early November, last year and just started pursuing him," Butehorn said. "We tried to get video on him. And then we went to see him and then we had snowstorms, so we were a little bit unlucky with that."

Claudel wasn't offered an official contract by RC Strasbourg, and he came across a dilemma — continue to grind in the French academy or get his education.

"I came to the United States because it's the best way to study and play a high-level sport," Claudel said.

As a highly-touted prospect, there were numerous schools and clubs after Claudel. But he chose to study at USF and was recruited by Butehorn and USF.

"[We] just got lucky that he liked our place, so it worked out," Butehorn said. "He's a very good player with a good pedigree to him."

Butehorn's choice looks like it has paid off, as Claudel has scored two goals in four starts. He has also broken himself into the first team, averaging more than 71 minutes played.

Claudel's impact on the team is a product of his individual skill and also his connection with his teammates, specifically one of his fellow foreign striking partners.

Junior striker Adrian Billhardt, a native of Berlin, instantly found common ground with Claudel. In Claudel's hometown, many

people speak both French and German, due to its location near the French-German border.

Billhardt and Claudel instantly formed a bond with each other.

"I try to give him as much information and as much experience as I can," Billhardt said. "I tried to connect with him as well as possible."

Claudel and Billhardt's relationship off the field goes deeper than just being teammates.

"At the end of the day, we're a family off the field. Everyone's close with each other," Billhardt said. "But I think for me, especially with Victor, it's like a little brother thing."

Despite the shared language, Claudel and Billhardt speak very little German with each other. Billhardt has shouldered the responsibility of improving more than just Claudel's soccer skills.

"I'm trying to improve his English a little bit," Billhardt said with a smile.

Between going to the mall and getting smoothies together, Claudel said that the time he spends off the field with Billhardt has helped improve his game on the pitch.

"Off the field, we're friends and we talk a lot and on the field," Claudel said. "We feel that we want to play together, which I think is good."

"We need to keep this connection, and I think I have a good relationship with the team ... we need everyone in the team to succeed and do something great."

The Oracle

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The Oracle is published Monday and Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, and once weekly, Wednesday, during the summer.

The Oracle allocates one free issue to each student. Additional copies are \$5.00 each and available at the Oracle office (SVC 0002).

BY PHONE	
Editor	974-5190
News	974-1888
Advertising	974-2620
Classified	974-2620

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HOUSING

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college.

Rising costs for off-campus student housing are inseparable from broader problems in the housing market, and they merit broader solutions. The Hillsborough County Commission voted recently to create an affordable housing trust fund at \$10 million per year, hopefully helping to alleviate Hillsborough's broader housing problem.

USF students and school leaders should be a part of the allocation process, identifying solutions to uplift students and the broader community at the same time.

Meanwhile, USF needs a comprehensive evaluation of off-campus rent. The HUD report found, for instance, that colleges "systematically underestimate students' off-campus living costs," including housing.

A second look, and an increase in off-campus students cost-of-living calculation, would bring much-needed help to rent-burdened students.

Nathaniel Sweet is a senior studying political science.

THE ORACLE

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BOOK

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take up to three to four weeks, according to McCausland. The book will be available to students around Homecoming.

"We are still reviewing proofs and fixing a couple of tweaks until we send it to print. And if they look good, then we go to Rinaldi and run all day, we'll schedule it a date to start printing. It's a three to four-week process for them because they got to fit it in with their other jobs and their other business they have going on."

The revision committee currently consists of two current students, including SG Student Body Vice President Travis McCloskey, and three USF alumni. The team first started meeting in June to revise the changes for the new edition of the Book of Bull. The booklet is updated every two years, according to McCloskey.

"It's merely a revision to enhance the overall book,"

McCloskey said. "The cover and most of its structure will still look the same. All we really did was replace the Under Armour logo to the Adidas logo on the athletics section, update the pages and change some wording with consolidation coming up."

Most of the copies are distributed throughout USF's orientation inside each incoming student's bag. This year, due to limited stock and outdated content, the Book of Bull was not available for incoming students.

Current students will have access to the Book of Bull either online, by getting a copy at the Alumni Association or at the SG office, MSC 4300.

"We have to figure out a way to get it out this fall for those students who did not get one over the summer," McCausland said. "I'm hoping that we can use the Marshall Student Center as a distribution point, as well as the SG offices and the Alumni Association."

The idea for the Book of Bull

started in 2008, with the goal to create a student traditions book for the university, known as the Itty Bitty Book of Bull. For unknown reasons, it only lasted until 2010.

In 2013, three students, who were part of the USF Ambassadors program at the time, decided to recreate the student traditions handbook. It took a year to finalize the booklet when it was first printed in 2014.

Since then, the Book of Bull has maintained the same concept and design to provide a brief story behind USF's trajectory throughout the years. According to McCausland, the booklet really highlights all of USF's accomplishments.

"The pictures displayed on the book really captures the essence of USF," McCausland said. "That's what I love about this, you look at this book, and you know, this is us. This is everything that we're all so proud of."

CONSOLIDATION

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sorority life."

Even though students are able to utilize other campus programs, there is still a lot of uncertainty when it comes to creating a single student government (SG) across the three campuses.

Finalizing a consolidation plan for SG is crucial considering the Activity & Services (A&S) Fee, that every student pays, would have to be the same on each campus. For just the Tampa campus alone, about \$17 million in A&S fees are distributed to student organizations every year.

In regards to student fees, the FAQ listed on USF's website said students admitted for the spring 2020 semester will pay tuition and fees at "current local rates." Tuition rates will not change until fall 2020 students are on campus.

The creators of the consolidation plan are still working out a system in which equitable fees and services can be organized. The Consolidation Plan documents emphasized that students at "every campus will benefit with this change."

McDonald said she believes the leaders within SG will eventually settle on a plan that will bring unity to each campus.

"They are working out the details of how it will work, which is not an easy thing to do," McDonald said. "I am confident that the student leaders of each campus will be able to find a structure that creates equity."

An idea in the Consolidation Implementation Plan proposed that there will be a student body president at the system level and student representatives at each of the "home campuses."

Because the three campuses will be voting on SG leaders, the elected student would need to be aware of what's happening at each location.

"This will be important as students make their voting decisions," McDonald said. "Student would have to vote based on who they believe would be best in representing all three campuses."

Student fees among other affairs are still up in the air, however, USF spokesperson Adam Freeman said Currall will provide another update Dec. 3 at the next BOT meeting. He said Currall will be incorporating some of the additional feedback he continues to receive.

"The plan introduced was preliminary, discussions with various stakeholders are ongoing and an updated plan will be presented in the future," Freeman said.

Looking forward, McDonald said she believes the main focus on consolidation will be student success.

"Students are in the forefront of the consolidation plan," McDonald said. "The goal is to make sure that all students have equitable access that will contribute to their success."

"That really is the underlying principle in every conversation consolidation is in."



The updated Book of Bull will have new pages dedicated to President Currall, Career Services and additional pages about SG, the library, dining services and residential life. **SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/SG MARKETING**

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ESPORTS

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themselves. Established streamers are often transparent on how they developed their skills and their brand. In turn, more and more gamers are dedicating themselves to going pro.

Another trend that the industry is seeing is broadcasting. Tournaments like the Overwatch League (OWL) are broadcast in prime time on ESPN.

Jewel Rattanakongkham, a USF student, aspiring professional Overwatch player and a self-proclaimed fan of the OWL team New York Excelsior, was surprised to see OWL broadcast on a sports network.

"I just followed sports because my parents did," Rattanakongkham said. "When I saw esports on ESPN, my dad was like, 'Hey, that game you like is on TV,' and I was like, 'Oh my god, that's insane,' and I'm really

happy it's now becoming seen as like another sport."

Rattanakongkham has friends who are currently in OWL — FCTFCTN of Los Angeles Valiant and sleepy of Washington Justice. She and her friends go through a similar intense training regiment.

"When I first started out playing Overwatch, I had one week where I played over 123 matches, which is over 60 hours. I spent days playing and grinding and just getting better."

What separates esports from traditional sports is that esports are constantly in development. There are constantly new teams and rules being introduced, which keeps a fresh interest in it.

"I know there are other games like [League of Legends], or now Apex Legends, now a new league, and then there's Fortnite," Rattanakongkham said. "And they're constantly changing things with the meta so I think

that'll be a little more interesting." There seems to be a built-up competition between the following of traditional sports and esports, according to the speakers. A few people who attended discussed whether esports can surpass the following of the NFL.

But Kennedy said this isn't the case. Both traditional sports and esports can coexist because, on average, the demographics of the fan bases are so different.

The average age of an NFL fan is 50, according to Radio & Television Business Report. Meanwhile, the average age of a fan of OWL is 28, according to GameScape.

The question is whether the relatively young fans of OWL stick with supporting esports.

It's a part of the evolution of sports, according to Kennedy.

"It's no more improbable than the original Greeks believing that

one day baseball will be a part of the Olympics," Kennedy said.

Just like traditional sports, there is a potential for esports to sell out arenas, something already seen in OWL.

Marcus Watts, a former professional basketball player and current digital media strategist, says that he didn't know that esports had the following they had until he saw a sold-out arena.

"My step-brother is actually the captain of Team USA Overwatch and the captain of the Dallas Fuel," Watts said. "So I didn't know it was that good until I saw that they were like selling out whole arenas."

Selling out arenas is one of the things that investors like Vinik want to see. At the end of the day, the sports that make the most profit will receive the most coverage.

With Vinik's involvement in

the Tampa Bay area, he said there may be a chance Tampa may become one of the centers for esports. That would potentially mean a dedicated esports arena, similar to the esports Arenas seen on the West Coast.

But it's still a fledgling industry and a majority of investors still aren't keen on the idea just yet, despite the eruptive start of esports.

"When you talk to executives over the age of 35 to 40, they're skeptical," said Michelle Harrolle, director of the USF Vinik Sports and Entertainment Management program.

However, Vinik remains dedicated. He said he currently doesn't have a plan in place to build a dedicated esports arena in Tampa, but he didn't rule out the idea entirely.

"Keep watching and stay alert. Opportunities will come," he said.



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The USF Engineering EXPO 2019-2020 will be held at USF-Tampa for two days, February 21st - 22nd, 2020 and is open to the public for free.

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Social media's impact on injustice



Jared Sellick

C O L U M N I S T



Every student who feels discouraged by the lack of change in our political system should understand that they are the change. **ORACLE FILE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM**

potential to make huge significant changes in the system.

He explained that the political pressure from social media affected the now mayor, Bill DeBlasio (NY-D), so much that even DeBlasio's son was pushing for justice for the Central Park Five.

This strategy was all-important because the Exonerated Five's movement was up against a huge media apparatus that continued to push the narrative that they were guilty.

"Social media is a tool that you guys have that we didn't have back then, we just relied on the four major newspapers in New York, which you see in the series which wrote the most outrageous headlines," Santana said.

The Exonerated Five movement is just one example of many ongoing efforts to positively impact our criminal justice system. One reform that was born through online political movements was the elections of "reform-minded prosecutors" that have been supported by Real Justice PAC, a group co-founded by civil rights activist Shaun King.

Overall, the group has elected eight district attorneys and prosecutors all around the country. These changes in leadership make a big difference for reform, and the group started through online political activism.

It is common for activists around the country to believe that pushing political pressure, either online or otherwise, does not create results.

Florida has recently taken small steps toward criminal justice reform. Just this year, Governor Ron DeSantis signed a bill into law that will give state attorneys the power to decide whether certain juvenile criminal cases should be transferred to adult criminal court or not. This has the potential to keep children from being tried as adults.

Every student who feels discouraged by the lack of change in our political system should understand that they are the change. What may initially start out as a movement online can turn into real systemic change in the criminal justice system.

Jared Sellick is a junior majoring in political science.

Rising rents in Tampa Bay are hurting USF students



Nathaniel Sweet

C O L U M N I S T

Community leaders, local activists, and public officials in Tampa Bay are increasingly in agreement: the rent is too high. Between rapid growth, gentrification, and real estate speculation, housing is rapidly becoming unaffordable for students and community members alike.

A 2019 report from Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies found that Tampa Bay's low-rent housing stock has decreased substantially since 2011, with a 30 percent decline in rental units under \$800/month.

As a result, the same report found that more than half of Tampa Bay renters are "cost burdened," meaning they spend more than 30 percent of their income on housing. For about a quarter of Tampa Bay renters, the situation is even more dire — they spend over half of their income on housing, leaving them "severely cost burdened."

What's driving these rent increases? One culprit is speculation on the rental market.

A Tampa Bay Times article by real estate reporter Susan Martin

described "rapid turnover" in Tampa Bay's large apartment complexes, with "at least 172 communities with 50 or more units" changing hands since 2016. Once a complex gets sold off to a new company, Martin said, tenants can expect a rent increase.

If this story sounds familiar, it's because the same is happening to student housing around USF, per the Hillsborough Property Appraiser. Ten off-campus student housing complexes have been sold to new management since 2016, including properties like The Venue, Campus Club, The Social, and 42 North, with rising costs likely following each sale.

Adding to the pile, many complexes install luxury amenities before and after sale to drive up property values and justify rent increases. Glitzy interior designs, on-site movie theaters, and rooftop pools are becoming the norm for off-campus housing, offering a sleek brand but needlessly raising costs.

Developments like these are hurting college students across the nation. A 2015 report from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) finds that the cost of housing constitutes a "significant portion" of student debt and deters lower-income youth from enrolling in or continuing

From photographing zoo animals to high-fashion models

USF helped Gabby Santos secure an internship as a digital media intern at Lowry Park Zoo. It's there that she cultivated her photography skills and eventually found her way to Kilgore Atelier where she now does high-fashion photography.



Amelio Nazarko

FOCAL POINTS
EDITOR

Gabby Santos, a USF graduate turned high fashion photographer, has finally decided what she wants out of life.

After years of coping with indecisiveness about where she wants her life to end up, Santos took a shot at Lowry Park Zoo as a digital media intern. There, she learned how to thrive as a studio manager at Kilgore Atelier, a Tampa-based fashion design studio, curated showroom and a photography studio.

Santos started her academic career undeclared but eventually decided on a communications major with a concentration in culture and media. It was in those years prior to deciding on a major that she struggled with her identity.

"In my first couple of years at USF, my GPA was very low and I was on the verge of academic probation. When I decided on communications and took Beginning Photography as an

elective, that changed everything for me," said Santos.

Her passion for photography led to a digital media internship at Lowry Park Zoo where she photographed the animals for social media promotion.

"This internship taught me how to have better control with my camera and be patient with the subjects that I'm photographing," said Santos. "Patience was important since I can't pose animals," she joked.

She said the internship quickly became one of the best experiences of her college career. Santos urges students to look for out-of-classroom experiences to supplement their university education.

"Internships help you stay motivated. When you become a valuable addition to a team and do what you do in a workplace environment, you begin to feel more secure about your future," said Santos.

Upon graduating in spring 2018 and completing her internship at Lowry Park Zoo, Santos said she began booking photography clients more consistently, which bolstered her confidence and prompted the realization that she could create a sustainable future as a photographer.

She found her place at Kilgore after a friend of hers and in-house photographer for the studio, Javi Ortiz, introduced

her to Kyle Kilgore, the creative director of Kilgore.

"(Santos is) young and self-taught like myself," said Kilgore. "My biggest problem when I started out was never having the opportunity to prove myself. I want to help people in ways I was never helped."

Kilgore said that Santos' position at Kilgore Atelier is about more than just photography. What she brings to the table exceeds merely taking pictures.

"Her willingness to learn, her personal goals, and her dedication to her vision are unmatched," said Kilgore. "You can teach any idiot how to take a picture and send an email but you can't teach someone passion and drive."

At Kilgore Atelier, Santos manages hourly studio rentals, monthly subscription services, and hosts events like styled editorial shoots and photographer meet-ups.

"My position allows me to bring the photographer community (in Tampa) together to network and collaborate," said Santos.

The skills she sharpened at Lowry Park Zoo have even helped her shoot high fashion models.

"Fashion shoots are challenging because you have to capture the model's movements in the most candid and

interesting way, just how I had to do with animals," said Santos.

At the atelier, Santos said that everything I do," said Santos. Both Kilgore and Santos are eager to supply people with



JAVI (LEFT), KYLE KILGORE (MIDDLE), GABBY SANTOS (RIGHT) SPECIAL TO THE ORACLE/PHOTO BY KILGORE ATELIER

she has been introduced to many exciting opportunities. She is currently planning a styled editorial shoot for photographers who want the opportunity to shoot professionally styled models and cultivate new content for their portfolios.

For this shoot, she's secured professional models like Qui'yona Salmon, who has walked in Miami Swim Week, and Joah Carmody, who was recently featured in a film called Ghost in the Graveyard.

"USF led me to Lowry Park Zoo and eventually to Kilgore Atelier. It's my experience at USF that became the foundation of

opportunities to practice their creativity. USF students who rent out the photography studio will receive a 15 percent discount. Along with access to the studio, renters can use the atelier's professional photo equipment, including backdrops and lights.

"I'm definitely not where I want to be just yet, but since starting at Kilgore, I feel closer to achieving my goals than ever before," said Santos.

"I know USF is home to many great photographers who are thirsty for opportunities to practice their skills. I want to help empower those people how Kilgore empowered me."

Esports

The future of sports lies in the hands of pro gamers



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

"Welcome to the future."
"The future is now."

That was how Fox Sports Florida anchor Paul Kennedy opened the very first USF eSports Summit.

Students and business professionals flocked to the USF Muma College of Business atrium Wednesday to listen to eight panels of speakers talk about none other than video games.

More specifically, the industry of esports and how it has the opportunity to surpass the traditional sports industry in terms of revenue, coverage and fans.

The esports industry is approaching \$1 billion in revenue for 2019, according to Newzoo, the global leader in esports analytics. The industry is also rapidly growing at 30 percent a year.

The numbers are there to back investment into the industry, which is exactly what Tampa Bay Lightning owner Jeff Vinik did.

In June 2017, Vinik invested in aXiomatic, which connects esports, investors and the media.

Vinik became the co-executive chairman because he saw the value of the budding esports



Alex Jebailey, the founder and director of CEO Gaming and the director of FGC DreamHack (left) and David Glass, the founder of iX Ventures discuss community-driven esports. ORACLE PHOTO/LEDA ALVIM

industry. He also saw the potential in the heavy hitters in the esports world.

The industry is already seeing big-money moves, likened to the moves seen in traditional sports.

In early August, the popular Fortnite streamer Ninja was paid approximately \$14 million by Microsoft to exclusively stream on Mixer, Microsoft's own streaming platform.

Individual gamers are also becoming increasingly more marketable, which explains why Microsoft was willing to invest so much money on one streamer.

Sponsors like Red Bull, Mountain Dew, Intel and Samsung will pay upward of \$1 million for professional gamers to use their products. This is already the case with professional athletes.

But what makes esports so marketable is how easy it is to get into — as many of Wednesday's speakers mentioned, all you need is access to a console.

Streaming platforms like Mixer, YouTube Gaming and Twitch make it significantly easier for gamers to establish

See **ESPORTS** on **PAGE 5**

Men's Soccer

USF's French forward: Victor Claudel



Nolan Brown

STAFF WRITER

In the French Ligue 1 youth academies, soccer is synonymous with life itself.

For young, talented hopefuls

looking to break into their respective professional teams, soccer defines who they are.

As a native of Strasbourg and a product of French Ligue 1 side RC Strasbourg Pro Academy, USF freshman forward Victor Claudel knew this all too well.

"We lived in the same place, had training together," Claudel said. "We ate and slept soccer every time of day."

Soccer has been a part of Claudel's life since before he was

5 years old. His father also played in the third tier of French soccer, and Claudel attended every one of his games.

"I was always with him at many games," Claudel said. "I'd always have a ball at my feet, playing around at his games."

After over a decade of unwavering dedication and plenty of blood and sweat, Claudel eventually found himself in the ranks of RC Strasbourg Pro Academy, one of the most

competitive academies in France.

He recalled his toughest match, an under-19 match against Olympique Lyonnais's youth academy, which is often hailed for having one of the best academies in France.

"The team was very, very, very strong. Now the players play for the French national team or play pro," Claudel said. "That was a good experience to learn from that type of game."

In that match, Claudel went

up against players who are now at the professional level, including current Olympique Lyonnais striker Amine Gouiri.

Claudel was also teammates with defender Mohamed Simakan and midfielder Youssouf Fofana, who both play for RC Strasbourg Alsace in the French Ligue 1.

Rubbing shoulders with top prospects seemed to help Claudel develop into a dangerous forward.

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