



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

## TRACK AND FIELD BREAKS 54-YEAR-OLD RECORD

SEE PAGE 12

## Sewage issue in the Armory sends *The Bachelor* staff scrambling

**EDITORIAL STAFF** • Revenge from an unhappy reader of *The Bastard*? Retaliation from the School Down South after our best-in-state ICPA win? Though April has already represented a strong showing for *The Bachelor*, it has also come with unexpected chaos. "April showers" are usually made of rain—but when a sewage line in the Armory bursts, those showers are a little less exciting.

That's exactly what happened to the office of *The Bachelor* on Monday, April 10. Due to a plumbing issue in the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse office restrooms, the Armory sewage lines formed a massive blockage. As the offices for *The Bachelor* are located in the basement of the Armory, with exposed sewer lines, it was the necessary location to clear the blockage. "Clearing the blockage" opened what was later described as a "s\*\*\* geysir."

"From a repair piece, it was a pretty simple repair," said Campus Services Custodial and Environmental Manager John Walter. "We just had to clear the blockage. Except what came out of that blockage was exceptionally smelly."

Walter and the Campus Services team collected the majority of the "100 percent" blockage in several 55-gallon trash barrels, taking the sludge out of the building. But of course, with such a massive blockage raining from the ceiling pipes, sewage drained into the office as well. The stench reached to the Armory's entrance steps, far removed from the basement scene.

"That's the nature of building maintenance," said Walter. "You have days when it gets dirty and yucky."

Until the office is fully restored, we at *The Bachelor* will continue to produce Wabash news and analysis—but in exile to the Educational Technology Center in the Lilly Library.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash Student Supreme Court Chief Justice Thomas Joven '24 (center) speaks at a Senate meeting in the Goodrich Room of the Lilly Library on February 20, 2023.

## The state of RA preparation

Part one in a series

**NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26** STAFF WRITER • Like many things at Wabash, residential life is a bit different here. For RAs, this is equally true. With recent housing weirdness—from rare break-ins to elevator falls—RA preparation for crises big and small has come into the foreground.

This piece kicks off a series on the state of residential assistants at Wabash. This issue will provide background and the administration's perspective, with a follow-up covering the personal experiences of RAs.

One of the main roles of RAs at other institutions is to enforce the rules of the living unit and university. At Wabash, with the Gentleman's Rule as its sole code of conduct, this function is largely eliminated.

"If a Gentleman's Rule violation were to occur, depending on the severity, they would work directly with myself, Campus Safety and Security, as well as the Dean of Students office to report such violations," said Residence Life Specialist Michael Lynn.

However, RAs are still expected to manage their dorms with conflict resolution tactics.

Many of the protocols given to RAs by administration follow this pattern: if there is a crisis, call either campus security or 911.

For active shooter or violent person scenarios, RAs

are provided detailed shelter steps, beginning with a notification to both campus security, as well as 911.

For medical emergencies such as allergic reactions or alcohol poisoning, RAs are instructed simply to notify campus safety and security, or dial 911 if the situation is severe enough.

For handling COVID-19 situations, RAs are allotted free testing kits to distribute to their residents.

However RAs are seen on campus now, the role has expanded in recent years, with more of a focus on mental health protocols. RAs are required to go through QPR training as part of their preparation.

"QPR provides innovative, practical and proven suicide prevention training," said Lynn.

The administration is looking forward to seeing RAs become more proactive as social unifiers in independent life.

"I would love to see our RAs develop programming that involves philanthropy within our local community, multicultural events, as well as events involving school spirit," Lynn said.

Lynn also spoke on future medical training for RAs.

"We are in the process of setting up first aid and CPR training for all campus leaders with Crawfordsville Fire Department."

These trainings would target both RAs and fraternity leadership.

## Dr. Jay receives inaugural 'shOUT Out Award

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23** SPORTS EDITOR • Assistant Professor of Religion Dr. Jeff Jay became the inaugural recipient of the 'shOUT Out award at a ceremony on April 11. The award is chosen by members of 'shOUT and honors individuals or groups who radically improve the support of LGBTQ+ people on the Wabash campus.

At the event, Dr. Jay was commended for his outstanding teaching and research of LGBTQ+ issues. As a professor of religion, Dr. Jay has found innovative ways to explore the intersection of LGBTQ+

and religion, especially Christianity, in the Wabash classroom.

"This award is about making sure that we celebrate those people who take the kind of risks necessary to show that LGBTQ+ people are not going to just sit idly by while our civil rights are stripped away," said Assistant Professor of English Dr. EJ Pavlinich.

"We want to recognize those who are willing to really put in the work to realize Wabash College as a diverse, equitable and inclusive community. It's more than just words, and I think Jeff Jay demonstrates

that with all the things he's contributed to the community."

One principle that underpins all of Dr. Jay's work is a belief that there are ways of interpreting religious texts in a manner open to people of all sexual orientations. For example, he points to the fact that some biblical texts, such as Leviticus or Romans, have often been used to fuel homophobic hate. But Dr. Jay wants to encourage LGBTQ+ students to read these "texts of terror," as he describes them, in new and different ways.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

'shOUT awards the first 'shOUT OUT award to Assistant Professor of Religion Dr. Jeff Jay (left) on April 11, 2023.

## Wabash Student Supreme Court issues first major ruling

*New student court rules graduating seniors are not eligible to vote*

**JAKOB GOODWIN '23** MANAGING EDITOR • As the Student Senate election season comes to an end, the Student Supreme Court of Wabash College released its first written opinion, focusing on the question of whether graduating seniors were allowed to vote in this week's student body elections.

For as long as most can remember, graduating seniors have been unable to vote in elections just before leaving Wabash, but the student court clarified the meaning of Article 1, Section 2.1 of the Wabash Constitution, specifically what, "Except for elections held in spring semester of the graduation year," means.

With a unanimous ruling, the student court ruled that that section means what students have always assumed it means.

"The meaning is clear to the Court: Wabash students that are seniors and will not be returning are not able to vote. Students that are returning are permitted to vote," wrote Chief Justice Thomas Joven '24 for the court.

The student court further explained that the purpose of the clause was obviously meant to exclude those who would not be around for the next president's term from voting in the election of the president. While some students who may leave the College without graduating would retain these voting rights, the text of the constitution is not clear enough to resolve that issue.

So the Court suggested the Student Senate resolve this and clarify the language of the Constitution,

addressing groups of students like those who plan on transferring away from Wabash and those who take a year off, as they remain enfranchised, but would be excluded from the group the section is clearly meant to address.

**"I would strongly encourage a future constitutional amendment to enfranchise as many Wabash men in the election as we can."**

-Bryce McCullough '23

This opinion, released at 11:56 p.m. on Sunday, April 9—four minutes before the beginning of election week—represented the first written opinion from the student court. The student court was created by constitutional amendment under the Daniel Bass '22 administration at the end of the 2021—2022 year.

As its first opinion, this advisory opinion serves as a precedent-setter for the Student Supreme Court on procedure, making it seem that the Supreme Court may hear specific grievances, but they will mainly serve to clarify these questions for the Senate when they come about.

"The significance of this decision is unprecedented," wrote Associate Justice Seth Kirkpatrick '24 in his opinion concurring in part in dissenting in part. Beyond his agreement with the decision that graduating seniors are disallowed from

**Continued page 2**

## Campus prepares for tenth Day of Giving

**SAM BENEDICT '25** | JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Wabash will host the tenth Day of Giving on April 19. The annual Day of Giving event is defined by student activities, alumni involvement and fundraising that makes the very liberal arts mission of Wabash possible.

Last year, the Day of Giving campaign raised over \$1,400,000 to support clubs such as the rugby team, the overall Wabash endowment and special projects. Wabash has had five consecutive years of raising \$1,000,000 in the single 24-hour period.

Previous campaigns have utilized mottos such as #StepUpForWabash, #OurWabash or the #GiantShoulders campaign of 2022. This year's campaign is titled #AlwaysWabash and will have affinity challenges that provide opportunities to pay respects to professors, mentors or friends that have made an impact on each donor personally.

The Sons of Wabash, the student arm of the Advancement Office, is preparing for a campus-wide day of celebration and publicity. Recent Days of Giving have been impacted by a lack of student support, but this year, the Sons of Wabash have already worked to bolster undergraduate involvement.

"Beginning weeks ago, the IFC started an initiative to receive a gift from every fraternity student for the Day of Giving this year," said IFC President Brett Driscoll '24. "We have officially reached that number with the support of fraternity leadership on campus. I'm excited to see how the day goes and look forward to the brotherhood that will commence."

The dollar amount raised by students is valuable, but it isn't the main goal for the Advancement Office. Gifts, defined as any donation of any dollar amount, are tallied and used to unlock specific affinity prizes by bigger donors. This year, Chris Braun '81 will be pledging every gift made by a student, faculty member or staff member with a \$20 donation. If every person within that group were to make a gift, then \$16,000 will be donated on top of the initial donations.

It was recently announced that a group of donors will be unlocking \$510,000 to be donated if 5,010 total gifts are made on the Day of Giving.

The Day of Giving event will include a list of activities and competitions that students will be able to compete in. These will include a hoop shoot, football toss, tug of war, dunk tank and pie in the face. Furthermore, students will be encouraged to attend a luncheon in the Fieldhouse instead of going to their typical building for a meal.

Outside of the student activities happening on campus, alumni will be meeting within their region to celebrate Wabash College. Videos will be made by students, faculty and alumni to promote individual benefactors of the Day of Giving and encourage donations on a large scale.

## Student Supreme Court issues first written opinion

*Continued from page 1*

voting, Kirkpatrick, the presumed Chief Justice-elect, wrote about the role of the student court as an advisor for the Senate, hoping that the student justices can propose changes to the Constitution like they did in their majority opinion. Kirkpatrick went further than asking the Senate to revise Article 1, Section 2.1, asking the Student Senate to enact a wholesale revision of the Constitution to make it more clear on more issues than just this one.

The direct impacts of this decision on the current election are unclear. With both the student body president and student chief justice races candidates running unopposed, the lack of senior voting seems unlikely to sway the results.

**"I think seniors should have a say in how we want to leave the campus we spent four years breaking our backs for."**

-Hawk Ricketts '23

Beyond the institutional issues at hand, this decision is still controversial, with some students believing that graduating seniors should be able to vote.

"I think seniors should have a say in how we want to leave the campus we spent four years breaking our backs for," said Richard 'Hawk' Ricketts '23. "We as seniors have been on campus with the students who would be getting elected the longest, whereas a freshman has not. In addition,



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23 (right) and former Senate Chairman Will Trapp '24 (left) address the Student Senate on September 12, 2022. Trapp was Chairman during the election that passed the amendment to create the new student court.**

we're also the most experienced with campus culture as well as four previous administrations."

Ricketts criticized the student court's decision, which he felt was made without consulting affected seniors.

"They didn't even give us a chance to push back or have a voice on this at all," Ricketts said. "If they had started this dialogue with seniors a week prior, which still would've been a little early, and by the end of things still came to the conclusion seniors can't vote, I wouldn't be as mad. But, it really feels like they were banking on senioritis preventing us from caring or pushing back on

the choice, which is exactly what happened."

While agreeing on the merits of the decision, Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23 expressed his wish that every student could vote in these elections.

"I personally think seniors should be allowed to vote," said McCullough. "We care a lot about the future of Wabash and are knowledgeable about how things work here. Seniors should have a say in future student leadership. However, the court's ruling is in line with the intention of the clause in the constitution adopted last year that prohibits the graduating class from voting. The lan-

guage itself, though, is extremely vague and should have been clearer. I would strongly encourage a future constitutional amendment to enfranchise as many Wabash men in the election as we can."

Other seniors, though, are less bothered by the opinion and don't seem to think they need to be allowed to vote.

"It seems that people who will be leaving Wabash before the next president gets into office shouldn't have a say," said Carson Price '23. "The people who are going to be spending their time at the institution and dealing with the ramifications of the changes should have the power."

## Dr. Jay receives inaugural 'shOUT Out Award

*Continued from page 1*

"There are methods of interpretation that allow people to examine biblical texts in a way that is affirmative of same-sex love and romance, and critical of power structures that underpin and enable these texts of terror to condemn LGBTQ+ people," said Dr. Jay. "There are ways of reading that provide a critique of the texts of terror. They're sometimes called clobber texts because people take these little snippets out of context and use them as clubs to beat the crap out of people who are just trying to live and be who they are. So LGBTQ+ and queer interpretations enable a critique of the collaborative texts, sort of teasing out the power dynamics that are operative there and how they're being appropriated as clobber passages."

Using these kinds of queer interpretations as a starting point, Dr. Jay taught a class in the fall of 2022 titled "Bible, Sex and Power." By engaging students in meaningful and challenging discussions of well-accepted biblical stories, Dr. Jay tried to promote mutual understanding between religion and LGBTQ+ issues.

"We have to learn to hear each other and connect," said Dr. Jay. "That's what happened in my 'Bible, Sex and Power' class. We had several outstanding 'shOUT members who were engaged in the material, and it really brought the class to life. There was a lot of honesty going on, and real connections were formed between



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**'shOUT members speak at the April 11 event that presented the award to Dr. Jay.**

'shOUT people and more traditional religious students."

On top of his work in the classroom, 'shOUT also cited Dr. Jay's contributions in the wider community as a reason for offering him the award. In spring 2022, for example, Dr. Jay organized an event titled "Queer and Christian" which was designed to foster inclusion at the intersection of LGBTQ+ and religion.

"A lot of Christians will tell you that you can't be queer and Christian," said Dr. Jay. "They

will say you have to love the person but not the sin. But that doesn't go far enough. You can't separate person from sexual orientation—that's who you are. So at the event last spring, I was trying to make a space for understanding that there are queer Christian people, and this is how they read the text."

Upon receiving the award, Dr. Jay was quick to recognize the efforts of students in leading the charge for LGBTQ+ representation at Wabash.

"I really do think that the students deserve the credit—I just organized the kittens," said Dr. Jay. "I directed the energy, and obviously that's important. But what this award should be about is the way that students can be empowered to do this work. And we as faculty need to appreciate just how energetic, bold, courageous and creative students can be. This award isn't about us faculty, it's about students."





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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

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Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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## Wait for the trial. Trump's innocent until proven guilty



Andrew Dever '25  
Opinion Editor

Reply to this opinion at  
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Donald J. Trump. Everybody has an opinion about the 45th President of the United States. Many love him. Many hate him. However, behind the spectacle that has captivated much of the American public since the 2016 Presidential Election is a man whose case could influence the future of American politics—and even more importantly, the American justice system.

On Tuesday, April 4, the former President pleaded not guilty to 34 felony charges stemming from his alleged involvement and potential bribery of adult film actress Stormy Daniels. For his part, in addition to vehemently refuting the criminal charges, which he asserted were politically motivated, former President Trump has continued his normal lifestyle. Last Saturday, for example, Trump was prominently positioned at the front row of UFC 287, next to Mike Tyson, Kid Rock, and UFC President Dana White. And, to be honest, after seeing constant media coverage of Trump for the past eight years, I would expect nothing less.

However, as criminal proceedings commence in New York, it seems that everyone in America has already made up their minds. Democrats know he is guilty. Republicans know he is innocent. For both sides, Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg's investigation into the former President confirms their preconceived notions of the 21st century American justice system. So, with an impending round of proceedings and impending litigation, I write to remind both sides of one thing: the presumption of innocence.

Founded over 200 years ago, our criminal justice system was established based on the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." While it has not always followed through on that ideal, the trial based system of our courts definitively separates us from most of the rest of the world. In America, if you are charged

with a crime, you have a right to defend yourself. In the case of Donald Trump, this should be no different.

Unfortunately, as we saw with the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections, our country has gotten into a habit of blaming the system when the desired results do not pan out. Whether in Hillary Clinton's post-2016 media tour claiming Trump was an "illegitimate" President or Donald Trump's very public continued claims of widespread voter fraud, our leaders on both sides are promulgating a divisive message.

Regrettably, it is working.

I will be the first to admit that I was less than thrilled when Joe Biden won the 2020 Presidential Election. An uninspiring, career politician with a lengthy and well documented history of embarrassing moments and campaign resume lies, Biden certainly did not seem to be a candidate that could positively change the course of our Nation.

Thus, my message is this. I implore both sides, Republicans and Democrats, to not come to a conclusion about the Trump charges until after the trial. If we come into the continued criminal proceedings with preconceived notions of guilt or innocence, we are doing a serious disservice to the very system that sets our justice system apart.



COURTESY OF NPR

Trump at his indictment

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### 3 X

*Lo-Five to the Sig Chis who forgot what a sigma looks like when vandalizing KSig's bench. It's literally written on the front, and you still couldn't get it right. We don't want to keep Lo-Fiving you... but you make it too easy.*

### THIS IS SO SAD... ALEXA, PLAY 'RUNNING UP THAT HILL'

*Lo-Five to Millie Bobby Brown for getting engaged before even coming to Purdue and giving us Wallys a fair shot. Our love story could have started on a wild Thursday at The Cactus.*

### LET SLEEPING JACKASSES LIE

*Lo-Five to the all-student email recommending that students listen and learn from a chapel talk from a not-so-missed Classics professor. He might be the guy if you want to berate a student for his sexuality in front of the faculty, but otherwise, maybe not the best example of the Gentleman's Rule.*

### NO SINGLES IN YOUR AREA

*Lo-Five to eduroam for sucking so bad this past week. It's not like we wanted to be able to do our work anyway, but we need it for the other stuff, too.*

### 'SAY PEACOCK, AND NO ONE BATS AN EYE'

*Hi-Five to Camp Serv (a rare genuinely-positive Hi-Five from us). This time, we're glad you're taking our shit away.*

## Addressing the 'Why' for Day of Giving 2023



Hugh Vandivier '91

Reply to this opinion at  
vandivh@wabash.edu

Wabash started the Day of Giving in 2014, and a question has long lingered around the corners of campus. "I go to Wabash (or I work at Wabash), so why do you want me to participate? Isn't this just a day to get money from alumni?"

In the spirit of thinking critically, it's a valid question.

After all, many other schools don't ask much more of their students, faculty, staff and coaches than to appear all bright and shiny and clad in full university gear for the promo videos and on the website. Oh, maybe they'll ask the campus community to share the hashtag on their socials.

But as we like to say, Wabash is different.

**"Our annual largest single-day fundraising effort doesn't just happen... It has evolved as a spring campus celebration that invites and involves everyone—even you."**

Our annual largest single-day fundraising effort doesn't just happen virtually—well, other than in 2020 and 2021 for obvious reasons. It has evolved as a spring campus celebration that invites and involves everyone—even you.

Those two years really disrupted a great on-campus momentum on the Day of Giving, and last year that lingering question echoed more loudly as we pushed the reset button. "Reentry is hard," has been my mantra as we have slowly emerged from the lockdowns and distancing of the worst of COVID-19. And last year's reentry was rocky. Our on-campus event was sparsely

attended, and student giving took a nosedive. On each of the Days of Giving in 2017 through 2019, more than 800 students made a gift. Last year, that number was just 457.

Reentry is hard indeed, and I say this not as an indictment of my dedicated team, but with my hand hoisted high in the air claiming responsibility. So let's reset and follow noted speaker Simon Sinek's advice by "starting with why."

So here's why you should make a gift on the Day of Giving.

First, Wabash (being different) defines an alumnus as anyone who has completed two semesters of coursework. By comparison, U.S. News & World Report counts only graduates as alumni. So by our standards, about 70% of current students can count toward our alumni donor percentage with just one gift of any amount for anything.

For every 120 alumni who give, we move up one percentage point. So, upperclassmen are worth about five points on our overall alumni giving percentage. Wabash has a streak of nine straight years with 40% or more. (Last year, DPU did cartwheels when they finally reached 20% again.)

Why does the alumni giving percentage matter? By achieving 40% of alumni giving in the last fiscal year, Wabash ranked fifth among all national liberal arts colleges, which was our highest ranking ever. Imagine how many more spots we might've climbed if we had hit 100% student giving in the 2021-2022 school year, which would have put that percentage at 43.3%.

If you attended the Chapel Talk delivered by Trustee Chris Braun '81 in November, you heard him recall growing up as the middle child, the sixth of 12 kids. You may also remember his gratitude for the Wabash degree he earned as a first-generation student. Then, he issued a challenge to the entire campus: For every contribution of any amount made by any student, faculty, and staff to the Annual Fund by June 30, 2023, he will give \$20 to the Annual Fund.

That's one really good reason to give. Here's another.

Ahead of next Wednesday, my colleagues in Advancement have lined up a group of Wabash leaders who will give \$510,000 when we meet a goal of 5,010 gifts. In a true Wabash way, that



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Students, staff and coaches participate in the annual celebration, reflection and fundraising at the ninth Day of Giving on April 19, 2022.

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means that any gift of any amount has an equal chance of helping us earn that tidy sum.

Also, each living unit, every sport, most clubs, many alumni classes, and even some academic departments are issuing challenges to their groups. Members of the Wabash community are issuing challenges to honor faculty and staff, first-generation, and international students. A gift to these challenges unlocks even more money from those who want to improve and enhance your experience here—and also helps get us to that 5,010 gift

goal. So I invite you to join us next Wednesday, April 19, as we celebrate what's so special about this place and how your experience on campus now still resonates with those who once studied here. Please join us in ensuring that an unparalleled liberal arts education, our cherished traditions, and the relationships we treasure are part of the Wabash experience then, now, and always.

# Rethinking renovations



**Nathan Ellenberger '26**  
Reply to this opinion at nvelleb26@wabash.edu

Among Wabash's myriad charms is its physical appearance. I'm writing this in the bloom of spring, with the vibrant Midwestern green coaxing out the red of our beloved bricks. These red bricks are a historical relic and badge of honor for Wabash. The Chapel's bricks remind us of the Protestant work ethic that built this school; Center Hall: the classical academic excellence that sustained it. However, the growth Wabash experienced in the 20th century removed some of the physical character that has become part of its legacy. The post-war expansions and renovations on campus largely shaped the layout of the College we know today, with respect paid to the brick Georgian style Wabash was built in. However outwardly collegiate these buildings look, many of their interior designs sadly don't deliver the same aesthetic cohesion.

This is not a condition that applies across the board for each building, however, and for different reasons.

Center Hall's weathered quaintness is our greatest link back to the stylings of how Old Wabash used to be. Its interior largely reflects the classical reverence for knowledge that the College's founders sought to impress. The gently creaking stairs and stretching tall windows of the classrooms turn Center from an academic and administrative hub into a hallowed hall of tradition.

Hays Hall can be forgiven for its sterile interior given the departments it houses. Its plentiful natural light and clean design make for a pleasant enough building.

However, some buildings fail to live up to the excellence of the education they facilitate. Baxter Hall, for example, is an aesthetic disappointment, both in form and function. Its post-WWII utilitarianism makes for a drab and sparse hall that fails to capture both the grand aspirations of the Political Science and Economics communities, nor the reverence for mysteries of antiquity held by the History department. It even fails to deliver functionality, with a poorly thought-through lack of male bathroom on the second and third floors. The Fine Arts Center is one of the greatest offenders, even on the exterior. The sheer facade surrounding Salter Hall suggests Grecian influence. Stepping back, it looks like a poor modernist attempt at homage—the sheer smoothness of the pillars reflect the shallow respect paid to the architecture that built Wabash.

Obviously it is unrealistic to expect a college to never renovate or remodel. However, an institution with such a reverence for tradition deserves better from the buildings we use every day. I only hope that future renovations are done with a respect for the foundations they are built on that previous architects lacked.

# The Kyrie conundrum: The stars have not shone bright in Dallas



**Jacob Talbert '24**  
Reply to this opinion at jftalber24@wabash.edu

Two of my fraternity brothers from Dallas rave incessantly about the Mavericks on a daily basis. While not all of us may hail from the Lone Star State, we all go to school in the great state of Indiana, where we have all learned to appreciate some good basketball, at least every now and then. We simply can't find such "good basketball" with the Mavs.

If you were looking to find some good basketball by watching the Mavs play this season, it is rather regrettable that you did not look elsewhere. They recently capped off their 2022-2023 campaign boasting a pedestrian record of 38-44, good for 11th in the NBA's Western Conference this year.

That's right—the team that made the Conference Finals one year ago missed out on a play-in spot to the tweening Thunder, who finished two games ahead.

But who or what is to blame for such a disappointing season? For those who believe that organizational success trickles down from the top, they would likely point fingers at none other than Dallas Mavericks owner and proud Hoosier Mark Cuban. While the Mavericks do possess a litany of front office personnel that handle team construction and other roster-related management decision-making, Cuban has not shied away from the eyes of the public and the media as the figurehead of the franchise. After all, he is ultimately the one that decides who gets to sit in the big chair and make transactions like trading for Christian Wood, signing a washed-up Kemba Walker or—most recently—finalizing a blockbuster trade to acquire

superstar Kyrie Irving.

Ever since two-time NCAA National Championship winner Jalen Brunson skipped town for the Big Apple last summer, the Mavs have sorely missed him. Just when international superstar Luka Doncic seemed to have found his long-awaited running mate, Brunson was gone 104 million bucks later. Left with little options, the Mavericks opened the 2022-2023 season with Spencer Dinwiddie slated to fill the role of secondary scorer and ball handler next to "The Don." Come February, this formula had produced a 29-26 record, which was good for sixth in the conference at the time. But as concerns for what laid ahead come playoff time continued to mount, the Mavs pulled the trigger on a trade that would finally place a true superstar at Luka's side, which is not something he's experienced since he was first drafted by Dallas in 2018.

Personal politics and controversial off-court conduct aside, Kyrie seemed like the perfect fit next to Luka. After all, having two ball-dominant, scoring guards was a huge part of why the Mavericks were so successful in the playoffs the year prior. Additionally, Kyrie has certainly done nothing to disprove being a more skilled and accomplished basketball player than Jalen Brunson; to the contrary, he is widely regarded as one of the best point guards of the last decade. So what could go wrong?

What the Mavericks' front office seemed to have either ignored or been unaware of is the fact that there are two sides to the ball. Regardless of whether or not a flashy pass from Luka or a sick crossover into a reverse layup from Kyrie results in a bucket, they must still run down to the other end of the court to stop the other team from scoring. The Mavericks were pretty bad at defense before Kyrie landed in Dallas, and they got even worse after the fact. Kyrie may fill up the scoreboard on the offensive end, but he is widely considered to be a liability defensively. To acquire Kyrie Irving, the Mavericks traded away Spencer Dinwiddie and Dorian

Finney-Smith, the latter of which is a very good defender, and the former—who isn't necessarily known as a world-beater on the defensive end—still has much more to write home about in that department than Kyrie does. The Mavericks finished 24th in defensive rating this season, which is especially alarming considering they finished sixth in that department last season. To be clear, "defensive rating" is an estimate of how many points a team gives up per 100 possessions. In short, citing the Mavs' defensive rating of 116.7 is just a fancy way of saying that they sucked on that end of the floor this year.

Does the Kyrie trade leave the Mavs in bad shape moving forward? Can the ship be righted before it sinks? Or has the water already started to flood the hull?

While I think Kyrie's time as a Maverick has certainly been disappointing, a lot of it's got to do with other circumstances. For starters, Kyrie's only been in town for two months. The chemistry is far from where it could and should be, given the proper amount of time. Additionally, key impact players not named Luka or Kyrie (of which there aren't many) have been unable to suit up for the Mavericks due to injury. The team is still reeling from the Brunson departure and needs to figure out what they want their roster to look like when fully healthy and adjusted to one another's playstyles. If anything, the most egregious part of the Kyrie trade is the fact that he's a free agent this summer. The Mavericks didn't have long to make a good first impression on Irving, and while he has recently been on record saying he's in it for the long haul, he has cultivated a history of going back on his word in situations like these. Nothing is guaranteed until Kyrie puts pen to paper. And even then, Dallas still sorely needs rim protectors. Dwight Powell, Christian Wood, and JaVale McGee just don't cut muster for a team that should have championship aspirations.

While getting Luka a bona fide star as his right-hand man was well-intentioned, the Mavericks simply had too many other moving parts and holes to fill.



**'Pandora's Box'**

Arman Luthra '26

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Archdiocese of Indianapolis

At Pioneer Chapel on April 18 @11:15



# FEATURES



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Old School + New School

## What to wear at Wabash this spring

K'TREN WILSON '24 | GUEST WRITER •

### Look 1: "The Striped Sweater"

For me, spring (and the beginning of spring-like weather) marks the time when I put away winter's darker tones and heavy materials and trade them out for their more colorful and lightweight counterparts. This look is meant to represent the sort of transition from winter to spring—with the use of familiar garments like a casual sweater and a pair of heavier vintage jeans—while introducing what I believe to be the essence and spirit of spring: tasteful use of color and contrast. The sweater in this look is also just slightly cropped, and the knit in general is very breathable. This look provides a bulkier silhouette, and aesthetically more vintage by my definition.

### Look 2: "A Pop of Color"

I created this look that somewhat goes against the typical understanding of spring fashion by trying to use more black than another, more vibrant color. Still, this look utilizes a unique pattern comprised of geometric shapes and what appear to be brush strokes and some light use of color to make the pattern pop even more. Most important to this look, in my opinion, is the lightweight materials that were used to construct the pants and the top. This allows the wearer to be fully covered without being suffocated or overheated by the clothing.

### Look 3: "Old School + New School"

This is my personal favorite look of my spring "collection," featuring a pair of vintage high-waisted checked trousers and a relatively new buy from Forever 21's last spring collection. This look was crafted to play with the pastel colors used in the top and the sort of optical illusion that the green checks provide. This pattern is similarly unconventional but provides an almost endless supply of complementary color combinations. The trousers are made of a slightly heavier fabric, but this is well balanced with the short sleeves and lightweight material of the shirt. (Fun fact: I had to take more than 6 inches in from the waist of these trousers for them to fit!)

### Look 4: "Timmy Turner"

This look was about embracing the color aspect of spring fashion alone. Much simpler in its presentation and construction, this look features a ribbed pink polo and a pair of relaxed-fitting light-wash jeans. This look reminds me of Timmy Turner from "The Fairly Odd Parents" because of the pink shirt, but I think the use of this more vibrant pink with the more muted blue highlights the beauty of both colors and allows them to balance each other out. This is also a more comfortable silhouette and arguably would look great on anyone.

### Look 5: "Back to Basics"

This look is about saying "screw it" to everything I said prior. This look does not strongly utilize any colors or patterns, and does not have a very distinct silhouette. If nothing else, spring is the time that we get to recover from the months of abuse from the wind and snow. That might just mean getting to wear a t-shirt with no jacket for an entire day and being happy with that. With that, this look features a plain black ribbed t-shirt and the same pair of jeans from the look prior. This look was conceptualized for those that don't see themselves as fashionable or capable of being so and also a reminder that fashion should be whatever you want it to be.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

The Striped Sweater



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Back to Basics



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

A Pop of Color



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Timmy Turner

# Feature: Emmy award-winner Jo Throckmorton '87



COURTESY OF GOFUNDME

**TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT** • Emmy Award winning documentary filmmaker Jo Throckmorton '87 returned to Wabash this week for the debut screening of his newest project: "Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War." The film, a documentary about World War I, follows the stories of seven Hoosiers who fought in the Great War.

"I wanted to make the film because there's a lot of interesting stories," said Throckmorton. "If there's a lot of interesting stories to tell, you know you're going to be interested in it, however long it takes to do."

**"Most people have something that they really want to say. It's not necessarily an answer to your question but they want to tell you something. They have information they want others to know."**

- Jo Throckmorton '87

For Throckmorton, the screening was the culmination of a six-year-long project. The genesis for the idea began when he was hired to produce and direct a film to accompany a museum installation at the Meuse-Argonne American Cemetery in Romagne, France.

"I did that, learned a lot and I thought it would be interesting to do this project based on what I did from that project," said Throckmorton. "If you're doing something historical, it's all very interesting."

Throckmorton was able to capture more than enough footage through the project with the Museum and was able to put the extra to good use. The footage, which included realistic battle

recreations, combined with the connections he had made with World War I historians allowed him to pursue the stories of Hoosier subjects.

"We picked subjects from all around the state to get a good mix," said Throckmorton. "One was well-known. One should have been well known, but wasn't because of the color of his skin. One was a nurse; she was a female."

The film was extensively researched. While government books full of accurate battle information proved vital to identifying the threads of the Hoosiers' stories, Throckmorton needed to find a personal touch to make them feel complete. He was able to find living family members of the subjects who were overflowing with stories. Often, the stories of their family were very deeply emotional requiring specific tact to be able talk with them

"I make sure to listen to them," said Throckmorton. "Most people have something that they really want to say. It's not necessarily an answer to your question, but they want to tell you something. They have information they want others to know."

Throckmorton has enjoyed telling stories through film for over thirty years. His insatiable curiosity and love of reading inspires him to tell the stories that he does. He loves books but recognizes that his strengths lie in his visual arts.

"Writing is a very difficult process, while film is something I can do, something I've studied. I can't write," said Throckmorton. "I happen to be very good at doing visual work."

"Over There" will air on the Indiana PBS television station, with the potential to reach 1.1 million people, including residents of Indianapolis, Bloomington, Gary and Muncie, with the possibility of reaching viewers in Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois.

# Review: 'Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War' sees World War I through a local lens



## HOOSIER HEROES OF THE GREAT WAR

A documentary film by award-winning producer & director

**Jo Throckmorton**



COURTESY OF IMDB

**JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER** • Wabash recently welcomed Jo Throckmorton '87 back to campus for a pre-showing of his new documentary "Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War." The documentary presents a different perspective on World War I by telling the inspiring stories of seven "Hoosier heroes" who fought for their country in Europe. However, unlike many historical documentaries, this film includes the stories of an African American hero, Lieutenant Aaron Fisher, and a female hero, May Berry.

"Over There" is set to publically debut on May 29—Memorial Day—in South Bend, Indiana, but on March 4, Throckton unveiled a pre-release showing to the Wabash campus community. This refreshing approach to

telling the history of World War I made the documentary particularly interesting and captivated the audience. Telling the story of both Fisher and Berry gave the documentary a unique angle that also gave the two heroes the recognition they have long deserved.

The inclusion of these individuals also made the stories of the other hoosiers all that more special, and gave me an appreciation of the individual stories that were combined in this film. Even with a runtime of only 57 minutes, Throckmorton was able to give each of the seven heroes the time they deserved on the screen.

While the storytelling was the film's strongest feature, the musical effects throughout the documentary certainly impressed the audience as well. The entirety of the documentary was accompanied by music specifically composed for the story, which highlighted important moments in the film. The decision to fund custom music rather than use pre-recorded music in the public domain paid off, as the movement of the music helped to characterize the impact of each individual's story.

The documentary's cinematography also complemented the story, as the beautiful

French landscape accompanied the brave stories of the hoosier heroes. Similarly, the filming techniques used in the interviews throughout the film added a depth to the points the film was making. The film also used military documents and historical footage to accompany the stories of the seven, which helped bring a certain realism to the stories.

The documentary will continue to be worked on until its release on Memorial Day. The audio and visuals have yet to be finalized, and the film will be optimized for viewing on television.

Overall, "Over There: Hoosier Heroes of the Great War" achieved what it set out to do—tell the stories of seven impressive hoosiers in the Great War. The combination of cinematography and custom audio helped to tell the stories in a captivating way, giving the individuals the recognition they deserve.

**FINAL VERDICT: 4/5 WALLYS**



## GREEK TRAGEDY AND THE HUMAN CONDITION

Join Wabash College and the Crawfordsville Community for a dramatic reading of Sophocles' *Philoctetes*



In collaboration with:



**LWV**

**Wabash College @ Salter Hall April 17th 7pm-9pm**

The *Philoctetes* tells the story of a wounded soldier, abandoned as a result of his condition, who must be forced to return to the fray.



The play investigates struggles with mental and physical health, importance of community, and competing obligations to society and self.

## Wabash Club of Indianapolis

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facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

# Review: 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' is a 1-up in almost every way



COURTESY OF FORBES

**AUSTIN STOCKTON '24 | STAFF WRITER**  
 • Recent video game movies have been synonymous with bad writing and terrible adaptations. The original “Super Mario Bros” (1993) is no exception. However, with the recent “Sonic the Hedgehog” and “Mortal Kombat” movies showing signs of success, it was only a matter of time before Mario got his turn again in the movie industry.

This 2023 reboot in particular has been in the works for a while, with the earliest rumors indicating that this movie would be made by Sony, which is rather perplexing since they are Nintendo’s biggest rival in the gaming industry. When it was announced that Illumination would be making this movie, people were hyped. However, that hype plummeted when the voice cast was announced in December of 2021, mostly regarding the decision for Chris Pratt to voice the iconic Italian plumber.

This was the first Illumination movie I had ever seen, and with the work they’ve done on their previous movies, I had high hopes.

Going straight to the point, I loved this movie. While I was one of the millions of people who were concerned about the voice cast, I was pleasantly surprised at how much I enjoyed the voice acting. I would have preferred the voice cast from the games, but this voice cast did a solid job. Much like when audiences saw Ben Affleck’s Batman in action, people were quick to admit that they were wrong about the casting choices. All of the voices are delivered perfectly, and the writing is fantastic.

Another aspect of this movie that I loved was the visuals. This movie is outright beautiful. Illumination puts so much love and effort into the environments and character movements. Everything is so colorful and immediately catches your eye. It’s amazing how well they were able to take aspects from the games and put it into a motion picture. The character movements

are so detailed. It’s oddly realistic how they move in some cases, and the way that the hair and flames move are very well done.

I think that the best aspect of this movie is the sound—and I’m not just talking about the music. The music is incredible, and it’s so much more cinematic and grandiose compared to the games. With the sound, however, they were able to make a wide range of noises and sounds that will catch your attention, even when there’s so much happening at once.

The only issue that I have with this movie is that it’s not very original. Now that’s not because this is an adaptation, but rather the movie doesn’t really do anything new. The plot and the theme of this movie have been done numerous times before, and those were way better compared to this movie. Now that may be due to the fact that this movie is geared more toward a younger audience, and that there is hardly any plot in the games, but I do wish that the story was more substantive.

Overall, I would say that if you have two hours to spare, you should definitely see this movie, even if you’re not a gamer. This movie has humor, charm, heart and a color pallet unlike anything that I’ve ever seen. While this movie has divided critics and audiences, give it a try, and I think that you’ll definitely be surprised.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
4/5 WALLYS**



# Review: Jazz ensemble concert is toe-tapping fun for the whole family



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**(Left to right) Patrick Burnette, Neal Laymon '25, Oscar Jacome Huesca '25, Justin Santiago '25, Anton Laut '26, Anne Sexton and Carter Bertsch '26 play in the jazz ensemble on Thursday, April 6, in Salter Hall.**

**LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | FEATURES EDITOR**  
 • Right off the bat, you should know this review is biased. I’m a huge fan of jazz. I’ve waited in line for four hours to get into a standing-room-only jazz hall in New Orleans, Louisiana, and I’ve watched “La La Land” more times than I care to admit. Hence the reason why I’m so thankful the distinctly-American artform has found a home right here at Wabash—the 30-second walk to Salter Hall is a lot cheaper than plane tickets to New Orleans.

I’ve always enjoyed the jazz ensemble when they have performances, but recently, the ensemble hasn’t quite lived up to the name, usually performing as a quartet or quintet. For the April 6 concert, however, ensemble director and bassist extraordinaire Scott Pazera brought together a ragtag group of student and community musicians for a much larger, 18-piece ensemble, capable of producing a high action, horns-a-blastin’, big band sound.

And, boy, did they deliver. The expanded outfit consisted of trumpets, trombones, french horns, saxophones (of the alto, tenor and bari varieties), bass clarinet, piano, bass (upright and electric), drum kit, congas and even a vibraphone. As the group performed several combinations of smaller arrangements, the audience got to hear different instruments highlighted in unique and clever ways. (Who knew a vibraphone and an alto sax played at the same time sounds just like a steel drum?!)

The selection of music was also top-notch. The concert featured compositions from jazz legends like Fats Waller and Nat Adderley, newer artists like Stefon Harris and even some pop

hits from the band Toto. My only complaint with the concert was that it wasn’t longer. After a solid hour-and-a-half of playing, I was still disappointed when it inevitably came to an end.

I know I wasn’t the only one enjoying it either. A quick look around the audience revealed plenty of head bobbing and toe tapping. It was the perfect kickoff for spring. The brassy, uptempo performance brought a much-needed liveliness to campus, and everyone left with a smile on their face and a boogie in their shoes. Even if you’ve never listened to jazz before—especially if you haven’t listened to jazz before—I strongly urge you to keep an eye out for the next performance from the Wabash College Jazz Ensemble.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS**



# Chase Breaux '24 on a semester in Amsterdam

**CHASE BREAUX '24 | STAFF WRITER**  
 • When I studied abroad last semester, the world got smaller.

Through my courses, immersion in Dutch culture and conversations with people all over the world, I realized that there is no haven for people like me. After a lifetime defined by code-switching and policing my actions to avoid being shamed or treated as less than others because of my race or sexuality, I thought Amsterdam would be a break. Instead, I learned that issues like racism, homophobia and rape culture exist everywhere—albeit to different extents.

I learned that what many consider a Dutch “culture of tolerance” consisted partly of people downplaying the aspects of their identity that others may deem undesirable or avoiding addressing certain issues at all. For example, I was warned against wearing nail polish to avoid harassment. In orientation, I learned about the Zwarte Piet parades. White people would dress up in blackface to look like one of Santa’s helpers who is covered in soot. I recall one Black member of my cohort asking, “Is there anywhere I can go to avoid seeing it?” The person leading the orientation responded, “It’s city-wide.” When we discussed the protests against the parades, they said people who wore blackface would counter by saying it was their tradition and culture. This argument reminded me of white people defending the Confederate flag.

In my time in Amsterdam, I learned that while systemic racism is not as much of an issue in the Dutch criminal justice system, it does exist within their immigration laws. And while the U.S. has been grappling with the nation’s history of enslaving Black people, the Dutch are just beginning to discuss their role in the Atlantic Slave Trade despite starting it. Realizing that these problems exist everywhere and are interconnected

made me feel overwhelmed. I felt like I, Wabash and the world were in an unbreakable loop. I felt helpless, and that feeling persisted through most of my semester abroad.

Toward the end of the semester, I came across a Tumblr-esque quote that said, “Self-care is creating a life you don’t need to escape from.” Ultimately, realizing there’s no escape from racism, homophobia and other systemic and social problems strengthened my resolve that we must create a just American society. Everyone deserves to feel safe and secure; my study abroad experience reminded me just how important fighting for that is. People shouldn’t need to escape their homes or colleges to feel treated as equals. That should be the reality here, in the United States and at Wabash.

Additionally, last year I was selected as a Point Foundation Flagship Scholar, Gilman Scholar and Obama-Chesky Voyager. And when I was asked to discuss the Voyager scholarship in a national interview, I struggled with imposter syndrome—feeling that I wasn’t worthy of the opportunity. But during the Obama Foundation Democracy Summit, I got to meet the other incredible recipients of the Voyager Scholarship. Each of us is taking on a different challenge that feels larger than us, and nevertheless, we’re rising to the occasion. There are people who recognize our efforts and want to support and equip us to create positive change. These scholarships showed me that my most authentic self is my best self and that I deserve everything I’ve received. I don’t need to code-switch. I don’t need to downplay my gayness to make anyone feel comfortable or in hopes of getting ahead. I should be accepted for who I am; my ability and character will speak for themselves. So, moving forward, I am bringing my whole self to the table, and where systemic obstacles exist, I’ll fight against them.



COURTESY OF CHASE BREAUX '24

# 'Vernal vexation'

## Word ladder

Turn the top word into the bottom word by changing only one letter at a time. For an extra challenge, try to get the optimal number of steps.

Example: **HORN**

**NOTE**

**NOSE**

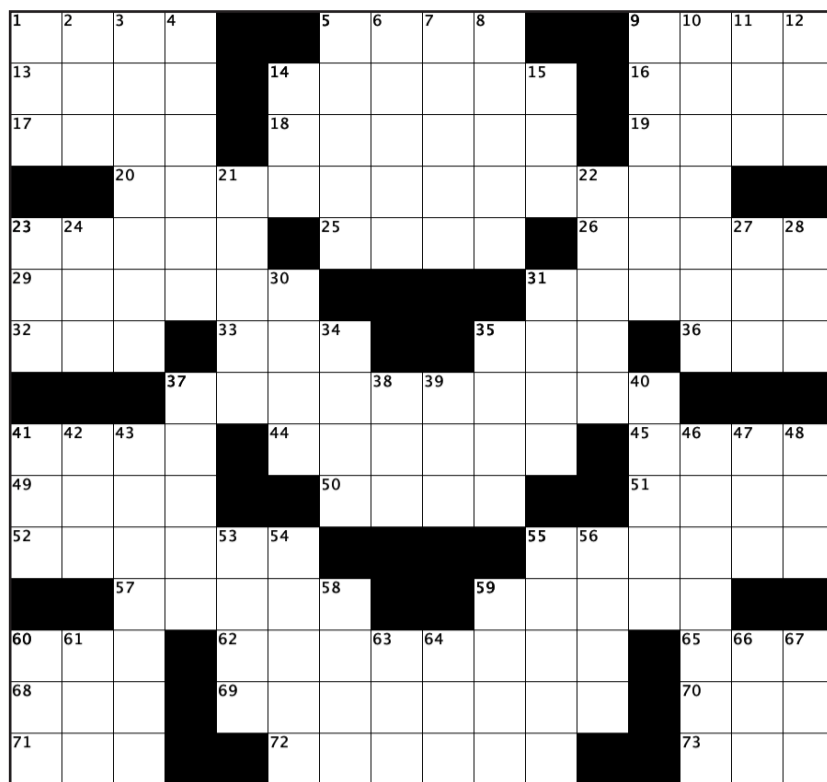
**LOSE**

**LOST**

**LIST** **BAND**  
(4 steps) (4 steps)

**GIVE** **JAIL**

**BACK** **CELL**  
(5 steps) (4 steps)



- Across**
- 1. Ironic answer for the first clue
  - 5. Quaff
  - 9. Prepares for a spike
  - 13. Vegas starter
  - 14. Colossus island
  - 16. It may be oral or rectal
  - 17. Like many exiting the gym
  - 18. Lambaste
  - 19. 1980s epidemic
  - 20. \*What spring might bring
  - 23. "Ciao!"
  - 25. "Elf" (2003) character based on Sam the Snowman
  - 26. Common name in Greek plays, aptly
  - 29. Clan emblems
  - 31. Parthenon patron
  - 32. Scoreboard stats
  - 33. Camp accessory
  - 35. Part of IOU
  - 36. "Do the \_\_\_\_" (ad slogan)
  - 37. \*What 20-Across might bring, in a saying
  - 41. Skill at flirting, in modern parlance
  - 44. Circum- sense
  - 45. Finished, as a cake
  - 49. \_\_\_\_ rug
  - 50. Chooses
  - 51. "Knight to H3," e.g.
  - 52. Political position
  - 55. Elect
  - 57. Obeys a red light
  - 59. Protrusion
  - 60. Cause of many a sick day
  - 62. \*What 37-Across might bring, in a joke
  - 65. Alternative to FedEx
  - 68. Half of a bag of potatochips
  - 69. Ornithology and apiology
  - 70. Where X marks the spot
  - 71. Miss identification?
  - 72. Barks, as a dog
  - 73. Big time

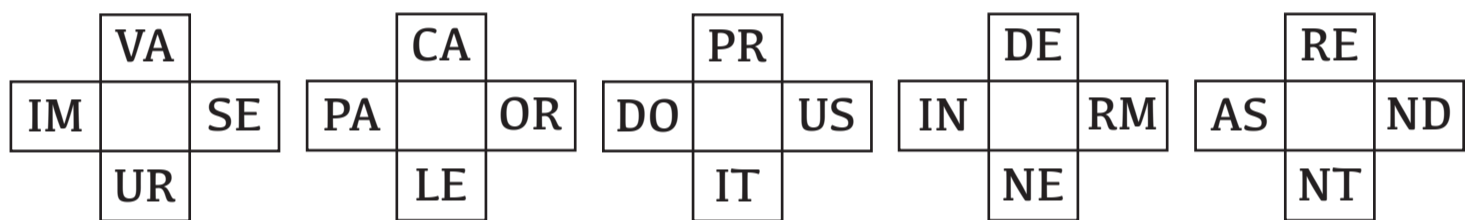
- Down**
- 1. Vegas starter
  - 2. "Feliz \_\_\_\_ nuevo"
  - 3. "Dire" passageways
  - 4. Home of the brave?
  - 5. \_\_\_\_ corporation
  - 6. Not bad?
  - 7. Kind of potato
  - 8. Are chummy
  - 9. Scour
  - 10. Was
  - 11. A \_\_\_\_ (somewhat)
  - 12. Txt
  - 14. Slugger's stat
  - 15. Do some tailoring
  - 21. A dance, not a vacuum
  - 22. Follower of lotus or fire
  - 23. Biochemical energy source, for short
  - 24. \_\_\_\_-com
  - 27. Nobody in particular
  - 28. Rarer than rare
  - 30. Bean variety
  - 31. Floored
  - 34. Hairstyle you might pick out?
  - 35. Possesses
  - 37. Intended
  - 38. Whack (off)
  - 39. Doc's door sign
  - 40. Garfunkel's partner
  - 41. Step on it!
  - 42. Banksy work
  - 43. "\_\_\_\_ of a man"
  - 46. Masquerade necessity
  - 47. WALL-E love interest
  - 48. Lion's lair
  - 53. Boys in blue
  - 54. Heroic narratives
  - 55. Approaches
  - 56. Snake's warning
  - 58. Take a tumble
  - 59. Choose
  - 60. Geisha's prop
  - 61. Fudge
  - 63. "Golly!"
  - 64. Strand in a cell
  - 66. Golfer's concern
  - 67. Mud bath site



Scan for solution!

## At the crossroads

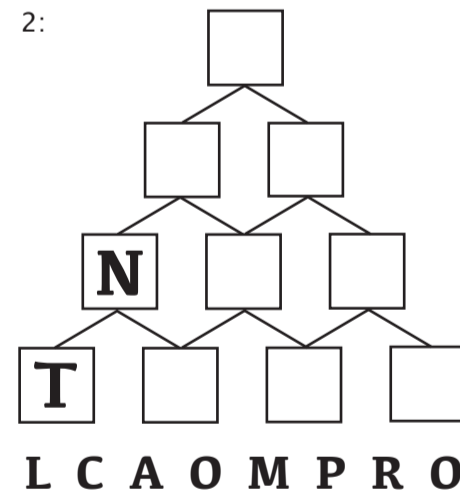
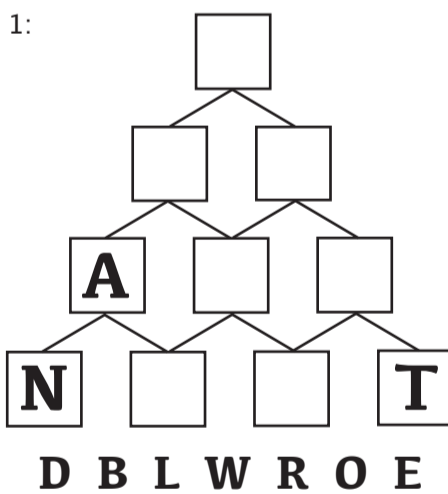
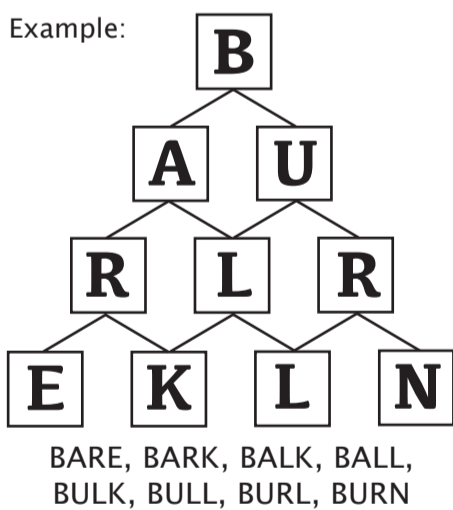
Fill in the crossing boxes with letters that will complete a word vertically and horizontally. When entered correctly, they will spell out the answer the riddle below.



What two words, added together, contain the most letters?

## Word waterfall

Place the letters given below each diagram into the squares to form eight four-letter words reading from top to bottom. The top letter is the first letter of all eight words, each letter in the second row is the second letter of four words and so on.



## Answers

At the crossroads: POSTOFFICE  
Word waterfall: (1) BRAN, BRAD, BRED, BREW, BLEW, BLOW, BLOT (2) LENT, LEND, LEAD, LEAN, LOAD, LOAN, LOON, LOOK

## Sudoku

1	9	8	6	2	3	7	
6		7		3		5	
				8	6	2	
		1		9			7
			4	6		9	
		4	2				8 6
4	5	2	3				1
	8			1			3
3		9	7		4	8	6

Easy

					6	3	7
6			3	4		1	
	4		8		1		
			3				
2	6			9		4	3
8	3						1 2
7	8		9				
		2				9	
3		9		2	7		5

Medium

	9	8				7	
	4				8		6 9
6		7		4		5	
	3		4			1	
	7	4					6
					9		4
				3	8		9 1
				5			
	1	9	7		4		

Hard

Complete the grid by entering one number in each square so that each row, column and square contains the numbers 1-9 only once.



## Tennis makes dream start to conference season

Little Giants boast best conference record since 2016-17

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23** | SPORTS EDITOR • If dream starts existed, this would be it for the Wabash tennis team. Having not won a conference matchup since the 2017-18 season, the Little Giants have found their stride in 2023. And now, five matches into a seven-match conference season, Wabash boasts an above .500 record for the first time since 2016-17. But make no mistake—the team's toughest challenges have yet to come.

Wabash entered the conference portion of its season with a 9-4 record that included three victories in Orlando, Florida, over spring break. All the signs looked positive for Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett's men. Bickett has had his singles roster locked in from the beginning of the year. And after Orlando, he finally solidified a winning doubles lineup.

But the question remained: how would the Little Giants fare in the notoriously competitive NCAC?

"In the NCAC, everyone knows each other," said Bickett. "We're the one team that has the most new players. But regardless of what it says on paper, every game is going to be tight."

The last time tennis won a conference matchup was way back in April 2018 against Wooster. Since then, the Little Giants have found themselves in a near-constant state of turmoil, the absence of conference victories a testament to the fact.

At the end of the 2018 season, former Head Tennis Coach Jason Hutchinson left Wabash, leaving the team without a full-time coach for the 2018-19 season. Bickett was hired in the summer of 2019, but the pandemic hit just as he was getting into his stride. And with such a young roster, maintaining consistency has been the biggest challenge of Bickett's tenure so far.

"The year before I came here, there were no wins at all because we were just restructuring the program from the ground up," said Cole Borden '24. "As freshmen, we decided what we wanted the program to look like in five years. But the turnaround now is so fast, it's been nice to see. I'm just taking it day by day and not trying to boil the ocean."

With the baggage of the last five years weighing heavily



Augusto Ghidini '26 stretches to reach a high return against Wittenberg on April 7, 2023, at the Collett Tennis Center.



Cole Borden '24 (left), Liam Grennon '24 (middle) and Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett (right) talk strategy during the pair's doubles match against Wittenberg on April 7, 2023, at the Collett Tennis Center.

on the team's shoulders, Wabash traveled to Wooster on April 1 for their opening conference matchup of 2023. The Little Giants went to Ohio looking for blood, and blood they got.

Wabash got things off to a strong start by winning all three doubles matches. Number two team Alvaro Alonso-Sanchez '23 and Augusto Ghidini '26 scored an 8-3 victory, while fresh-

men duo Ethan Koeneman '26 and Cole Shifferly '26 combined for an 8-4 win at number three. Things were most heated, though, in the number one match, where Borden and Liam Grennon '24 fought hard to clinch an 8-7 victory after winning the tiebreaker 7-3.

"We've got a good sense now of what our one, two and three teams are," said Bickett. "Now it's just making

sure we're playing the way that we want to play. But it's definitely nice to not have to worry about our combinations."

But Wabash's dominance was on full display in singles, where the Little Giants came away with five wins from six matches. Alonso-Sanchez claimed victory at number one after an intense tiebreaker, while his doubles partner Ghidini won

in straight sets at number four. Grennon and Borden also picked up singles victories alongside Tharakesh Ashokar '26 at number five. Shifferly was the only Little Giant not to score a win, narrowly losing out in a tiebreaker at number two.

Since picking up that all-important first conference win, Wabash has looked formidable. Despite losing 3-6 at Oberlin on April 2, the Little Giants picked up right where they left off over the weekend of April 7-8.

The team started the weekend the right way when Wittenberg came to Crawfordsville on April 7. Even though the Tigers sit at the foot of the NCAC standings, Wittenberg is a team that Wabash has historically struggled against. However, another 3-0 doubles sweep and a solid singles outing gave Wabash an 8-1 victory.

The good run of form continued the following day against Ohio Wesleyan. This time, however, Wabash looked shaky in doubles. The all-Brazilian duo of Ghidini and Eduardo Werneck '26 picked up a victory at number three, but the Little Giants lost both of their other doubles matchups. Regardless, Wabash came up clutch in singles, sweeping the field 6-0 to take an 8-2 victory

and move Wabash to 3-1 in conference play.

"That was our Brazilian team," joked Coach Bickett about the Ghidini-Werneck duo. "Eduardo is a guy who's right outside both of our singles and doubles lineups, so I wanted him to get a sense for what an NCAC match is like. Eduardo and Gusto really took care of business—maybe it's that Brazilian connection, but they played pretty well together."

Werneck was proud of his performance, but was best pleased that he could help propel the team to victory.

"I felt very good to have gotten this opportunity to play in the doubles lineup for the conference," said Werneck. "Narrowing that gap in doubles was essential for the team to win the singles matches."

Despite Wabash's recent run of good form, the real challenges have yet to come. On Thursday, April 13, the DePauw Tigers, who sit second in the NCAC standings, visited Crawfordsville. The rivalry game is without a doubt one of the team's most difficult all year, and Wabash hasn't beaten the Danies since 1975.

And things don't get much easier as the team closes out its NCAC schedule. The final two conference games take place on April 15 and 16 against Denison and Kenyon respectively, two of the NCAC's strongest squads. Wabash will have the benefit of home court advantage, but a win in either of these two matches would be a massive leap forward for the Little Giants.

"I think the biggest thing for us is not getting too caught up on the name on the chest of the other teams," said Bickett. "If we focus too much on winning or losing a match, we'll have some long days. But if we go out there and have the right mindset, it's going to set us up really well heading into the conference tournament."

The tennis team plays Triune University on Friday, April 21, before heading to the NCAC tournament on April 28-30.

This piece was written before the completion of the Wabash-DePauw game on Thursday, April 13.

## Golf prepares for Emory Invitational as NCAC tournament nears

**ANDREW DEVER '25** | OPINION EDITOR • After an impressive showing at the Illinois Wesleyan University golf invitational on April 7-8, the Wabash golf team heads to Conyers, Georgia, to compete in the highly competitive Emory University Invitational on April 17-18. The Little Giants are currently in top form, finishing ninth out of the 37 teams in attendance at IWU.

The Georgia tournament is hosted by perennial Division III golf powerhouse Emory University and will consist of three days of golf against some of DIII's finest programs. Currently, according to the Golf Coaches Association of America Division III Coaches' poll, Emory has risen in the ranks and is now listed number one in the nation.

Many other teams ranked in the March 24 edition of the GCAA poll will also participate in the tournament. This impressive list includes Oglethorpe University (ranked ninth), the University of Texas at Dallas (20th) and Babson College (23rd).

The Wabash team will begin their preparations on Sunday, April 16, by playing a practice round to get a feel for the intricacies of the course. Due to the geogra-

phical location of Georgia, as opposed to Indiana, the course will consist of a different type of grass than Wabash normally plays on. This difference, while seemingly small, necessitates an extra round of preparation for Wabash and the other teams at the invitational. After the practice round of golf finishes, the tournament begins.

The tournament starts in earnest on April 17 with a grueling 36 holes on the first day. This will be followed up by an additional round of 18 holes on Tuesday, April 18.

With the level of competition so fierce, Wabash will travel with a condensed roster that will include five Little Giants. Additionally, the course's unique nature has forced the team to adjust and modify their practice habits to prepare for the terrain and course conditions.

"The course in Conyers is longer than many of the others that we have played, [with] Bermuda grass affecting the club selection for the players as well as the movement of the ball," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21. Thankfully for Wabash, several of the Wabash golfers played on this course last year.

"[This tournament] will be great because two or

three of us played this Emory event last year at the same course," said Brayden Weiss '24. "Having that information and comfort advantage of knowing the golf course is something that can be super beneficial in such a competitive tournament."

With the NCAC championships looming in the background, the Little Giants will be looking to utilize the Emory tournament as an invaluable source of preparation. For Coach Kopp, Emory will serve as another opportunity for the Little Giants to prove themselves against a competitive field of golf teams in an unfamiliar environment.

"Emory serves as another good opportunity to build our confidence and show what we can do in conference play," said Kopp. "We have proved that we can play with some of the better teams in the country and this is another opportunity to go toe to toe with quality programs." His team seemed to agree.

"We are at the point in time where we want to be playing our absolute best golf," said Weiss. "This is our last tournament before conference... so we are [looking forward] to coming out of this tournament looking good."



Mark Poole '24 lines up a putt at the Illinois Wesleyan University Invitational on April 7, 2023, at the Weibring Golf Club.

COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

## Greene: Lacrosse mauled by the Tigers, look to rebound against Wooster

**ELIJAH GREENE '25** | SPORTS COLUMNIST • After a tough loss to Oberlin, Wabash lacrosse lost its second game in a row on Tuesday, April 11, against DePauw by a score of 15-5. The Little Giants scored a combined 10 goals over their last two games to their opponents' 35, making each game a blowout by the final whistle.

In both of their losses, the Little Giants started flat, allowing their opponents to dictate the flow of the game. For Oberlin, that meant playing a 10-man ride against Wabash for almost the entire game—the lacrosse equivalent of a four-quarter full-court press in basketball. The Yeomen smothered Wabash in their own half, causing multiple turnovers that almost always led to an Oberlin attacker finding the back of the net.

"We were prepared," said Artie Rogers '24, when asked about the team's reaction to their loss against Oberlin. "We knew what they were going to throw at us. We knew what we had to do, and we just came out flat."

Oberlin was more composed and careful in possession, not allowing Wabash's potent strike force to possess the ball for more than a single possession at a time. Their aggression on defense in their own half meant Wabash had to work too hard for every goal, which were few and far between.

"Our depth killed us," said Rogers. "Our uphill battle is going against teams with 50 guys who are rotating through."

Rogers also noted that this lack of depth was not the sole cause of the loss, as it is simply a reality that the team has to live with.

Against DePauw, Wabash's lack of aggressive de-

fense provided ample opportunities for the Tigers to find the back of the net, peppering Wabash goalie Braeden Cooper '26 a staggering 29 times in the first half of Tuesday's matchup. While neither team performed outstandingly well, the Little Giants' age and lack of experience in big games caught up with them—shown by their uncharacteristically high number of dropped balls and haphazard shots deep in the shot clock.

While the first half was all DePauw, the Little Giants gave their fans a small glimmer of hope in the fourth quarter, mounting several defensive stops and scoring two quick goals.

But DePauw slammed the door by scoring several goals to answer in quick succession at the end of regulation, destroying any hope of a respectable scoreline.

The Little Giants certainly have things to fix, and they will need to fix them quickly. Their next two games will most likely be the last possibilities for a win this season.

"I think it all boils down to mindset," said Ethan Stonis '23 after the loss to DePauw. "With a young and small roster, guys are still trying to figure out how to deal with the adversity of building a program. We need to become more of a unit and face the adversity together."

These past two games certainly count as adversity, but they are nothing compared to what is in store for the Little Giants at the end of their season. With the exception of Oberlin, the Little Giants have the top four teams from the 2022 season still to play, starting with the College of Wooster on Saturday, April 15.

Wooster is a perennial middle-of-the-pack team,



Ethan Stonis '23 (left) and Quinn Fitzgerald '26 (right) track back to help their defense against DePauw on April 11, 2023, at Reavis Stadium in Greencastle.



Lucas Cunningham '26 gets cross-checked by a DePauw attacker against DePauw on April 11, 2023, at Reavis Stadium in Greencastle.

and the following matchup, Wittenberg, are the only two teams left that the Little Giants might reasonably expect to be competitive with.

If Wabash wants to win another lacrosse game, it will have to be one of those, be-

cause the last three games are the stuff of nightmares. Kenyon, Ohio Wesleyan and Denison: three teams

that are almost always vying for a top 25 spot in the national DIII lacrosse rankings. Three teams that historically have battled alone for the top spot in the NCAC.

It is unlikely that Wabash would eke out a win against any of these teams, but the necessary growth to get to their level is in the works.

"The tough schedule does pose a lot of new challenges to our team, but I think the key to our success is finding a way to grow stronger as a full unit. Each person needs to understand and perfect their role, so that we can become working parts in a machine," said Stonis.

And perhaps competing for the conference title isn't in the cards for this season, but Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke has his program headed in the right direction. The Little Giants will look to close out their season their way, with hopefully one or two more wins under their belt.

## Coach Bowerman: "We had some breakthrough moments this season" Volleyball ends season with first ever conference win

**ETHAN WALLACE '25** | SPORTS WRITER • The Wabash volleyball team capped off their third season of varsity action with their first ever conference victory, a 3-0 win against Olivet College at home on April 8. And there couldn't have been a more fitting way to cap off the year. Finishing with a 9-19 (1-7 MCVL) record, the Little Giants picked up more wins in 2023 than they had in their previous two seasons combined. The year may have been a steep learning curve, but there can be no denying that this is a program on an upward trajectory.

At the helm of the team is Head Volleyball Coach Ryan Bowerman '11, who has coached the program since its inception in December 2020. Having built the team from scratch, Bowerman has seen his team's performances come on in leaps and bounds since then.

"The team has made huge strides in so many ways over the past three years," said Bowerman. "We've improved year by year in every statistical category, but I think a lot of that comes down to aspects of improvement that are harder to measure. Our players are learning our system, they're more competitive at practice, they understand the game better, and they understand what it takes to be successful at our level."

One of the driving factors of the team's improvement in 2023 was a very successful recruitment campaign. Undeniably the most valuable acquisition in the preseason was Patrick Volk '26. A native of California, Volk has been the heart of this year's Little Giants roster, leading the team in scoring, with 338 points on the season, and ranking third in digs (293). Michael Enz '26 has been another key addition to



Ricky Sessions '24 (left) and Michael Enz '26 (right) reach up for a block against Baldwin Wallace University on April 2, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

the team, finishing second in blocks (51) for Wabash.

"It was a really fun first year," said Volk. "Getting playing time from the beginning and throughout the year really allowed me to develop parts of my game that, had I not gotten those opportunities, wouldn't be a part of my arsenal. I believe I was able to bring an offensive presence on the right side that had been missing in previous years, as well as a lot of energy and reliability in tough situations."

But on top of the massive contributions made by newcomers, returning players have made up the backbone of the team. Ricky Sessions '24, Leeper Jackson '25 and Luke Davis '24 were the second, third and fourth leading scorers respectively, combining for 736.5 of the team's 1,315 points. What's more, Will Beikes '25 led the team in assists, racking up



Season leading scorer Patrick Volk '26 rises for a spike against Baldwin Wallace University on April 2, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

an astonishing 628.

"We had some freshmen that made huge contributions this season, but our returners have also put in a ton of work over the last few years to improve their level of play," said Bowerman. "A lot of our players worked hard in the offseason to come back stronger and with the experience they've gained, their overall understanding of the game has improved as well."

One of Bowerman's main focuses for the team has been developing confidence and chemistry between players. Being a new program that didn't win many games in the previous two seasons, Wabash volleyball needed to come into the season expecting to win and using their improvements to take the next step as a program.

"One of the biggest obstacles for a young program is the mental hurdle of seeing yourself as a legitimate competitor with more established programs," said Bowerman. "Developing that competitive confidence has been a challenge, but I think we had some breakthrough moments this season that showed our players we can compete with anyone on our schedule."

With the team only in its third year, there are no seniors to graduate. As a result, the roster will return in 2024 at full strength, supplemented by a class of incoming freshmen.

"I see our team continuing to trend in a really positive direction," said Bowerman. "We will return everyone from this year's team and we'll add some really talented freshmen to the mix as well. We all felt like we were playing some really good volleyball at the end of the season, and I expect us to pick up next year right where we left off."

# Deja vu? Little Giants look to bounce back during conference slate

**JAKOB GOODWIN '23**  
 | MANAGING EDITOR •  
 The Wabash baseball team started the season hot, going 14-7 through the end of March. But since then, they've suffered three crushing defeats that bookend wins against DePauw and Manchester University. The latest of these defeats? An 8-25 blowout at home to Anderson on April 11.

This slump is exactly what Wabash hoped to avoid.

The team's position is eerily similar to the one Wabash saw last year entering conference competition. With upcoming conference doubleheaders coming against Hiram College, Wittenberg University and Kenyon College, Wabash has a chance to make or break its season over the next week.

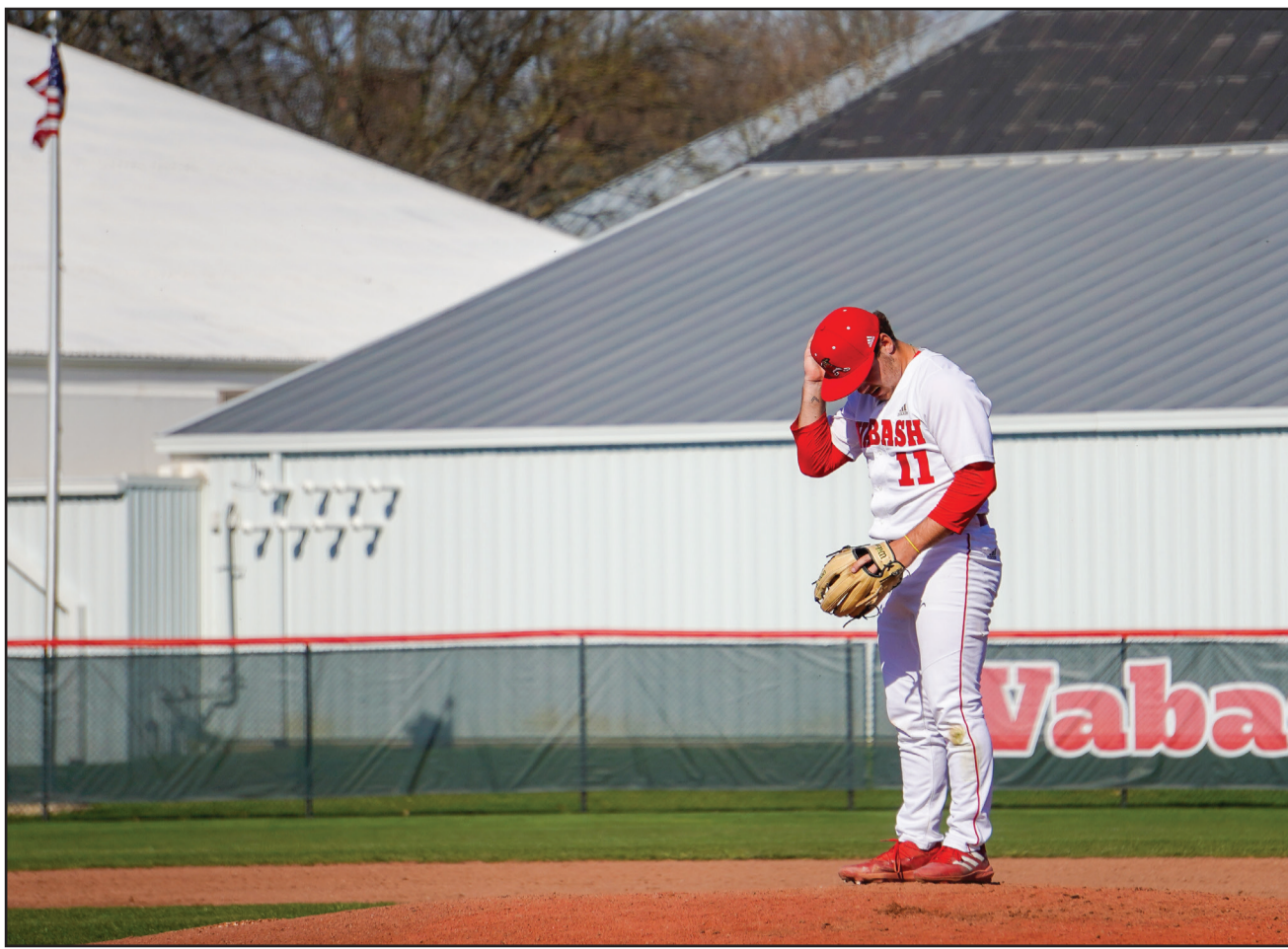
Wabash started April with a pair of tough losses to #15 ranked Denison, falling down 4-10 in game one of the doubleheader and getting mercy-ruled 1-11 in seven innings in game two.

AJ Reid '24 was the Little Giant offense for that doubleheader, putting together five hits across the two games, bringing in two and scoring twice himself in game one.

The Little Giants redeemed April with a doubleheader sweep over the DePauw Tigers, winning 6-3 in game one and trouncing the Tigers 14-4 in game two. Cam Scheidt '25 and Reid led the Little Giants in game one before the entire offense went off in game two's mercy rule victory. It was a great opportunity for the Little Giants to break up a three-game losing streak.

"The energy at the game was incredible, the team was locked in and focused prior to game time which DePauw did not match," said Reid. "We fed off of the energy created by everyone on the left field hill, and they fed off the energy we brought to the field. It was a vicious cycle which allowed us to keep our foot on the gas for both games. DePauw had no opportunity to gain momentum, as every good thing they did was countered by us firing back harder. Having Wabash students there to support us caused the Dannies to be completely outnumbered in our battle, and we greatly appreciate everyone who was on our side."

Still, most importantly in



Michael Hoppel '23 prepares to throw a pitch against Anderson University on April 11, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23



Brayden Lentz '23 swings at a pitch against Anderson University on April 11, 2023, at Goodrich Ballpark.

PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

the DePauw series, Wabash '25 and Grant Stratton '25. Bishop '23 logged a quality start, pitching 6.1 innings, giving up three runs while

found the leader of its staff after losing Robbie Manuzzi DePauw's best man, Jacob

striking out four Dannies.

"The games against DePauw throughout my four years have always had a different feel to them, a different kind of excitement, and yesterday was no different," said Bishop. "For me to be able to go out in game one and help my team to a victory against them my senior year was an amazing feeling, especially coming off a tough series against Denison. The team came together really well and played their tails off for the sweep, the fans were amazing, and we're fired up about where we're at getting ready to head down the stretch."

Bishop was excited about

**"This is a crucial week for us if we want to be in the mix to get into the conference tournament at the end of the year."**

- Coach Jake Martin

the Little Giants' performance against the Dannies, but Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin was too.

"Jacob Bishop did a great job going head to head with [DePauw's pitcher]," said

Martin. "Coming off that stretch of conference games, we had a goal to try to find another pitcher who could compete for us as a starter."

The Little Giants picked up a big non-conference win against Manchester University, winning 12-11 in Manchester this past Monday, April 10. Brayden Lentz '23 and Michael Galanos '25 lit up the stat sheet, combining for four hits, five RBI and 5 runs.

After suffering a 25-8 loss to DII Anderson University on Tuesday, April 11, the Little Giants have a tough stretch of conference games coming against Hiram, Wittenberg and Kenyon. Those three have a combined record of 40-30, with Wittenberg sitting at 16-6 as the biggest obstacle in the next week. If the Little Giants can play well through this stretch, winning four, they could keep in the top half of the NCAC. But if they falter through this stretch, this season could come out the same way last year did: a great start with a disappointing conference season. Despite the tough slate coming up, Coach Martin isn't phased.

"First and foremost, we aren't talking about last year with this group," said Martin. "Each year has its own set of challenges, and we are attacking this year's without thought of last year's. We have been preparing for the conference portion of the season all year. We have some really competitive pitchers who can put us in a great position to win. We will be able to extend their pitch counts and get them deeper into the game. Our offense has been strong this year and we are excited to keep that rolling into a stretch of important games. We are focused on executing a good week of practice and putting together a strong game plan against this week's pitchers. This is a crucial week for us if we want to be in the mix to get into the conference tournament at the end of the year."

The Little Giants start a six-game conference streak this Saturday, April 15, at home at Goodrich Ballpark against the 11-13 Hiram College Terriers. First pitch of game one is at noon and game two is scheduled to begin at 3:30 p.m.

**AJ REID '24**  
 Wabash IF

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**2022/23 STATISTICS**

AVG: .443	3B: 4
HITS: 47	HR: 8
2B: 12	SB: 5

**WABASH vs HIRAM**  
 Team AVG:

	Wabash College	.316
	Hiram College	.290

**MIKE MIDEA**  
 Hiram IF

COURTESY OF HIRAM ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

**2022/23 STATISTICS**

AVG: .382	3B: 0
HITS: 21	HR: 0
2B: 4	SB: 0

## Buckley: NCAC baseball power rankings

**LIAM BUCKLEY '23** | BASEBALL WRITER • With NCAC play well underway, you may be wondering: how does Wabash compare to its conference rivals? Here is my breakdown of who to watch out for in the NCAC:

- 1. Denison Big Red (19-5, 6-0 NCAC)**  
 Like their namesake Clifford, the Denison Big Red have fetched wins from their opponents with consistency and ease. Prior to a close loss on Sunday against Case Western—one of the top DIII baseball programs in the country—Denison had run off nine consecutive wins including two commanding victories against Wabash at the start of April. They even won a 24-hour game against Arcadia University 25-23!
- 2. Wittenberg Tigers (16-6, 4-0 NCAC)**  
 The Wittenberg Tigers are likely the only team with a shot at taking Denison's crown. They have matched Denison's 9-1 record over the last 10 games and sport a perfect division record. Unfortunately for them, success on the diamond is a meager consolation for having to live in Ohio.
- 3. Wabash Little Giants (17-10, 2-2 NCAC)**  
 The Little Giants have played more games than any team in the NCAC and sport the second most overall wins of the bunch. Their two conference losses came at the hands of Denison, but a favorable matchup against Hiram this weekend could be the springboard they need to compete against Wittenberg on Wednesday. The conference championship is a tall order, but next week's matchup will be the chance for the Little Giants to make a statement that they are the number two squad in the conference.
- 4. Wooster Fighting Scots (9-13, 4-2 NCAC)**  
 The #4 and #5 spots on this list are among the most contested, but we'll give the nod to Wooster who pulled off four double-digit victories against Oberlin and Kenyon alongside a pitching staff that are finally giving the offense the room they need to win.
- 5. Kenyon Owls (13-10, 1-5 NCAC)**  
 Kenyon performed well in their two losses to Denison last weekend, coming up two runs

short in the first game and one run short in the second. The team is certainly better than their conference record would suggest. We have just one question for the Owls: whooooo's on first?

- 6. Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops (12-10, 2-4 NCAC)**  
 The Battling Bishops may have ambitions to become Cardinals or Popes, but it would require an act of God for them to finish above .500 in the division by year's end. Though they are favored in this weekend's matchup against DePauw, they still have upcoming matchups against Wabash and Wittenberg.
- 7. Hiram Terriers (11-13, 1-5 NCAC)**  
 The Terriers had a strong 9-6 start to the season, but the tide quickly turned once they started facing conference opponents. They gave up Oberlin's only two conference victories and have now lost seven of their last 10. Because of the sharp change in direction, it is hard to judge just how bad this team is. Things could very well get worse as Wabash, DePauw, Denison and Wooster still loom on their schedule. Please... just beat the Dannies.
- 8. DePauw Tigers (7-13, 2-2 NCAC)**  
 Oh how we longed to rank the Tigers last in the division... but after a sweep against Oberlin and factoring the closeness of a number of their losses, it's clear that the school down south at least belongs eighth on this list. Beyond their shellacking to the Little Giants last week, we take enjoyment in knowing that on March 7, DePauw lost by seven runs to a high school team.
- 9. Oberlin Yeomen (8-10, 2-4 NCAC)**  
 Oberlin boasts one of the best music schools in the country, and they might want to start using tubas to catch fly balls after they made six fielding errors in a recent loss to DePauw. I mean seriously... imagine making DePauw look like a good baseball team. They will face Wabash at the end of this month in the Little Giants' final home games of the season. Oberlin has about as good of a chance of winning the conference as anyone reading this does of knowing what a yeoman is.

# SPORTS



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

TK Walls '23 finishes first place in the 400m dash at the Huntsman Family Invitational on Saturday, April 8, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

## Wabash relay breaks 54-year-old record at Huntsman Family Invitational

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER** • It may have taken 54 years, but the Wabash track & field team set a new school record in the 4x100m relay at the Huntsman Family Invitational on Saturday, April 8. With a time of 41.8 seconds, the Little Giants quartet of Sylvester Williams '26, Seth Acero '25, Will Newby '26 and Julius Hearn '25 beat a record set way back in 1969.

"It felt like it wasn't real," said Williams. "I would've never thought in my first year of coming here I would be leaving a legacy behind and be number one in anything involving track and field records."

The 4x100 team's record-breaking performance was enough to earn them second place in the event behind Illinois Wesleyan. But the blisteringly quick time made headlines by breaking the record set 54 years ago by Ron Angel '72, Bruce Bradway '71, Jim Carpenter '72 and Phil Allen '69.

"It was a really great feeling," Acero said. "Honestly, I'm really proud to be listed with a great group of men on the leaderboard."

For his part in the relay performance, as well as his first-place finish in the 100m dash, Newby was named the NCAC Track and Field Sprints/Hurdles Athlete of the Week.

"For me it just felt like a matter of time," said Newby. "We had taken all the proper steps to get ourselves in the position to break it—all it came down to was execution. Nonetheless, it was an honor and I look forward to many more to come."

The new school record topped off a stellar team performance from the Little Giants, who placed first overall. The invitational featured eight teams, including Indiana rivals DePauw, Rose-Hulman and Anderson.

On top of Newby's first-place finish in the 100m, Hearn placed third in the same event as well as taking second in the 200m dash.

In mid-distance events, Wabash runners took the top two spots in both the 400m and 800m dashes. TK Walls '23 and Howie Steele '24 finished first and second respectively at 400m while Hayden Diemer-McKinney '26 finished first in the 800m, follo-

wed closely by Will Neubauer '25 in second.

Thomas Gaines '23 won the 3000m steeplechase. He narrowly won the event ahead of two DePauw runners, who stayed close behind for the length of the race.

"I put my head down and trusted my training from wire to wire, really focusing on pushing those last two laps to gap the DePauw guys," said Gaines. "The team as a whole is accomplishing new feats every weekend, from setting the 4x100 school record to getting nine guys qualified for the conference 200m. I see how much work everyone is putting in, and it just lights a fire under all of us when we see it pay off for guys in competition."

The 4x400m relay team of Steele, Walls, Diemer-McKinney and Nathan France '24 brought home the first-place finish with a massive seven second lead over the second place team.

Wabash dominated the competition in throwing events, too. Quinn Sholar '26 and Brandon English '23 took the top two spots in shot put, while Reis Thomas '23 and Sholar placed second and third in the discus throw. Sholar, who single handedly brought in 24 points for the Little Giants, also finished second in the hammer.

Wabash won the meet with an astonishing 222.50 points out of a possible 736. The Little Giants finished a full 83 points ahead of second place DePauw, who finished with 139.50.

"When we talk to our guys, we don't talk about scoring," said Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan. "It's been like that for years. We focus on the little things. And at the end of the day we say, while we won that meet, we'll focus on scoring when we get to conference. That's when we say get your point. That's when we say scrap, fight and claw for every point. That's been our philosophy for a while. If we can better execute the little things, that will take care of the rest."

This commanding victory suggests a hopeful future as Wabash prepares for their next meet, the Indiana Division III Championship, which will be hosted at DePauw on Saturday, April 15.



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Action from the Huntsman Family Invitational on April 8, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium. Above, Nate Joven '26 clears the bar in the pole vault. Below, hammer thrower Quinn Sholar '26 gets in the zone.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25