



## Wave of vandalism and theft shakes campus community

**SAM BENEDICT | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** • As students returned to campus for the fall semester, the last thing they expected to find was vandalism and theft. Two fraternities fell victim to break-ins this summer and, within the first week of classes, a student's car was defaced.

Halfway through the summer break, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) and Kappa Sigma both reported break-ins to areas in their house being used to store students' personal items. At FIJI, the perpetrators wrote a racial slur on a mattress in a locked storeroom and blamed the graffiti on their neighboring fraternity, Kappa Sigma.

At Kappa Sigma, the perpetrators flipped couches, wrote various racial slurs and ended their rampage with a FIJI signature—causing thousands of dollars in damage. After conversations between both house leaders, the fraternities agreed that the perpetrators intentionally framed both houses, hoping to cover their tracks.

FIJI President Thomas Joven '24 received notice of the incident while at home for the summer.

"[The brothers] went down to our basement storage area to find copious amounts of vandalism. They called Head of Campus Security Eugene "Buck" Waddell and Campus Security came in and said this



COURTESY OF BRETT DRISCOLL '24

**Vandals strike FIJI fraternity this summer and write racial slurs across storage room.**

Two months later, another example of vandalism occurred when Jacob Ransford '25 awoke to find his car windows shattered—the result of a tire hitch—and his sun roof demolished after a flag pole was jammed through it.

"I recall seeing my car in the distance on Saturday evening, then going to bed," said Ransford. "I woke up to go to church in the morning and noticed that my car was destroyed. At that point, I called Campus Security."

Campus Security is in the process of conducting investigations. However, conducting these investigations has been difficult considering the lack of cameras at Wabash as well as the time of night that the incidents occurred.

I found the car, I was a little too overwhelmed, and then Buck called me during the service and said, 'Hey, I saw your car, and I called Payzone.' He took care of everything. Then the officer filed the police report."

Although Campus Security has been responsive and communicative regarding the numerous issues, some members of Wabash want the administration to re-evaluate the way they protect items going forward.

"We [Kappa Sigma] felt like we had taken up our end of the bargain to ensure our house was secured," said Laymon. "We did everything right and to see the outcome, on the end of security and liability—it's off-putting. Going forward, we are probably not going to partner with the College in terms of storage and we're just going to take care of ourselves, whether that's through a storage company or renting out somewhere."

While campus leaders recognize that they incur the liability of damages to personal items they leave behind, they also expect a certain level of protection.

"The College does tell us every single break that we go home, that the liability is on us if we choose to leave behind our personal items," said Joven. "We ensure our guys have that understanding. We've got a pretty good relationship with the security guys and know they do their best. It's still upsetting that this is happening."

Going forward, students have asked that the College look into increasing the number of employees looking after the well-being of student items on campus.

"I hope additional, qualified people can be sought out to join the campus security team," said Joven.

While investigations are ongoing, those affected are confident in the ability of Campus Security and the Crawfordsville Police Department to bring justice and closure.



COURTESY OF JACOB RANFORD '25

**Jacob Ransford '25 photographs the damage done to his car.**

issue was bigger than them and called the Crawfordsville Police Department," Joven said.

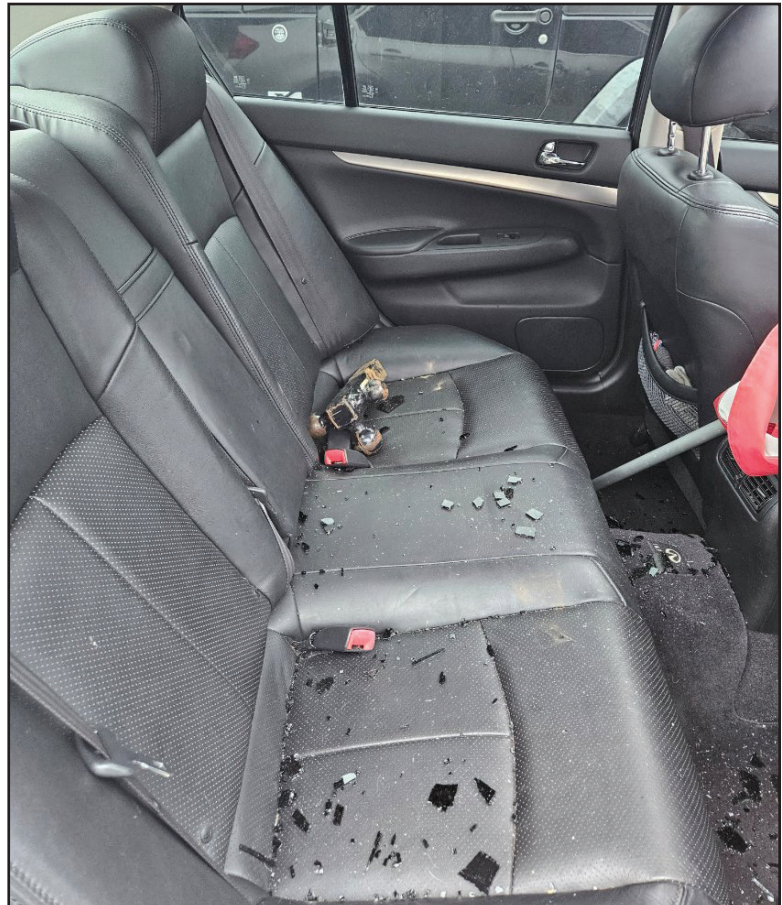
At FIJI, the vandalism was discovered when a rush chairman was giving a tour to a prospective student and found the items within the storage room spray-painted with racial slurs.

"One of our rooms that had been used for storage was the room they got into," said Joven. "They ripped some boxes open, scattered some stuff and continued to write racial slurs on our furniture."

Damages incurred at Kappa Sigma were significantly greater than that of their neighbors; multiple Kappa Sigma brothers had personal property destroyed and did not know about it until weeks before the semester started.

"There were large amounts of physical damage to brothers' personal furniture, College-owned furniture and our electronics. [There were] couch cushions covered in paint, concrete mix and glass on the floor and pretty much anything you could imagine," said Kappa Sigma President Neal Laymon '25.

The immediate response by both fraternities was to contact Campus Security, who then elected to bring the Crawfordsville Police Department in to investigate. Both the internal and external investigations are still ongoing. Because of this, Campus Security declined to comment on the recent criminal activity.



COURTESY OF JACOB RANFORD '25

**Jacob Ransford '25 details the interior damage after a trailer hitch is thrown through his car.**

## Trump's mugshot and the current state of the Republican Party

**TIERNAN DORAN | NEWS EDITOR** • Nothing has been by-the-book regarding Trump. Since he announced his intent to run for the 2016 presidential election, we have seen a number of historic firsts: The first billionaire president, the first president to be impeached twice and the first president to have a female campaign manager, to name a few. However, Trump's arrests and his mugshot may be some of his most consequential firsts.

The first of its kind for an American president, Trump's mugshot is simultaneously historic for the nation and par-for-the-course for the former president. This is Trump's fourth indictment, this time on felony charges over his alleged attempt to overturn the 2020 election.

"You see the polls have come out and I'm leading by 50 and 60 points," said Trump during his interview with Tucker Carlson. "I'm saying, 'Do I sit there for an hour, two hours, whatever it's going to be, and get harassed by people that shouldn't even be running for president at a network that isn't particularly friendly to me?'"

Trump's interview with Carlson amassed more than 80 million views on X by the time the debate had ended. As of August 29, the video had crossed over 150 million views. However, it is worth noting that views are counted as anyone logged into X who saw Carlson's post and that they do not necessarily account for watch time.



COURTESY OF @TUCKERCARLSON X

**Former President Donald Trump opts out of GOP debate and chooses one-on-one interview with Tucker Carlson.**

"There's definitely a political element to the indictments. There's a lot of people who would want to see Trump locked away. But there is also some debate amongst Republicans that he clearly went against Georgia laws," said Jackson Hughes '26, Campaign Director for the Wabash College Republicans. "It's difficult because a lot of news sources are biased nowadays."

The mugshot shows a cold-faced Trump, notated as inmate number P01135809, staring out from a stark-gray background after being arrested in Fulton County, Georgia. While mugshots might typically be seen as indicators of criminality or moments of shame, Trump has treated the opportunity as a publicity photo shoot.

According to Trump's campaign, nearly \$9.4 million has been raised since the Fulton County Sheriff's office released his mugshot. His campaign store has sold over 36,000 T-shirts and 24,000 coffee mugs. As a result, Trump's total money raised in August has surpassed \$20 million. According to Fox News, all of the funds have been earmarked for campaign purposes and won't be used for Trump's coming legal fees.

"People are so disenfranchised from politics today that they don't watch the debates," said Wabash College Republicans President Gavinn Alstott '25. "Personally, I watched Tucker Carlson's interview with Trump on [X]. It was one-on-one and it felt personal—I would rather watch that than candidates going back and forth."

**"The big question for Republicans today is 'How much do we lean on Trump?' and 'How much do we not rely on Trump?'"**

-Jackson Hughes '26

Even during the debate, many candidates seemed far from eager to separate themselves from Trump.

"Let's just speak the truth," said Republican primary candidate Vivek Ramaswamy. "President Trump, I believe, was the best president of the 21st century. It's a fact."

Trump has also distanced himself from the other presidential candidates by refusing to sign an RNC pledge of loyalty to support whoever the eventual Republican candidates turns out to be.

"I affirm that if I do not win the 2024 Republican nomination for President of the United States, I will honor the will of the primary voters and support the Republican presidential nominee in order to save our country and beat Joe Biden," reads the pledge.

This divide between Trump-style politics and traditional Republican politics highlights growing differences within the party.

"I think it's safe to say that Democrats are different today than they were 10 or 15 years ago. Republicans are the same way. I think family values still hold the Republican party together," said Hughes. "The big question for Republicans today is 'How much do we lean on Trump?' and 'How much do we not rely on Trump?'"

**"Let's just speak the truth: President Trump, I believe, was the best president of the 21st century. It's a fact."**

- Vivek Ramaswamy

"I was talking with my girlfriend, and she thinks the Trump mugshot memes were really funny. But for me—being invested in politics—I don't know if this is a good or bad thing," said Hughes. "We're definitely at a weird time."

Before his now-infamous mugshot, Trump made headlines by not attending the first GOP debate and opting for a one-on-one interview on X, formerly Twitter, with former Fox News host Tucker Carlson. With a 34.4-point lead in the race according to the FiveThirtyEight, Trump isn't exactly feeling the heat in regards to his fellow Republican presidential candidates.



## Ron Dostal '92 steps up as new alumni executive



COURTESY OF @TEDx Talks ON YOUTUBE

Ron Dostal '92 delivers a talk for the TedxWabashCollege event on April 2, 2023. His talk, titled "Authentic Success", compared personal achievement with true happiness and success.

## Fall rush retrospective



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Ethan Hill '26 and Christopher Royal '26 talk to a new student about Wabash during Ringing In Saturday on August 19, 2023.



COURTESY OF @WABASHCOLLEGE ON INSTAGRAM

Ron Dostal '92 (kneeling) poses with the 2023 Business Immersion Program interns.

**NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR** • This year, Wabash welcomes Ron Dostal '92 as the College's Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement. With this new role, the former Deloitte consultant and early retiree will come out of retirement to spearhead the efforts to attract new donors, increase student and alumni interaction and create new avenues for alumni to give back time and talent to the College.

Some on campus will likely recognize Dostal, given his previous involvement with CIBE, his spot on the Lilly Awards Selection Committee and most recently his TedX talk held last spring. His passion for serving the Wabash community has only grown in recent years, so it comes as little surprise he is taking on his new role with such enthusiasm. Even during the hiring process, he treats it as more than just a job.

"I kept trying to think about ways that I might be able to come back to campus and maybe share some of my experience," said Dostal. "I didn't really put a spreadsheet together or do a pros and cons list. I just kind of listened to my intuition."

Personal affinity aside, Dostal has a clear vision and an impressive toolkit for what he aims to accomplish. Using his decades of consulting experience, he intends to maximize the potential of the Wabash giving community.

"A lot of what my role will involve is preparing Wabash for the start of its third century," said Dostal. We have a very strong alumni network, but we also have some pockets of alumni that have probably been less involved than some others. A lot of what I'm looking to do is try to reach into those populations and help take advantage of what they can offer and help them feel a sense of belonging and involvement in everything that we're doing here on campus today."

The allusion to the strong alumni network is likely familiar to Wabash students. For many, this aspect of the College was a key selling point, echoed strongly by administration, faculty and students alike. While Dostal believes in the goodwill and passion of Wabash alumni, he seeks to improve the ways in which alumni are exposed to and connect with current students. In other

words: the network is there, but we could be better at tapping into it.

"When I think about the strong alumni network, I think that there are thousands of alumni who are interested and eager to help as long as they know what students need, not just generally but what they specifically need."

One of Dostal's key objectives is to foster these relationships as much as possible. He explained how he had seen similar efforts play out in the past, with sometimes middling results. He took particular focus on undergraduate/alumni mixer events.

"I've seen a handful of events where we have alumni and students. The alumni are over here talking with each other about what it was like back in the day and the students are over here separately talking about what things are like today, and there's not a lot of intermingling."

As an alum, Dostal exudes passion for both sides of the Wabash experience, both undergraduate and postgraduate. However, while his job is very focused on the alumni side, he has not lost perspective on his undergraduate years. The English major, brother of Delta Tau Delta, and active student senator uses his experiences as a guiding star for how Wabash should work. His gratitude for the impact Wabash alumni have had on his life shapes much of how he approaches his current role.

"Wabash has been a part of my life since I was 14 years old. My high school English teacher was a Wabash grad. While I was an undergraduate, I had mentors who were on the Delt housing corporation. I had some interaction with some trustees on the Student Life committee because of my role in Student Senate. I was hired by an alumnus into my consulting job. And so I felt really fortunate to know a lot of alumni and to feel like I was helped in a meaningful way by pretty much all of them."

Many may also have heard of Dostal's unusual retirement project: attending a home game at each major professional sports stadium in America. Since his early retirement in 2021, Dostal has traveled around the country and watched either baseball, hockey, basketball, soccer, or football in 115 out of the 154 stadiums in the major men's

**"I felt really fortunate to know a lot of alumni and to feel I was helped in a meaningful way by pretty much all of them"**

- Ron Dostal '92

leagues. This quest, originally spurred by his combined love of sports and architecture, may be impeded in the near future, however.

"I realize I've slowed my roll by coming back to do this job, but I'm going to see what I can get done this fall on weekends when we don't have home football games."

With 39 stadiums to go and lofty goals to accomplish on campus, Dostal is ready for the challenge.

**JAMES WALLACE '26 | OPINION EDITOR** • Fraternity rush officially wrapped up this past Sunday for the fall 2023 semester, marking an end to a process that began at the last Scarlet Honors weekend. Throughout this time, the Interfraternity Council (IFC), along with individual houses, hosted events in hopes of achieving their rush goals for the semester.

This year, the Interfraternity Council set the goal of achieving 70 percent involvement in Greek life for the class of 2027. The class of 2026 currently sits at 58 percent Greek, so fraternities had work to do to try and outdo themselves.

"Unfortunately we did not hit the goal of 70 percent, but we knew it would be really difficult to meet that mark," said Brett Driscoll '24, IFC President. "We came in at 59 percent Greek this year, which is still solid."

While Wabash fraternities did not reach the 70 percent goal this year, the class of 2027 speaks to a potential positive shift in Greek life on campus. With the class of 2025 at nearly 40 percent Greek, the last two years of rush have set fraternities on track to reach the 70 percent mark in the near future.

One reason why fraternities did not meet the involvement goal of the IFC this year lies with individual houses not meeting their rush goals.

"Only five out of the ten houses actually met their rush goals this year," said Driscoll.

This may be due to the seeming lack of interest from the freshman class when it came to rushing a fraternity during the

first week on campus.

"I can't sit here and say that houses didn't put their best foot forward, because that's what I saw this year," said Driscoll. "For the first time ever we had a rush kickoff event, and not a ton of freshmen took advantage of that."

This lack of interest could be attributed to downward national trends regarding fraternities, but Driscoll thinks that this isn't the only reason that some houses weren't able to reach their goals.

"While we did more events in regards to prospective students visiting, we didn't get a chance to do some events like boat races at Scarlet Honors Weekend," said Driscoll. "I think that could have hurt us."

Though half of Wabash fraternities missed their rush goals, certain houses, such as Phi Kappa Psi, managed to excel this year once rush was settled.

"Phi Kappa Psi really stuck out, they went from 8 to 20 accepts in the past year," said Driscoll. "They realized that the pressure was on, so they buckled down and attacked the situation at hand."

Overall, this year's rush process proved to be another year of growth for Greek life at Wabash, and the IFC plans to keep this growth going.

"The improved communication along with relationships being built earlier this year needs to continue," said Driscoll. "We need to continue to show future Wabash men that Greek life is different here, instead of just telling them."

## Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Good Night, Bulldogs.



Join us at Butler on Sat., Sept. 16  
Details at [wabash.edu/events/wcindy-butlertailgate](http://wabash.edu/events/wcindy-butlertailgate)



# Back to Bash kicks off fall semester

**JAMES WALLACE '26 | OPINION EDITOR** • This past Saturday, the Student Life Committee held the annual Back to Bash event, complete with food trucks, cornhole, and a club fair. Students from across campus gathered together from noon until 5 p.m., enjoying the festivities together.

Beginning at noon, many clubs set up tables on the mall during the first part of the event, and prospective members got the chance to interact with the active clubs on campus. Many of the largest clubs and organizations on campus, including La Alianza, the MXI, the Newman Center and 'shOUT, returned for another year on the mall, inviting new students to join their ranks.

However, these were not the only clubs to show up. Some first year clubs such as the Golf

Club claimed their spot on the mall, eager to find new members to join their ranks. Many culture clubs showed out as well, including the African Student Association and the Asian Culture Club, both of which are looking to continue to promote their own cultures throughout campus.

After the club fair ended at 2 p.m., *The Bumps* took the stage on the chapel steps as fellow Wabash men joined together to enjoy the festivities. For the next 3 hours, Wabash men enjoyed games of Spikeball, Canjam and cornhole. Food was provided by the 1832 Brew and the Sphinx Club, which proved to be a hit among the attendees.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jake Weber '25 (left) and Matthew Brooks '24 serve up burgers and hotdogs to a hungry crowd.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Matt Lepper '25 and Dr. Jane Hardy catch up on the mall.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

(Left to right) Luis Rivera '25, Joshua Massaquoi '26 and Evan Furuness '26 grin for the camera while representing 'shOUT at the club fair.



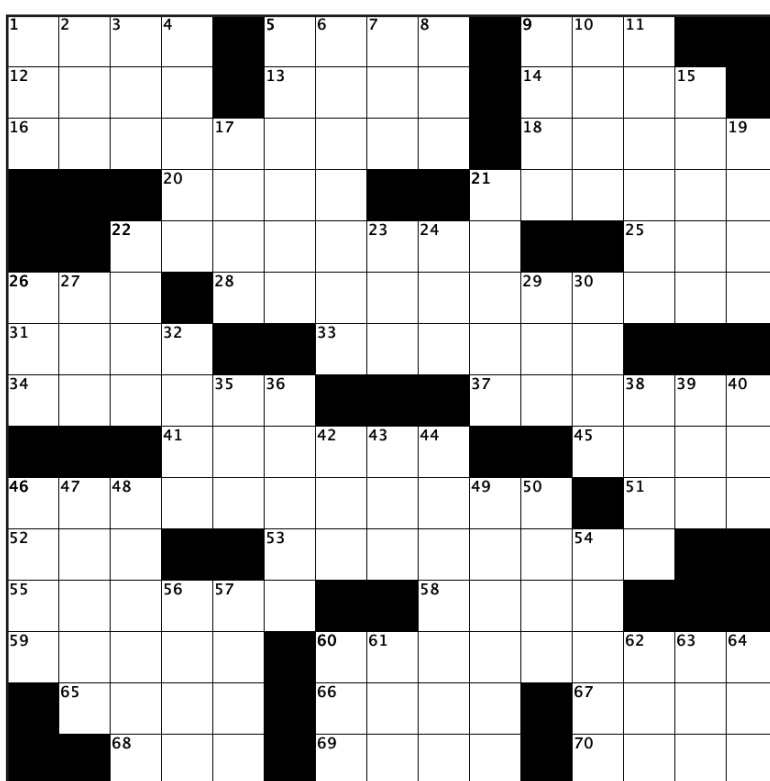
PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

James Szalkie '25 demonstrates physics concepts for President Scott Feller and Jonathan Silva '24 at the Society of Physics Students table.

## 'Day at the beach'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

- Down**
- Brief text?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ shooter
  - Quality or Holiday
  - [Psst]
  - "Burnt" Crayola color
  - Trials and tribulations
  - Captain's chronicle
  - "The loneliest number"
  - Common first word
  - Impersonates
  - The Twins
  - Colorless gas
  - Have a good cry
  - 1 of Billboard's Hot 100
  - Flat pancake, essentially
  - Greenish blue
  - EST+5
  - Baseball stat.
  - CBS rival
  - Corp. bigwig
  - Star starter
  - Bass-ed
  - Ceremonial garb
  - Addr. on a business card
  - Coral colonies
  - What prices may do
  - Green org.
  - Catch a few Z's
  - "Anne with \_\_\_\_\_"
  - Old CIA rival
  - "Where the \_\_\_\_\_ Have No Name"
  - Worker's due
  - Change causer
  - Ballpark hot dog seller, e.g.
  - Upchucked
  - The answer is blowin' in the wind
  - Episode starter, some times
  - Apt rhyme for 21-Across
  - Adam's apple spot
  - Letters at Indy
  - Cool, in a way
  - Mine find
  - Squealer
  - TV network "made possible by viewers like you"



- Across**
- Dance move
  - Many an aria
  - GQ or S.I.
  - What's for dinner
  - Midrange choice
  - At the top of the food chain
  - \*Heaviest 13-Across
  - Viral phenomena
  - \_\_\_\_\_ pool
  - House of cards?
  - Romeo or Juliet, e.g.
  - Negative in Normandy
  - Whiz
  - \*Fortuneteller's art
  - Ursa Major, for one
  - Fasten, in a way
  - Grey, e.g.
  - "Stranger Things" role
  - Starts playing pool, say
  - Common first word
  - \*Mental frequencies
  - Imitate Dre
  - Census info
  - Amethyst month
  - Epic, iambic & lyric, for three

- One of the Greats
- Put the kibosh on
- \*Paper company: Abbr.?
- Sepia, for one
- Expo handout
- Desert denizen
- Harry's homie
- Case for a VA doc
- Garfield and Odie, for two



Scan for solution!

## Pickleball comes to Crawfordsville

**NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR** • Pickleball, one of the fastest growing sports in the world, is exploding in the Central Indiana area. The sport is seemingly inescapable, with everyone from teens to grandparents learning how to play. This year, Pickleball even went pro, with the inaugural season of Major League Pickleball.

The game is fundamentally similar to tennis, but played on a smaller court and with paddles and hollow, perforated plastic balls. What distinguishes Pickleball from the similar tennis, table tennis and badminton is its social nature and generous margin for error, making it exceedingly friendly to beginners.

Brandon Mackie founded Pickleheads, the premier Pickleball enthusiast's website to learn more and find places to play in their area. Mackie was gracious enough to reach out for an interview.

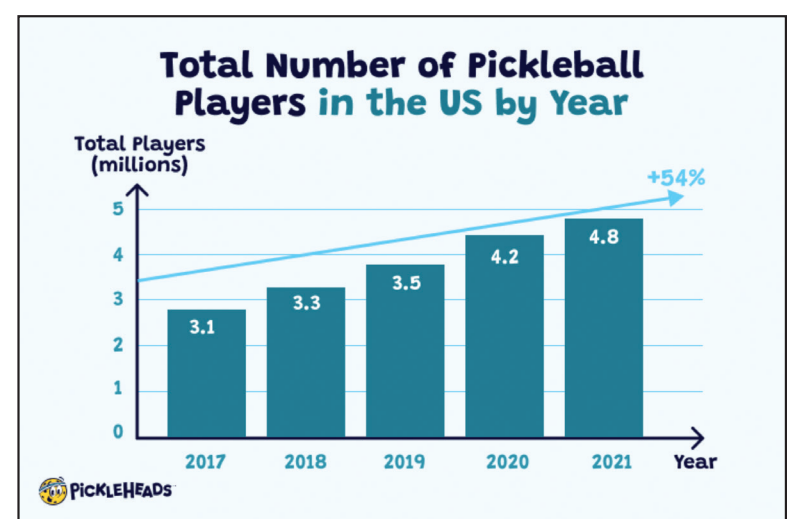
"Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in America," said Mackie. "A new report by the PPA estimates 36.5 million people played last year. That makes pickleball one of the most popular sports in the country by par-

icipation, nearly twice the size of tennis."

"I do sense an overall curiosity with the sport from a number of students," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "It's something I believe could be successful here at Wabash either as a club or intramural sport if there is an investment of resources and time. Knowing Fieldhouse would actually be a great spot for a few makeshift courts with taped down lines and portable nets that could be removed when needed."

Invented in the 1960s, Pickleball has remained an underground phenomenon for decades, until growing in popularity in the 2010s and skyrocketing into the mainstream in 2020 during the COVID-19 outbreak.

In Crawfordsville, there is one dedicated Pickleball court located at the Crawfordsville Parks & Recreation Center, however a one-time fee will be necessary to play. In the surrounding area, there are pickleball courts free of charge at local parks in Brownsburg, Greencastle, and Lebanon.



COURTESY OF PICKLEHEADS



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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.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

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 800 words.

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## Is Wabash the last all-male college?



Austin Stockton '24

Reply to this opinion at [asstocket24@wabash.edu](mailto:asstocket24@wabash.edu)

Now I know you're reading my title and thinking to yourself, "Well of course not, there's three others." But when you really look at it, Wabash may be a lone wolf in America. Before I delve into why I think Wabash is the last all-male college, I should first define what an all-male college is.

First, it has to be a four-year college that offers bachelor's degrees, and second, it can't be religiously affiliated. By this criteria, this means that religious trade and vocational schools, such as seminaries and yeshivas, are not considered to be all-male colleges. Since that leaves out a lot of institutions, it's easier to narrow down who's left.

Some colleges and universities have male-only and female-only colleges, but are a part of one singular institution. Examples include Richmond University, Yeshiva University and formerly Tulane University. Expanding upon this, some all-male colleges have close ties with an all-female college, often referred to as a sister school, and aren't under a single institution. Hobart and William Smith Colleges used to be under like that, but are now one institution, while Saint John's University has a close bond with the College of Saint Benedict, and Morehouse College is a part of the Atlanta University Center Consortium, along with all-female Spelman and co-ed Clark University.

Now after all of that, we have two left; Wabash and Hampden-Sydney. While both of these colleges are considered the only two stand alone all-male colleges, I think that's a bit misleading when you look into it. Wabash kind-of had an unofficial sister school; Saint Mary's of the Woods in Terre Haute. It was an all-female college

up until 2015 when it went co-ed. Around this time, Hampden-Sydney's unofficial sister school, all-female Sweet Briar, announced that it was closing down, and even considered transferring their students to Hampden-Sydney. However, the college received enormous financial backing from its alumni, and is still up and running. Even though Sweet Briar is an hour away from Hampden-Sydney, the ties are close enough that they're considered brother-sister schools, though again, this is unofficial, as neither college has made that relationship official. In addition, Hampden-Sydney is very close to another college in Farmville called Longwood university, a co-ed public university. So in a way, Hampden-Sydney kind-of has its own version of the Atlanta Consortium, with an all-male college, an all-female college, and a co-ed university. Again, to reiterate, none of this is official, partially due to Longwood being a Division I college, and Hampden-Sydney and Sweet Briar both being in the same Division III conference, but with Sweet Briar doing financially well and Longwood not being too far away, Hampden-Sydney may not be a stand alone college anymore.

With the Gentlemen's Classic happening this weekend, let's not forget how unique Wabash is, and could be in the future. I think that part of the reason that Wabash is stand-alone is because there isn't a college with a unique identity close by. There are only two colleges close to Wabash; 30 minutes up north if you hate Bloomington, and 30 minutes down south if you hate yourself. If time isn't considered a deficit, then maybe Saint Mary's of the Woods was our unofficial sister school, but again, they're now co-ed, and close by Indiana State and Rose-Hulman. This question will still be in my mind, as we see more females getting bachelor's degrees, the debate of gender identity in single-sex education, and the importance of the liberal arts in a STEM dominated world. While this doesn't affect the traditions or the education here at Wabash, I think that this will affect the identity of Wabash, and that is something to think about

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### 'THEY TRIED TO PUT ME ON THE COVER OF VOGUE...'

*Hi-Five to Trump for blessing us with some new meme material this week. And to think, we were worried his debate disappearance would leave the Yak high and dry.*

### WEEKEND AT BERNIE'S

*Lo-Five to whoever keeps propping up Mitch McConnell at these press conferences. He's 81. He's probably just zoning out imagining he's at home watching Wheel of Fortune.*

### 'WE ARE SO BACK'

*Hi Five to Rylan's weekly shuttle for making its long-awaited return. Now if only we could convince him to take us on drunk Taco Bell runs at 2 a.m.*

### BADGERING THE BADGERS

*Hi-Five to the Nebraska volleyball team for setting a women's sporting attendance record with 92,003 fans at their rivalry game with Wisconsin. This is doubly impressive, because we didn't even know there were that many people who live in Nebraska.*

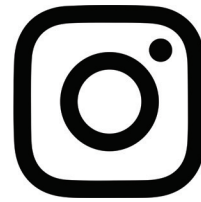
### THATS NOT WHAT 'GET HITCHED' MEANS

*Lo-Five to the car vandal for destroying a random guy's car. At least it was a U.S. flag, not a rebel one, so we know it wasn't a hate crime.*

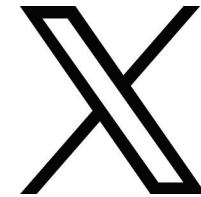
### Check out the The Bachelor Online!



[bachelor.wabash.edu](http://bachelor.wabash.edu)



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## 'The writers' room' Cartoon by Austin Stockton '24

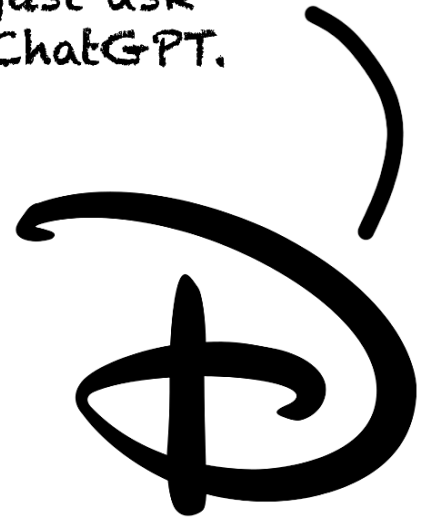
So, how do we stop these strikes?



I don't know.



Me either. Let's just ask ChatGPT.





# Where are the College Democrats?



**Gavinn Alstott '25**

Reply to this opinion at [gdalstot25@wabash.edu](mailto:gdalstot25@wabash.edu)



**Will Morris '25**

Reply to this opinion at [wcmorris25@wabash.edu](mailto:wcmorris25@wabash.edu)

With the upcoming elections each November, it is crucial to pay attention to the political climate and question your personal interests to vote for a leader that will represent your beliefs and ideas.

The current level of participation in civic and political engagement with other clubs on campus has not been present recently because of either a lack of responsibility or a lack of involvement with students on campus.

As college students, we are the future of our local and national governments, and we have a moral duty and responsibility to voice our opinion for the things we believe in.

If there is something you find disturbing with local or federal politics, you should be able to have a medium that allows for an exchange and understanding of ideas to further strengthen or pivot your views.

College Democrats, Republicans and other politically oriented clubs need to lead by example for future generations; the involvement in campus politics or student government is greatly beneficial for students to understand and develop ideas that they will vote on in the future.

Recently there has been no activity shown from the College Democrats since October 2022, when they sent an email out about electing the next executive team as well as the functions of the club. They stand to represent the Democratic party and

its values on the Wabash College Campus by organizing voter registration drives, participating in community events, and working with other College Democrats of Indiana Chapters. The lack of involvement has led many to miss out on important information and opportunities that this club has to offer to students at Wabash. Many students are left with no outlet to learn or voice their opinion about what is going on with their political party on the local, state, and national level. The lack of involvement with the College Democrats has raised concerns about future political discussions and events across campus with competing ideas from other clubs.

One of the few outspoken and politically oriented clubs on campus is the College Republicans. The purpose of the Wabash College Republicans is for any student interested in politics to learn about conservative principles, and to build a coalition of Republican members in the Wabash community. Wabash College Republicans is a thriving club in comparison to others because we can have political discussions without the fear of being silenced or being a voice that goes unheard. There are now twice as many individuals now than there were last year who participate in the Republican club meetings. The club preserves free speech and political discourse in a way that can help students ask and understand what is going on in the political realm. We are simply doing things for the right reasons, but this requires a large amount of responsibility that other clubs tend to shy away from. Wabash provides the freedom and responsibility to students to create whatever club they want and choose what kind of culture they want their club to have. The amount of effort put into a club is entirely dependent on the students running it, and the College Republicans are a highly active and committed club that want to fight for what is right.

Being in an active political club provides students with good campaign experience to operate the student senate and impact the culture of the college. The lack of dedicated club members has caused many clubs to not have active members which leads to the problem of the lack of partici-

pation and involvement with the student senate which we saw with the last student body election. In the last student body election, there were no opposing candidates for the current student body president and vice president, Cole Bergman and Luis Rivera. This raises the question: why did we not have an opposing candidate? Whatever the case may be, it was a surprise that they ran unopposed even when Bergman offered for students to run against him.

Wabash needs to have clubs that are more involved in the debate and political awareness across campus to drive engagement within the college. This will foster a more welcoming and accurate culture of how politics should work that all students can benefit from.

Participating in elections is an essential freedom of American life that many people in countries around the world do not have. Many Americans in centuries past did not have the right or ability to vote, but we live in a time now where most people in the United States have the right to vote. No matter what you believe or who you support, it is essential for our democracy to exercise your right to vote.

Ultimately, this knowledge about the importance of people interacting with politics on college campuses will change voting behavior and political culture.

What steps can we take to increase political participation?

1. Take the opportunity and advantage of being able to be involved.
2. Learn outside the classroom by going to club meetings and listening to guest speakers
3. Voice your opinion on social media and have civil discussion with others.
4. Respect others that engage in different clubs.

## Wally's Wall: Freshman Year

### The Question:

If you could go back to Freshman year, what would you change?

#### Cole Bergman '24

I wish that COVID wasn't a thing during my Freshman year.

#### Brandt Guthrie '24

If I could go back to freshman year, I would change our school's logo. It is still mind-boggling to me that at a school with such a large endowment per student, they won't listen to us and change it away from the dreaded "Wabash." or "W." The period is not necessary. Wabash College is not a statement, it is a way of life. REMOVE THE PERIOD!

#### Aidan Geleott '25

As a junior transfer here at Wabash, if I could travel back in time to my freshman year, I would attend Wabash College instead of DePauw University. That one's self-explanatory.

#### Quinn Manford '25

If there was one thing I would change about my freshman year, it would be taking advantage of Wabash's connections early on. Visit the business center and start building your resume and network. Try to get an internship early on to build your work experience. If you start your professional career during freshman year, you become a more desirable candidate in the future.

#### Mark Stolte '25

If I could go back to Freshman year, I would change absolutely nothing. 'Sko Bash!

## Be an ally



**Luis Rivera III '25**

Reply to this opinion at [lrivera25@wabash.edu](mailto:lrivera25@wabash.edu)

The Human Rights Campaign declared a state of emergency for the LGBTQ+ Community in June. Then, two weeks ago, they released their 17th annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey which reports that nearly 8-in-10 LGBTQ+ Americans report increased fears for personal safety.

Furthermore, we are less than 250 days into 2023, and the American Civil Liberties Union is currently tracking 494 anti-LGBTQ+ bills for this year's legislative session, 18 of which are from the state of Indiana.

This is a record-setting number that continues to send shockwaves through the queer community, and seeing this number continue to rise sends a very clear message: America Hates The Gays!

Well, maybe that's a bit too harsh, but it definitely doesn't love us. And, living in a country that is increasing its legislative attacks on LGBTQ+ individuals does not make me feel safe by any means. Especially because there are plenty of people out there who support and celebrate these discriminatory laws.

But however scary and isolating the growing number of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation feels, I remain optimistic about the effect they will have on Wabash's culture towards the LGBTQ+ community. I like to think that we have a generally accepting and welcoming culture, and have done a lot of work to get here. My experience here as a queer person has been filled with nothing but love and kindness, but I also want to recognize that my experience is not a universal one.

Many of us have heard the horror stories of homophobic acts and displays on campus that do not reflect the brotherhood and friendship that this place promises. So, in the interest of not being naive, I want to encourage my peers to think about how they can be better allies, and then take steps to do so.

Don't be the person that creates an unsafe environment for LGBTQ+ students here. We all signed up to be a part of a lifelong brotherhood, and that doesn't mean you can pick and choose who you want to be your brother and who doesn't count. It simply doesn't work like that.

While the world around us may be saying one thing about the LGBTQ+ community, we can't let that affect our campus culture of inclusivity and kindness.

Here are some things you can do to be a better ally:

- Join 'shOUT, our LGBTQ+ Alliance
- Take a Gender Studies course and learn about queer history
- Use inclusive language
- Complete the LGBTQ+ Safe Space training
- Seek out LGBTQ+ people to learn from and develop relationships with
- Be an advocate for your LGBTQ+ peers

But no matter what you choose to do, the most important thing is that you do your best to ensure that everyone feels welcome and included here at Wabash College.

## Dodging debates



**Coleton Pfoff '26**

Reply to this opinion at [cjpfoff26@wabash.edu](mailto:cjpfoff26@wabash.edu)

The first Republican Presidential debate was on August 23rd in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Grand Old Party had eight candidates compete in this debate. The most famous and arguably the most important candidate was Former President Donald Trump who opted not to participate in the debate. We heard from Trump that he was not going to participate in the debate because he had such an immense lead in the national polls that there was really no need for him to participate in the debate. We have seen this before when Ronald Reagan chose not to participate in a debate in Iowa in 1980. Reagan did lose Iowa that year to George H.W. Bush, but Reagan did end up winning the presidency that same year.

The question is even though Trump had such a momentous lead, should he still have participated in the presidential debate? Personally, I believe Trump did not have any legitimate reason to participate in the debate. I do believe that Trump not participating in the debate will not affect his national ratings in the polls. So far, his ratings have remained relatively unchanged. I think the other candidates should not be upset that Trump did not participate. Trump not participating allowed them to focus on what they wanted to share with the country. I believe we did learn more about the other candidates this way because if Trump had been at the debate then more than likely the evening would have been spent with attempts to undermine Trump. I also believe it was

better for Trump to not participate.

As many people know, Trump was still active on debate night. While the debate was happening, Donald Trump released an interview with Former Fox News employee Tucker Carlson. I think this was a genius move by Trump. Trump was able to set up an interview with someone who has tons of respect and support from the Republican Party such as Tucker Carlson. This interview allowed Trump to speak freely about what he wanted for as long as he wanted without being interrupted, which as everyone knows often happens when Trump is in a debate with other political opponents. Trump also had the goal of taking away viewers from the debate. Trump was successful in doing so, and clearly Trump still has control and influence over the Republican Party.

Donald Trump has had one of the most interesting careers in politics, but he clearly still has more he wants to accomplish. The country has seen Trump in charge, and should be encouraged. Trump's presidency saw extremely low unemployment rates, the middle class family saw an increase in income, and achieved energy independence. I think Trump is so popular because the Republican party has seen that he was very successful and truly cared about the country. The polls show Trump having such an advantage because people remember that Trump helped the American people. The fact that people believe in Trump and have seen his success show that there was no need for him to attend the debate.





COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

## Fredrickson named wrestling's interim head coach

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • The Wabash Athletics Department announced Thursday, August 24, the promotion of Jake Fredrickson to the role of interim head wrestling coach. Fredrickson will fill the role left by former head coach Brian Anderson, who left to take the position of executive director of the Indiana Regional Training Center.

During his time as head coach, Anderson accelerated the wrestling team into a nationally recognized program. The team recorded five top-five finishes during Anderson's time, which began in 2004. Most recently the team placed second at the national championships in 2022.

Fredrickson graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, where he had a successful collegiate wrestling career as a team captain and three-time national qualifier. He earned his master's degree at North Central College.

Fredrickson has been a member of the Wabash wrestling staff since 2018, becoming associate head coach in 2022. Prior to Wabash, Fredrickson was an assistant at the University of Indianapolis and served as an assistant coach at North Central College from 2014-2017.

Fredrickson's existing experience with the wrestling team should ensure a smooth transition for the team. Importantly, he was the associate head coach in 2022, when the team finished second at the national championship.

Coach Fredrickson is well-positioned to continue the success of the wrestling program as interim head coach," said Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05. "In the role of associate head coach, Jake demonstrated a strong recruiting acumen and firm understanding of day-to-day team operations, which should enable a smooth transition in advance of the upcoming season.

## Gentlemen's Classic preview

### Football set to open on the road against Hampden-Sydney



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Liam Thompson '24 looks downfield against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 15, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.**

**WILL MCKINZIE '26 | SPORTS WRITER** •

The Gentlemen's Classic countdown is quickly coming to an end. Wabash wants to come out fighting and set the tone for the season against fellow all-male school, the Hampden-Sydney Tigers. It will be the fourth time the two teams face-off, since the rivalry was resurrected during the 2022 season, and will be the second time that the Little Giants have traveled to Hampden-Sydney, Virginia in the series. Wabash leads the series 3-0.

In last year's match up we saw a very high scoring affair, with the Wabash Little Giants prevailing in a 52-48 win. The Little Giant's offense dominated throughout the game, combining for an astounding 663 yards of total offense with 392 coming from the air. However, defensive struggles allowed the Tigers to stay in the game, combining for an impressive 493 yards of offense with 346 yards in their own passing attack. However, many seem to think that this year will be different.

"I think the biggest thing for us is to play fundamentally sound and limit the big plays," cornerback Michael Hegwood '26 said. "The defense definitely has a lot to prove

and is looking to do it starting week one. Having a high-caliber offense is a huge help, but that just means that our defense has to step up."

If Wabash wants to win this game, they must play a clean game on both sides of the ball. The team was ranked second in preseason North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) power rankings and is looking to prove exactly why. Some members of the team hinted that the defense was not only ready, but confident to show all of Division III football the hard work they have put in this off-season.

"We are going into week one with a huge chip on our shoulder," said defensive lineman Owen Volk '25. "Giving up 48 points in last year's Gentlemen's Classic was unacceptable and something we certainly didn't forget. You can expect a Wabash defense that's going to play at a high level and take some pressure off of our offense this year."

Hampden-Sydney is no easy matchup, but with Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings going into his second year as defensive coordinator the Little Giants look to be a lot more comfortable.

It's clear that the Wabash offense has plenty of weapons to use, with Liam Thompson '24 leading

the charge at quarterback. Along with fellow senior Derek Allen Jr. '24, who put up over 900 receiving yards last season. With various veterans and some new weapons on offense, Head Coach Don Morel plans on steamrolling right through Hampden-Sydney and igniting his offense right in week one.

Another vital piece to the Wabash offense is Senior Tight End Penn Stoller '24, who has been recognized as a preseason All-American. Stoller believes that Wabash's fierce run game will help in more ways than one.

**"You can expect a Wabash defense that's going to play at a high level and take some pressure off of our offense this year. "**

- Owen Volk '25

"With our returning offensive line and running backs providing an outstanding run game," said Stoller. "It will not only allow us to control the tempo more, but open up the pass game even further."

The Gentlemen's Classic has become an up-and-coming rivalry due to the uncommon similarities between the two schools. Being all-male, private institutions, there will always be a sense of competition that drives both schools to compete. So, how will Wabash's confident defense handle the Hampden-Sydney offensive assault? Will Wabash's offense come out firing on all cylinders in week one and crush the Tigers? All of our questions will be answered come Saturday, September 2.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Joe Rios '24 secures a tackle against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 15, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.**

## Four 'super' seniors return for one last ride

### Wabash offense looks to continue NCAA dominance with veteran leadership

**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR** • Ever since the beginning of the COVID pandemic in March of 2020, college athletes across the country have had to take drastic measures to keep their dreams of playing college sports alive. Most took red-shirts, hoping against hope at the possibility of staying for an extra season to compete one last time. But for four Wabash men, this hope has been their reality—almost their expectation—since 2020.

As freshmen, Little Giants quarterback Liam Thompson '24 and wide receiver Cooper Sullivan '24 reported to campus in 2020 with weighty expectations placed upon them: to alter the trajectory of Wabash football.

"[Cooper and I] played our freshman year, and then the spring of 2020 was when COVID happened," said Thompson. "And, we found out a few weeks before we were supposed to come back for our sophomore year that we were not going to have a season. And at that point, Cooper and I had decided that it would be a better decision to just sit out for a semester."

With full intentions to return for their fifth-year season, Thompson and Sullivan have certainly altered Wabash football's trajectory, enthraling Wabash fans for the past two years with their electric chemistry and playmaking on the field—capped by an incredible



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Joe Mullin '24 (left) and Mark Caster '24 (right) double-team two defenders against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 15, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.**

come-from-behind win in the 127th Monon Bell Classic.

But after last year's embarrassing defeat in Greencastle, Sullivan and Thompson knew they had something to prove. And their teammates resonated with them.

Senior offensive linemen Joe Mullin '24 and Mark Caster '24 were unsure if they would return for their senior season. Unlike Thompson and Sullivan, Mullin and Caster had to sit behind a star-studded offensive line for almost two years before getting playing time.

"Mark and I had the chance to back up some really good players our freshman year," said Mullin.

ing process for me," said Caster. "I was fighting in and out of spots, trying to work as hard as I could, and take in as much information as I could about the game. Last season as a senior, I sat [and thought] 'my career is just getting started. I've got more left in the tank.'"

And the four men are enjoying every minute of the ride. Whether it's training camp, practice or especially gameday, all of them recognize the gift of one more day playing their favored sport.

"A big part of [this season] is casting all unproductive emotion aside," said Caster. "It doesn't do us any good to worry about what will happen down the road or being sad because it's our last season. You've got to take each day as a blessing. Each of these days are one that we wouldn't have had if we had decided to not come back."

With four returning "super" seniors, along with true seniors Derek Allen '24, All-American tight end Penn Stoller '24 and running back duo Donovan Snyder '24 and Cade Campbell '24, the Wabash offense will look to capitalize on its veteran leadership in pursuit of the team's same three goals: win back the Monon Bell, win the NCAC and compete for a national championship.

"We became sponges and absorbed as much information as possible [during that time]. But after COVID, both of us started playing a lot more, and we got the itch to come back."

Caster and Mullin are the only two seniors on an offensive line the returns all five starters, including 2022 All-American Quinn Scholar '26. With so much up-and-coming talent, both Caster and Mullin made the decision to return to impart the wisdom of five years experience under Assistant Football Coach Olmy Olmstead '03 onto the incoming freshmen and sophomores.

"It was much more of a build-

## Getting ready for gameday with Coach Keller

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • With the 2023 soccer season set to begin in just a few hours, *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller to discuss how he and the other members of the coaching staff prepare for gameday.

Heading into a week with a Wednesday night game, Keller and the other coaches begin their process on Sunday night, when they watch the film for the other team.

"We have a mandatory tape exchange with the conference," said Keller. "So, we'll be able to watch films on the other teams and game-plan for them and see what their weaknesses are. So, we'll watch the film on a Sunday night or Monday morning."

During the film session, the coaches hone in on specific formations and set pieces, where they can identify weaknesses that the team can exploit in the upcoming game.

"When we first get it, we try to find where we think we could do best against a certain team, not only positionally, but also which guys would do better and in what scenarios."

However the process is not as easy as deciding what opposing teams did in the previous game, as the opponents' coaches are also formulating a unique game plan for taking on the Wabash squad. Keller and the other coaches see this as a positive sign for the program.

"We want to be prepared for other teams," said Keller. "But we want other teams to prepare for us more. We want them to change their game plan based on what we're doing. And we saw that a lot last year, which was the first time we saw that, where teams would completely change the way they played. And then we have to be prepared for that as well."

On Monday the coaches and players are ready to start preparing their game for the team they will face on Wednesday.

"We meet as a coaching staff Monday morning after watching the film and we discuss what we want to do," said Keller. "Then we'll go into practice on Monday with a game-plan and talk to the guys about it."

Tuesday, the day before the game the team is in all-wheel drive, practicing against the formations and set pieces that they are looking to undermine in the game on Wednesday night.

"Tuesday is a full session the day before a game when we're going to prepare and emulate the other team with our second group," said Keller.

For the soccer team, efficiency in practice is tantamount to effectiveness. Getting the players into the perfect zone, where they have hit the sweet-spot for running on Tuesday, so that they are well rested and prepared.

"Part of it is preparing physically, running the right amount, pushing them aerobically and anaerobically without overusing their muscles, and having them pretty fresh for game day," said Keller.

Another important part of the coaches' job is deciding how much focus the players can put into preparing for specific formations, before it becomes counterproductive. Because of this, the players need to focus on getting everything they can out of Tuesday's practice.

"We don't really talk for a full week about an appointment," said Keller. "We talk about it two days before the game and then we train it the day before the game. We don't want to over saturate their minds and over saturate their information. Because soccer is a really finicky sport."

When game day finally rolls around, the team will be ready to go, with a plan for how to handle the task in front of them.

"We have a team talk before the game where we reiterate a few of the tactics but also give them some information, and have them get a little bit pumped up," said Keller. "They listen to the music in the locker room. And once we come out to the field, we walk out through the tunnel at the bottom of the Allen center. We walk down the stairs all together in unison. That's our tradition."



## Cross country gathers for annual alumni run



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Current members of the Wabash cross country team and alumni from years past gathered at the Hunstman Track on Saturday, August 27, for the 2023 Wabash College Charlie Finch Alumni Run.



## Swinging for excellence

*Golf sets eyes for Denison to open fall season*

**ANDREW DEVER '25 | SPORTS WRITER** • With the start of the fall golf season quickly approaching, the Wabash College golf team has a great opportunity to gain valuable experience against some of the best teams in the country in preparation for the spring season. In what is arguably one of its most competitive schedules ever, the Little Giants will compete in four fall tournaments, including the Wabash College Fall Invitational in October, to continue to develop as a program before heading into conference play in the Spring of 2024.

Coming off a successful Spring campaign in 2023, which saw the team improve its national standing from 106th to as high as 64th, receive honors as an All-Academic team, and finish 5th at the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Golf Championships, the Wabash College Golf team is looking to take the next step forward to prepare to challenge for the NCAC Conference title and make the NCAA tournament in the Spring of 2024. To accomplish that, second-year head coach Justin Kopp '21 has placed the team in several difficult tournaments to help continue to boost the team's national Division III ranking.

With a challenging, but rewarding schedule ahead, the Lit-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Landon Timmons '26 tees off at the Wabash Invitational in Indianapolis on October 11, 2022.**

tle Giants have placed an emphasis on their team culture going into the season. After seamlessly transitioning from the interim head coach role and quickly finding success on the course, Coach Kopp is continuing to focus on fostering the culture of the Wabash College golf team

to produce a fun environment suitable for success. With this aspiration in mind, the team has developed an attitude of excitement and eagerness surrounding the fall season.

"As a team, we have three C's that are integral to defining our culture," Kopp said. "Commit-

ment, Care and Competitiveness. If we have all three... then we can compete on the course and firmly establish that winning culture."

Additionally, the golf team has established several goals for the fall season to aid in their achievement of a higher

ranking, valuable experience, and their pursuit of the elusive NCAC conference title. Using a new program called Decade Golf, the golf team is striving to maximize the eight-week season by showing up early and staying late every opportunity to compete as a team. Due to the elevated level of play in the NCAC, which boasts a relatively recent national champion, in Whittenburg, and several national tournament qualifiers, the team is striving to improve to the lofty standards established throughout the conference.

With a strong returning group, led by a formidable senior class and boosted by a small, but promising freshman trio, Coach Kopp is optimistic about the direction that the program is heading. "It has been promising to see the younger guys buy into our culture and system, learn from the older guys, and even step up into positions of leadership already," said Kopp. "We have already had good scores this fall, significant team growth and chemistry, and our development is very promising for the fall and spring season."

The Wabash College golf team will begin the first of its four fall tournaments at the Denison University Labor Day Invitation this Sunday September 3 and Monday the 4th in Granville, Ohio.





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# SPORTS



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

## Big roster changes ahead of season opener

*Fischer Field awaits the first game of the fall season*

**PRECIOUS AINABOR '26** | SPORTS WRITER • It is a breath of fresh air as the Wabash soccer team looks into their new season of soccer action. The team is excited to face the regular season following preseason scrimmages.

“Our expectations are always for the program as a whole, not individually,” said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. “If we are better on the last day of the 2023 season than we were in 2022, then as a program we have improved, and that is our number one expectation. Results wise, we are going to put in the work and discipline and do what we are supposed to do during the game and the results will happen. Our expectations are to compete and accomplish our team goals. That will lead to wins or losses.”

After a heartwarming goodbye to the class of 2023, the team saw some of their key players leave. Caleb Castano '26 was no exception. Castano, arguably the team's best presence last season, went on to pursue his future with Biola University in California. However, the future looks bright for the Little Giants as they introduce a total of 15 freshman players, the most in the last decade.

“Caleb had a good non-conference season last year,” said Keller. “He scored five goals in the non-conference games but then didn't score any against the top three teams. So, I think that was a growth thing. I really like the group that we have in the final third, this year. It's excit-



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Emilio Paez '25** faces down two defenders in game against Deninson on Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at Fischer Field.

ing. Some guys that were freshmen last year are mature sophomores, likewise, the juniors. So, I think we are going to be stronger offensively than we were last year.”

Fans are eagerly awaiting the strategic impact of these recent acquisitions as they seek to mitigate the void left by departing athletes from the previous year's roster. Alexis Delgado '23, who notably contributed six goals and two assists to the team's prior campaign, will be a significant piece to fill alongside Castano. Furthermore, the departures of Michael Bertram '23, Austin Hughes '23, Mitchell Keeling '23, Quinn Leous '23, Coledon Johnson '23 and the promising Soren Russell '26, a pivotal goalkeeper, instrumental to the team's commendable perfor-

mance in the preceding season with several man-of-the-match performances.

Russell, after his departure, left the goalie position open for the taking. The other goalies now face off to claim this spot.

“It's a dogfight between our goalkeepers,” said Keller. “Right now, Fernando Ramos '25 is stepping up. What we are trying to do is play more with the goalkeepers at the back and I think he is a little bit better with his feet than the other guys. Henry Giesal '25 brings a good aerial presence with his size and Andrew Dever '25 is more of an all-round goalkeeper. They are training every day to take that starting spot.”

Anticipation is running high among the Little Giants as they gear up for their inaugural match

of the 2023 season, slated to take place on September 1st, 2023. This encounter will see the team embarking on an away game against Franklin College. Reflecting on their previous encounter in the 2022 season, the Little Giants faced off against Franklin and displayed their dominance with a decisive scoreline of 3-1, signaling their competitive prowess. After that, they went on to win their next two games, showcasing dominance on every part of the pitch with 4-0 and 7-0 scores against Olivet College and Mount St. Joseph University, respectively. Their performance throughout the 2022 season saw them finish fourth in the North Coast Atlantic Conference (NCAC) behind Denison University, Ohio Wesleyan University, and Kenyon

College. Thus, securing a spot in the tournament against top rivals. The Little Giants lost by a game score of 4-0 to Kenyon College capping off their 2022 season on a 12-6-1 record.

“We want to execute on game day and tick all the boxes of every game plan,” said Keller. “If we do those, we should be successful in a lot of games this year and get the win, but if we do not play to our potential, any team in our schedule can beat us. We have the hardest strength of schedule that we have had in the last 10 years. Five out of the first seven games in the non-conference are teams that went to the NCAA tournament in the past two years. So it is going to be a good test for the team.”

Looking ahead to next season, several players stand out.

“One guy that gets overlooked a little bit—and I think he is one of the best players in the region—is Bruno Zamora '25,” said Keller. “He controls our midfield along with Emilio Paez '25. And some young guys stepping in right away as Freshmen. Bryce Kinnaman had a good scrimmage against Marian in the preseason and scored a penalty kick. We have Jesse Martinez '26 and Angel Vazquez '26 who had a good season last year. We have Jose Escalante '26 back, and I think the talent is there. I am excited to see this group.”



Elijah Greene '25  
WAB 49 - 28 HSU

### Football forecast: The Gentlemen's Classic



Sam Benedict '25  
WAB 34 - 20 HSU