

SIGMA CHI THREE-PEATS AS CHAPEL SING WINNERS



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Chapel Sing placement: 1) Sigma Chi, 2) Lambda Chi Alpha, 3) Phi Gamma Delta, 4) Delta Tau Delta, 5) Beta Theta Pi

(Above) Brothers of Sigma Chi celebrate their Chapel Sing victory. This year marks the third year in a row Sigma Chi has taken first place in the contest.

(Below left) Sphinx Club members attempt to rattle a Chapel Sing participant from Lambda Chi.

(Below center) Phi Gamma Delta brothers cheer on their competitors from the sidelines.

(Below right) Matthew Brooks '24 stalks the Phi Delta Theta participants listening for mistakes in "Old Wabash."



Homecoming '23 and the man behind it

Sphinx Club President Cooper Jacks '24 talks historic traditions in a modern world

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • As the weather turns to a cool September breeze, the shouts of air raids ring across the Mall during the day and the rhythmic chanting of the fight song fills campus in the evening. All of these signs can only mean one thing: Homecoming week is upon us.

As president of the Sphinx Club, Cooper Jacks '24 is working the magic behind the scenes to bring Homecoming to campus. Many hands touch the Homecoming process, but the successful execution of this week filled with tradition and festivities is one of Jacks's core objectives. Beyond his duty to campus and the Sphinx Club, Homecoming and the traditions it contains hold a particularly special place in Jacks's heart.

"Tradition is really what moved me towards coming into Wabash," said Jacks. "I remember coming [to Wabash] in seventh grade for the first time. Seeing all the people on the track walking with their banners as a pledge class just made me fall in love with the place."

As the student organization devoted to upholding campus traditions, the Sphinx Club has taken a more active role this year in

the education of Wabash traditions by running a session during Freshman Orientation devoted to explaining not only the current state of Wabash traditions, but also their history and evolution over time.

"Personally, I am not comfortable with attaching my name or the Sphinx Club's to an event that strictly prohibits someone from dressing up however they please. I simply cannot in good conscience violate someone's freedom of expression."

- Cooper Jacks '24

While Homecoming is a time that reminds us of our traditions and provides a nexus of pride and unity for the student body, it is also a time of reflection on those very traditions that make Wabash such a beloved and unique institution. In the moment, events such as Chapel Sing are some of

the most prized memories shared by Wabash men. However, these are the very elements that make Wabash seem so alien from an outsider's perspective.

"Anytime I've ever described Chapel Sing, people say 'Wow, that sounds like a cult,'" said Jacks. "You just have to agree with them because at first it is a little weird. But if you really buy into it, that means you're bought into Wabash and everything this place has to offer. Where else are you going to see 800 people gathered around a little grassy area listening to people chant their hearts out?"

There will be one notable change to this year's Homecoming agenda: the annual Homecoming Queen charity competition. The tradition that dates back to the 1950s will be adapted to honor the overarching tradition, while eliminating drag as the main feature of the event.

"I've had quite a few people in faculty and administration reach out with their concerns that the queen has made them uncomfortable," said Jacks.

"It's time for it to move on. I have to put my personal opinions aside,

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Football looks to send message against Oberlin



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Liam Thompson '24 walks off the field after a 47-21 loss to Butler University on September 16, 2023.

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | SPORTS WRITER • It's been over 300 days since the Wabash football team last played on Frank Navarro Field in Little Giant Stadium. That streak comes to an end at 2:00 P.M. on Saturday, September 23, when the Little Giants take on Oberlin for their annual Homecoming game. Wabash enters the matchup with a 1-1 overall record while Oberlin posts a 1-2 record (0-1 NCAC).

The Little Giants come into this game fired up and keen on a victory after suffering a 47-21 loss to the DI Butler Bulldogs. Regardless of the final score, the game never felt quite out of hand. After an early 21-0 deficit early in the second, Wabash fought back and was only down 10 at halftime with a score of 24-14. Early in the fourth, the lead was only 12 for the Bulldogs, but a big play by both Butler's offense and defense put the game out of reach for the Little Giants.

Oberlin is coming off a 70-0 blowout loss at home from Denison to open up their conference slate. They barely scraped together over 100 yards of total offense for the game while their

defense allowed over 500 yards.

The Yeomen have something to cheer about, however. Two weeks ago, they snapped a 13-game losing streak dating back to 2021 when they held off a late comeback attempt to beat Concordia University Chicago 37-35.

Saturday will be the 27th matchup between the Yeomen and Little Giants, and the 23rd since Wabash joined the NCAC. In last year's matchup in Oberlin, Ohio, Head Football Coach Don Morel and company walked away with a resounding 66-20 victory. This brought Wabash's overall record in the series to 23-2-1, including an active 9-game win streak.

The Wabash offense dominated from start to finish in the 2022 game, with a balanced attack between run and pass. Wabash finished with 375 yards passing and 292 yards rushing for a total of 667 yards compared to Oberlin's 261. The defense was stout as well, forcing one turnover, eight punts, and a 25% 3rd-down conversion percentage by the Oberlin offense.

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PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

(Left) Cooper Jacks '24 leads the ring-off to begin Chapel Sing on September 21, 2023.

(Right) Jacks leads the Tau Kappa Epsilon house into the Chapel for their group performance.

Preparing for Homecoming across campus



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash fraternities celebrate their accomplishments on Fraternity Day on April 23, 2023.

SAM BENE...DICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Homecoming—a storied tradition on campus—is the week when students immerse themselves in the culture of Wabash. For some, it’s a week of nostalgia, others, a week of trials and tribulations, but for all, a week of joy.

Members of each living unit participate in competitions throughout the week that promote school spirit, including making a banner to be displayed outside of the living unit, chants that are recited on the Mall, an upperclassmen dodgeball tournament, a float with a skit paired to it, fundraising for charity and Chapel Sing. Each of these events is assigned a point value and at the end of the week, the fraternity with the most points is crowned the Homecoming champion.

In both of the past two years, Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) has won the overall homecoming competition and Sigma Chi has won Chapel Sing.

“Homecoming means a lot to FIJI,” said Cody Bevelhimer '24. “With two of [FIJI’s] core tenets being excellence and friendship, we use all of Homecoming week as a testament to that.

Besides the activities and competitions, it’s also a time to see old friends. The name itself is ‘Homecoming,’ so a lot of alumni ‘come home’ to be back in the Wabash spirit. While that isn’t unique to FIJI, I think it’s something that every house can agree plays a large part in the importance of Homecoming as a whole.”

Many students at Wabash believe this week is one of the most memorable weeks of their Wabash experience.

“It’s important for our freshmen, because they are spending a lot of time together and with the brothers of the house as they make the banner, float, etc.,” said Camden Scheidt '25. “We [Delta Tau Delta] tell our freshmen to really take it all in, as they will never have another experience quite like freshman year Homecoming.”

At Sigma Chi, decades of brothers have created a culture that prides itself on winning Chapel Sing. Living up to the glory and lore of those that came before is no easy task, but one that is the pinnacle of their freshman year.

“Homecoming has historically been about Chapel Sing and

football to Sigma Chi,” said Vaughn Taylor '25. “It’s been adopted by each pledge class as we enter the house. It’s important because we see it as your first opportunity to prove what you can do for our fraternity by competing in one of our oldest traditions on campus. The first question that alumni ask is, ‘did you win Chapel Sing?’”

Recently, independent students have made a push to take part in the traditions that have historically been focused on fraternity members. Independents will again have the largest team competing on the Mall for Chapel Sing and have seen consistent participation in the festivities over the past few years.

“Getting your ‘W’ at Chapel Sing is an awesome, rite of passage,” said Brady Ester '24. “It alone, however, is not tradition. Homecoming, itself, is not tradition. They are opportunities to express tradition and continue the ‘Wabash way.’ These opportunities are everywhere here at Wabash, but they may be harder to buy into as an independent man. Homecoming,

however, has turned into a week where more and more independents are buying in. Each individual must make that choice, and this is true with all Wabash Men. We cannot instill tradition. We can’t teach the Wabash brotherhood. We cannot explain how special Wabash College is. We can merely show them the door to the Wabash way and let them discover the true meaning of this place on their own.”

Upperclassmen have the responsibility to teach the importance of Homecoming and guide those who are competing. Offering advice on the best way to construct a float, scheduling Chapel Sing practices and explaining the history of Homecoming are only a few of the many ways that those who have been through it prepare the new generation.

“Sharing our experiences with Homecoming, being honest about the difficulties of it, yet reminding them that the reward of hard work always outweighs the difficulties to achieve it, is so important when talking to the freshmen,” said Bevelhimer. “Our goal should never have to be to tell someone to do Homecoming, we should only

have to tell them of the fun, pride, excitement and honor that comes with taking Homecoming week head on. If we do our jobs right, they should be excited for their chance to experience everything for themselves.”

At Lambda Chi Alpha, the brothers use Homecoming to celebrate their shared love for Wabash and their continued goal of performing well.


“It really starts with the upperclassmen showing how much they care about Homecoming,” said Luis Rivera '25. “I think that when the freshmen come into the house and hear how well we’ve done in years past, they try their best to make sure we continue to be a house that takes all of the events seriously and performs well.”

Homecoming is a week full of memories that no one forgets. Brotherhood, tradition and the “Wabash way” are on full display. Although each living unit approaches it differently, everyone can agree on the beauty of this week.




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New students are welcomed to their first Wabash experience during Ringing In 2023.



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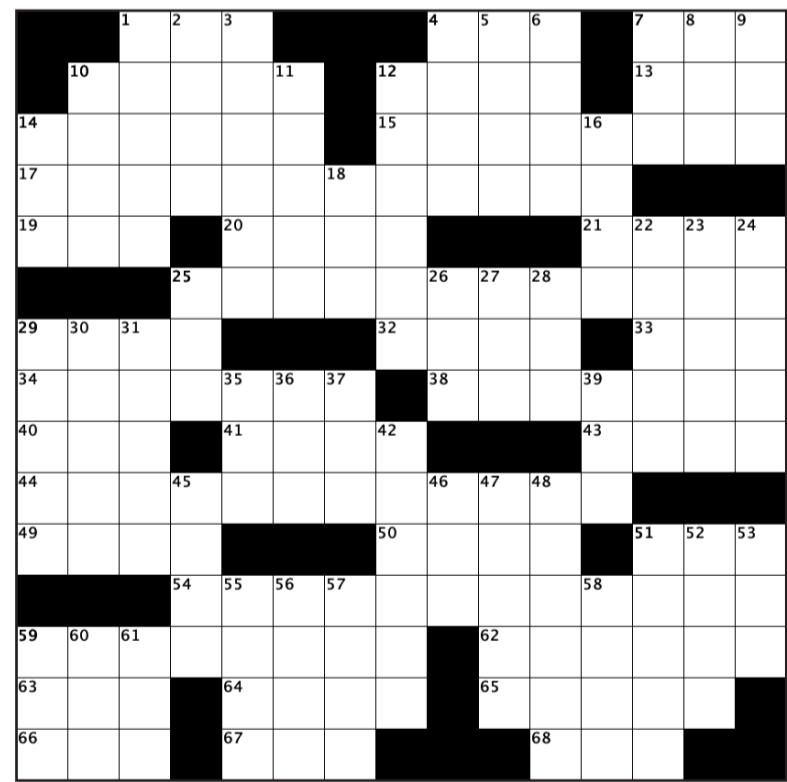
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'Road trip radio'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

Across

1. “Big” clock or quarterback
4. Pump (up)
7. Me, myself and I
10. Stats for a goalie
12. Safe place?
13. Column intersector
14. Liquid that becomes a language when capitalized
15. Game with a disc
17. *Where to sing “Old Wabash” in Acadia National Park?*
19. They, in Calais
20. Twosome, in tabloids
21. Not just willing
25. *Where to sing “Old Wabash” in Badlands National Park?*
29. Frivolity
32. Pink, as a steak
33. Minecraft detonator
34. Basketball skills, in modern lingo
38. “What If...?” narrator, with “The”
40. Delivery room docs, for short
41. Most populous continent
43. Just say no
44. *Where to sing “Old Wabash” in Channel Islands National Park?*
49. Coconut or ginkgo
50. Shedded droplet
51. Stay-at-home ___
54. *Where to sing “Old Wabash” in Mount Rainier National Park?*
59. Smog cause, sometimes
62. Turn counterclockwise
63. King topper
64. Mattress type
65. Casino array
66. Scarlet, e.g.
67. Pig’s home
68. Opposite of sweet



Down

1. Golfer’s purchase
2. “Austin Powers” Dr.
3. Legendary Scottish monster, affectionately
4. Apple variety
5. Opposed to
6. Birthday suit material?
7. Elizabethan, for one
8. Comprehended, or apprehended
9. Come short
10. Gardener’s need
11. 1.5 ounce drinks
12. “That’s too bad”
14. Greek F
16. “Iron Chef” output
18. Kinky interest, slangily
22. Get into a tub
23. Bedsheet material
24. Diary input
25. Tie the knot
26. Even pinker than 32-Across
27. Org. that hosted its 2023 convention in Indianapolis
28. Caress
29. “Hamlet” role
30. ___ of love
31. Follow
35. “Well, ___-di-dah”
36. Linguistic suffix
37. Title of respect
39. Sleeve contents
42. “Old Wabash,” for example
45. Manage
46. Get a glimpse of
47. British nobles
48. Notorious traitor
51. Dewy-eyed
52. Low bills
53. Word on a bathroom sign
55. Gets rid of, Mafia-style
56. ___ police
57. Cafeteria carrier
58. Like Franklin’s Richard
59. Battle after battle
60. Border protection agency
61. Headed up



Scan for solution!

News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER • Armenia

Armenian civilians and military personnel were reported to be among the dead after Azerbaijani military forces bombed the Nagorno-Karabakh region earlier this week. Azerbaijan declined peace talks with Armenia following the bombing, asserting that their “anti-terrorism operation” would continue until they regained control of the region from the separatist government currently in power. As tensions rise, the possibilities that long-term hostilities that exist between the two nations could be reopened for the first time since 2020.

[Photo courtesy of CNN]



Canada and India

Diplomatic tensions reached a boiling point between Canada and India, culminating in Canadian President Justin Trudeau voicing allegations of the Indian government’s involvement in the recent killing of a Sikh-Independence activist. The Indian government distanced themselves from the allegations, criticizing Canada’s stance toward displaced Sikhs. Indian and Sikh tensions have been high since the 1980s, when a Sikh independence movement gripped India. This dispute is the latest event in that larger conflict.

[Photo courtesy of Reuters]



Brazil

Brazil’s president Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva continued his efforts to frame his nation as a rising global power by addressing the United Nations’ general assembly earlier this week. Coming off an election year in which Lula won the presidency by the slimmest margin in modern Brazilian history, he has drastically expanded Brazil’s public image, visiting over 20 countries in the past months. Lula’s aim is to position himself and Brazil to be the leaders of the Global South, a burgeoning group of countries seeking to play more of a role in the global economy.

[Photo courtesy of Reuters]



Libya

Flooding from Mediterranean storm Daniel continued to pummel the Libyan city of Derna in recent weeks, and city officials took the step this week to divide the city into quadrants separated by buffer zones in an attempt to halt the spread of infectious diseases in the aftermath. Death tolls from the flood, which occurred after two of the city’s main dams collapsed, ranged from 4,000 to 11,000 individuals, with many more currently missing or unaccounted for.

[Photo courtesy of CNN]



Media bias pioneer Vanessa Otero comes to Wabash



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Vanessa Otero visits RHE-270 to discuss media bias on September 20, 2023.

the world of media. Building on the rapid success of the chart’s first iteration and seeing its usefulness as a resource for students, everyday citizens and critics, Otero founded Ad Fontes Media in 2018. Ad fontes, Latin for “to the source”, is her startup dedicated to the analysis of media sources to make The Media Bias Chart even more effective and useful to those looking to learn more about the media sources they take in.

Ad Fontes has since reviewed over 53,000 pieces of media from 2,700 different sources published by at the local, regional, national and international levels. Ad Fontes’ 60 analysts are broken into groups of three individuals, with one right-leaning, one centrist and one left-leaning panelist. The panels then review pieces of information from different sources at a granular level to determine bias and reliability.

Otero focused on presenting a balanced explanation of different sources of bias that may be experienced when interacting with the media.

“There’s nothing wrong with having left-leaning or right-leaning points of view. There’s nothing wrong with having left-leaning or right-leaning moral foundations,” said Otero. “These are the actual things that make people good people.”

Otero later shared that she desires for people to be able to have effective discourse and conversations with each other, understanding the role the media they intake plays in their perspective.

Otero also shared that bias is not the sole arbiter of a good source. Some sources can be relatively balanced, and yet extremely unreliable. Reliability is the metric used by Ad Fontes to determine how often a source publishes original facts, analysis, opinions or misleading and untrue information. The Media Bias Chart shows each source on the continuum, rating both left/right bias and reliability, which allows users to easily make determinations about the sources of information that they intake.

Otero’s message was clear by the end of her lecture: The media and its consumers will always be biased, though by understanding these biases, it becomes easier to understand the media that surrounds us.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
Vanessa Otero gives her talk in Salter Hall on September 20, 2023.

JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER •

The President’s Distinguished Speaker Series returned this Tuesday, when Wabash College welcomed Vanessa Otero to give a talk in Salter Hall with invitation from President Feller and the Rhetoric Department. Otero, the Founder and CEO of Ad Fontes Media and creator of The Media Bias Chart, gave a lecture titled “Navigating the News Landscape with the Media Bias Chart” to a bustling audience of students and faculty.

Otero’s main focus of the talk was informing the Wabash community about media bias and reliability to help ensure that Wabash is well-equipped to evaluate the media we intake in our lives. Wabash has an institutional subscription to the interactive Media Bias Chart, which students can use to evaluate the sources of media they interact with.

Otero’s work first began in 2016, when she created The Media Bias Chart to help show friends and family the spectrum that media sources can occupy in terms of their bias and reliability. At the time, she was a practicing patent law attorney with little connection to



This week at Wabash

Saturday, Sep. 23

- 12 p.m. | Soccer vs. Hope @ Fischer Field
- 2 p.m. | Football vs. Oberlin @ Little Giant Stadium
- 7:30 p.m. | Glee Club concert @ Salter Hall

Sunday/Monday, Sep. 24/25

All Day | Golf @ Rhodes Invitational

Tuesday, Sep. 26

- 4 p.m. | Soccer vs. Illinois Wesleyan @ Fischer Field
- 7 p.m. | Off-Campus study fair @ Detchon Hall

Wednesday, Sep. 27

7:30 p.m. | Visiting Artist Series: Carrie Newcomer @ Salter Hall

Thursday, Sep. 28

- 11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk
- 4:45 p.m. | LaFollette Lecture @ Salter Hall

Friday, Sep. 29

- All Day | Tennis @ ITA Central Region Tournament
- 12 p.m. | NARCAN training @ Hays 104
- 6 p.m. | Mid-Autumn Festival @ Detchon Hall

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'Bluegrass' review: Willie does it again



COURTESY OF ROLLING STONE

LOGAN WEILBAKER '25 | MANAGING EDITOR • Most musicians born in 1933 are long gone by now. Those that are still around are mostly sitting in their Malibu mansions, cashing royalty checks for songs that came out 50 years ago. Not Willie Nelson.

At age 90, not only did Nelson release a new 12-song LP, he did so in a new artistic way. Taking a detour from his standard country-western genre, "Bluegrass" is exactly what it sounds like: Nelson's first totally-bluegrass album, full of reimaginings of his own songs.

The lead single from "Bluegrass," "You Left Me A Long Time Ago," is from Nelson's 1972 album "The Willie Way." This time, the instrumental ensemble has been increased from a simple piano and acoustic guitar combo to add steel guitar, upright bass, mandolin and dobro. When accompanied by the gentle caress of tight vocal harmonies, it heads toward that "high lonesome sound" of bluegrass music.

However, Willie Nelson is no Del McCoury. In truth, that "high lonesome sound" isn't so high in "Bluegrass," which is one of the things I love about the album. Nelson retains his signature croaky, wholesome, speak-sing timbre, but incorporates it seamlessly into the genre. It's simultaneous-

ly wholly bluegrass, but also wholly Willie Nelson.

Nelson is helped in his endeavor by a star-studded cast (relatively speaking) of bluegrass artists, including bassist Barry Bales and banjoist Ron Block of Union Station, as well as legendary harmonicaist Mickey Raphael.

"Bluegrass" closes out with an incredible one-two punch of a bluegrass rendition of "On the Road Again" followed by "Man With the Blues," which is one of the most quintessentially bluegrass songs I've ever heard. What could be better than a song that opens with a flat-picking run, features some close harmony and tells the universal story of suffering from a good-old-fashioned case of the blues.

Overall, the album is very cohesive and all fits together within the genre, while having plenty of variety within. From sweet serenades like "Home Motel" to stomp-and-holler reels like "Bloody Mary Morning," this album has a little something for everybody, and a lot of something for anybody with a little Appalachia in their soul.

**FINAL VERDICT:
5/5 WALLYS**



Saying farewell to 2024 football grads



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The Wabash football graduating class of 2024 is an indispensable asset to the program.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Cade Campbell '24 (left), Ben Netting '24 (back) and Donovan Snyder '24 (right).



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Joe Mullin '24 (left) and Mark Caster '24 (right) pose in front of the Ralph Lee Wilson Memorial underneath Little Giant Stadium.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Cooper Sullivan '24 (left), Liam Thompson '24 (center) and Derek Allen Jr. '24 (right) pose to express their gratitude to Wabash College for offering them the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level.

New faculty: welcoming Daniel DeVinney



DEREK MCDONALD '27 | STAFF WRITER • If your specialty is leading effective persuasive discussion, you will find yourself in the rhetoric depart-

ment at Wabash College. If rhetoric is your specialty, you will definitely come to know Visiting Assistant Professor of Rhetoric Daniel DeVinney. DeVinney comes to Crawfordsville from his alma mater—Hope College—in Holland, MI, a college that is of comparable size to Wabash, albeit a bit larger.

"But in many respects, [Hope] has the same values [as Wabash]," said DeVinney. "It's fun to be back in small classrooms."

Hope College is a private liberal arts institution with a student population of over 3,000 and with popular majors such as accounting, elementary education and psychology. Holland is a larger Michigan town of

34,000, backed up to Lake Macatawa with access to the wider Lake Michigan.

Now in a town half the size, DeVinney appreciates and feels welcomed by the tight-knit community fostered here in Crawfordsville and at Wabash.

"You get to work with students for multiple years," said DeVinney. "It's a place where you can walk around and you know most of the students."

Starting a new job at Wabash may seem like an exciting adventure, but DeVinney recently embarked on one of the largest journeys of all: marriage.

"I was just married recently, about five months ago," said DeVinney.

Like many incoming freshmen, DeVinney started his collegiate career not knowing what field of study he wanted to commit to. He discovered his love for rhetoric after taking a course on the subject early on at Hope College.

"I took a rhetoric class at Hope and it just felt like things finally clicked for me," said DeVinney. "A professor there, who became my mentor, was very encouraging. He told me I was good at [rhetoric] and helped me apply to grad school."

This launched his career as a professor of rhetoric and the rest is history. Through hard work, dedication and good mentorship, DeVinney went on

to complete a master's degree through the Master of Arts in Communication at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is currently working towards his PhD.

"I am looking to make good connections with students and colleagues," said DeVinney. "Both have been great so far."

Connections between faculty and students are a hallmark of Wabash College, where research and education happen during the interactions in the hallways, in offices and especially in classrooms. Professor DeVinney seems to perfectly understand the need for these connections and will fit in perfectly here in Crawfordsville.

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Soccer looks to recover in Homecoming match

Wabash squares off against sixth-ranked Hope College



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Hugo Garcia '24 passes the ball in their home opener match against Anderson University at Fischer Field on September 12, 2023.

RODOLFO ELIZONDO-ALCALA '27 | SPORTS WRITER • The undefeated streak of the Wabash soccer team came to an end against Hanover College, where they were defeated 2-1 in a closely-contested match.

During the first few games of the season, the Little Giants (3-1-2) strung together consecutive wins off of goals from inspired first-year and second-year players such as Bryce Kinnaman '27 and Jose Escalante '26. The effort was sufficient to secure a sixth-place ranking in the region. Despite the setback, the

soccer players view this game as a valuable learning experience.

"We were very disappointed with the loss," said Myles Bernat '26. "It definitely felt like we should've walked away with a minimum of a point. It felt like a punch in the gut."

The first 45 minutes of the game concluded with no goals scored, as Wabash's defense maintained dominance, preventing the Panthers from creating any scoring opportunities. However, the first goal of the match came on a controversial foul in the 54th minute. The

foul awarded Hanover a penalty kick, which Hanover converted, giving them the lead 1-0. Bruno Zamora '25 managed to equalize, making the score 1-1. Despite the Little Giants' 12 shots, they struggled to convert their dominance into goals.

In the end, despite having fewer shots, Hanover was able to find the net in the 86th minute to claim the victory.

Despite the loss, the team found motivation and hope from the game as they look forward to the Homecoming match.

"It's the first loss of the year and it was a wake up call to push to be better," said Bernat. "I feel as if the next few games our communication and execution are going to be much better."

Among the most positive take-aways, players mentioned the importance of communication on the field. Additionally, midfielders emphasized the importance of translating good positioning with the ball to scoring points by analyzing the matches with coaches.

"We've been studying and watching films to identify our mistakes," said Dever. "[We are] competing during practice to push ourselves and discuss tactics with coaches to prepare for Hope [College]."

While many teams would choose to line up an easy knockout for their homecoming game, the Little Giants will be facing a Hope team ranked sixth in their own region. This will be a tough matchup, but the team has the credentials to get the job done. Although it may be the toughest nonconference matchup the team plays all year, it will be the perfect opportunity bounce back.

"It's the first loss of the year and it was a wake up call to push to be better."

- Myles Bernat '26

The Little Giants, still early in their season, will look to rebound against the 4-1-2 Flying Dutch at Fischer Field at 12 P.M. on Saturday. They will close out their non conference schedule versus Illinois Wesleyan University on September 26 and Adrian College on September 30.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Bryce Kinnaman '27 (left) celebrates his goal with teammate Jesse Martinez '26 (right) against Anderson University at Fischer Field on September 12, 2023.

Weekend off hopes to cure injury plague for XC

JAMES DALY '24 | SPORTS WRITER • A well-deserved break awaits Wabash cross country, as they spend the weekend recovering from injuries and preparing for the Greater Louisville Classic on September 30.

During this crucial three-week period in between races, the team is currently getting their top three runners back into shape after having been absent from practices and meets due to injuries as well as for medical reasons. Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary has continuously expressed optimism that the inclusion of these top runners back into their lineup, combined with the fact that they are in a lengthy gap between meets, will provide an excellent opportunity for the team to recover.

"The team's been good so far, [they have] performed well in the first couple of meets," said McCreary. "The opener at Shelbyville went really well. The performance next week went well despite three of our top guys recovering from injuries. So, I am feeling good about where the team is at."

In spite of the setbacks the team has faced so far this season, both from injuries and a slew of COVID cases within the squad, it looks as though the Wabash Redpack has kept their hopes for the rest of the season very high. They have a compet-

itive set of runners this year, making winning a conference championship a realistic possibility. One of the team's fastest runners, Drake Hayes '24, believes that Wabash might be able to win the conference title and even advance beyond regional competitions.

"Team-wise, [We're] hoping to win conference and advance out of regionals," said Hayes. "I think those are very realistic goals and that would be cool to be a part of. Individually, I would like to keep placing in the top crew; maybe even race a sub-26 [8K]."

Right now, the team has been tightly focused on block training in their pursuit of the conference championship. McCreary strongly thinks that the team is in a good position moving forward and hopes that the Redpack will maintain good energy while they get their top runners back into their rigorous workouts.

"I would say [the Redpack has] a lot of potential," said McCreary. "We haven't had our top three guys out and [We are] eager to run a full team race. The training and practices have been phenomenal. It's the best team we've had in the past six years."

The Little Giants have their next race on Saturday, September 30 at the University of Louisville as part of the Greater Louisville Classic.

Tennis bench continues to shine

Hope College Tournament tests resolve

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • Another strong weekend outing for Wabash tennis solidified the team's fall season as one of the most promising in recent memory. The team continued their fall campaign in the Hope College Tournament on September 15-16. The tournament was divided into three singles brackets and two doubles brackets where players could face opponents roughly at their skill level.

The tournament tested the team's conditioning to a level they hadn't seen anywhere else. Some of the players who advanced deeper into the tournament played five matches in one day. The team was forced to lean on their teammates and training to get through the weekend.

The A-bracket was a mixed bag for the team, as the three players all fell in the first round, but found success later in the consolation tournament. Tharakesh Ashokar '26 bounced back in a big way, winning three straight games in the consolation tournament.

The B-bracket was an all-Wabash bracket that ended with two Little Giants, Eduardo Werneck '26 and Blake Discher II '26 set to face in the final. Unfortunately Discher withdrew before the match due to an injury.

The C-bracket gave two freshmen, Nathan Brackney '27 and Eric Tien '27, the chance to play their first collegiate matches. Tien was able to collect a few wins af-

ter dropping into the consolation bracket.

Doubles—similar to singles—saw ups and downs for the Wabash team. But the Little Giants were able to win in some important ways. The biggest of these came in the B-bracket, where Werneck and Sam Dziadosz '27 advanced to the final.

While no aspect of the weekend, at face value, indicates that the Hope Tournament as a major win for the team, Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett was very pleased with the team's performance, given the level of competition and the fact that the team was not entering its full lineup. In fact, the majority of players who competed are situated somewhere just off of the main lineup.

This tournament was physically demanding for the team, requiring most players to compete in multiple matches on the same day. One of the things Bickett emphasizes is maintaining focus and energy through fatigue, relying on team support for energy is his solution.

"We focus so much on energy and being loud," said Bickett. "We're a team that doesn't usually get a big traveling contingent of parents. So we have to rely on our team to be the cheering section. And in this tournament, we were more spread out, because some guys are playing indoors and some guys are playing outdoors. But I was really impressed with the level of support our guys were giving

Golf team works smart for success

HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | STAFF WRITER • Though the Wabash golf team has fallen short in recent outings, the team is adamant that with specialized training, improvements will be made in their next competition, the Rhodes Invitational.

The team started off their year by placing fifth out of nine teams in the Denison Invitational. Though the potential of this year's players was clear, it seems to have eluded them yet again last weekend, when the team tied in a series of stroke-play 1v1's against longtime rival DePauw in a scrimmage on Crawfordsville Country Club's course, the very course the team uses regularly in practice. Though it's worth noting that if the teams were playing in a traditional match-play format Wabash would have won, it doesn't erase the sour taste the bout left in the mouths of fans and players alike.

"We were really disappointed in the outcome especially because we're just as good- no, we're better than DePauw," said Mark Poole '24. "Especially at our home course, we should go out there and beat them."

Because of DePauw's notably good record in the past, finishing fourth out of eight in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) championships last year, many on the team view this experience as a necessary challenge.

"DePauw's a really good team, and being able to tie them says a lot about how far we've come," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp. "We'll get several chances to see what we can do against them this fall and in the spring."

Kopp plans to continue using "Decade", the online performance management system that the team recently purchased, to better the stroke average of its players. With classes and other extracurricular activities in full swing, however, Kopp worries players will struggle with balancing aspects of student life, and that their scores will be impacted because of it.

"Golf is a sport that requires a lot more time-consuming practice than others," Kopp said. "Two hours a day is our usual amount of practice for us and we usually try to get on the course and get in more after that. That's the biggest challenge for us so far with it being as busy as it is for Wabash guys."

That practice will come into play in the team's next appearance at the Rhodes College Invitational, hosted on September 24-25. The course being played on is a far cry from what the team is used to; long expanses of both turf and water are in contrast to the Crawfordsville Country Club's more constricted course. Despite this intimidating factor, the team has shown that they can practice with—above all else—intelligence.

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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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It's time to pave a new tradition



Gavin Hill '24

Reply to this opinion at
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Wabash College is renowned for its rich history of traditions, each bearing a unique mark on our campus culture. Some of these traditions have a relatively short history, such as the Senior Arch, while others have stood for decades, like the cherished Chapel Sing and the ever-beloved Sphinx Club. These traditions are held dear by the Wabash community and actively supported by the institution itself, fostering a sense of continuity and pride.

However, amidst this tapestry of sanctioned traditions, there exists one which stands out as a testament to the enduring spirit of the Wabash student body. This tradition, which persists year after year, receives no official endorsement from the College. A small dirt path, no longer than 15 feet, emerges along the walkways of Martindale and Baxter, crafted from the feet of students attempting to access a quick shortcut.

At first glance, this may seem like a minor, inconspicuous tradition, lacking the pomp and circumstance of its sanctioned counterparts. Yet it holds a special place in the hearts of those who witness its continuation. It is a tradition born from literal and metaphorical grassroots, devoid of College backing, devoid of social media fanfare and absent from the formal discussions held during Student Orientation. Despite the absence of official recognition, this path continues to emerge year after year.

As each year passes, without fail, the dirt path between Martindale and Baxter is restored with fresh sod, only to be promptly trodden upon by the eager footsteps of our students. It's a ritual that persists without acknowledgement or strategic intervention from the administration. It begs the question: What should be done about this enduring tradition?

There are a few viable options on the table. The first involves maintaining the status quo, with Campus Services

continuously laying down new sod and erecting temporary fences to preserve the lawn, only to have it immediately replaced by the path. While this does uphold the tradition, it comes at a cost to the College, both in terms of financial resources and workforce.

These resources could arguably be put to better use on other essential campus maintenance projects. Alternatively, we could embrace the dirt path as a permanent fixture. Allowing the dirt path to remain without the replacement of sod would create a continuous pathway.

However, this option is not without its challenges. The elements, particularly rain, would inevitably lead to muddy conditions, potentially causing problems for students navigating the area.

The final option, perhaps the most proactive, involves creating a permanent brick path where the dirt path currently resides. Extending this path an additional 15 feet from where the current path ends honoring the wishes of Wabash men who have demonstrated their desire for a path but also present a unique fundraising opportunity.

Inviting alumni to sponsor individual bricks engraved with their names as a way to commemorate their commitment to the College, similar to what exists at the Caleb Mills house. In my opinion, this is the optimal choice for several compelling reasons. It pays homage to a cherished tradition of Wabash, affirming the desires of students for a pathway.

The transformation would not only enhance campus aesthetics but also offer a robust, weather-resistant solution that ensures the path's longevity. Simultaneously, it offers a unique fundraising opportunity that strengthens the college's connection with its alumni, enabling them to leave an indelible mark on the institution while commemorating their commitment.

The creation of the path, a seemingly simple act, embodies the resilience and camaraderie that define the Wabash College experience. It reflects the unwavering dedication of students to upholding the traditions we hold dear, even in the absence of institutional support or external validation. The path between Martindale and Baxter serves as a reminder that traditions, no matter how humble, can endure and thrive through the sheer determination and unity of a passionate community.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

FREE RHYMIE

Lo-Five to Butler Security for kicking the rhymes out of the stadium for their anticipated half-time performance. Buck would never.

FIND MY F-35

Lo-Five to the U.S. Marine Corps for losing track of an \$80 million dollar fighter jet over South Carolina. With a pricetag like that you would think they could afford an Airtag.

ROLLING RUSH

Lo-Five to the townie who decided to roam campus during Homecoming week. Didn't anyone tell you that rush ended a few weeks ago?

SENATE UNFETTERED

Hi-Five to the U.S. Senate for changing their dress code to be more informal. For those of you worried about their productivity, Wabash men have been rocking the Fetterman look for years with continued stellar results.

"HOW YOU GET THE GIRL"

Hi-Five to Travis Kelce for allegedly "hanging out" with Taylor Swift. Awfully bold of you to assume you can accomplish what Joe Jonas, Lucas Till, Taylor Lautner, Cory Monteith, John Mayer, Jake Gyllenhaal, Conor Kennedy, Harry Styles, Calvin Harris, Tom Hiddleston, Joe Alwyn and Matty Healy couldn't, but we're rooting for you.

Wally's Wall: Sports Stories

The Question:

In your time at Wabash, what is your favourite sports memory?

Dean Steven L. Jones '87

My sophomore year, I had been diagnosed with strep throat in the fall. I remember feeling horrible and had been miserable all week. I was fortunate to have an end room on the 2nd floor of Martindale Hall. This was long before the trees matured so I could view the football game from my "suite" long before suites were popular! This was my highlight of a very long week.

Nikko Morris '21

Freshman year. Donny football is at DePauw. Two fake special teams in one drive, and I believe a two-point conversion. I quickly realized college football was a different realm.

J. C. Morgan '88

Football at DPU in 1985. Knocked the Dannies out of the playoffs as Bill Kaiser ran and ran and ran. Always satisfying to beat them on their home field.

Jim Wadkins '84

In 1982, Wabash's victory over Dayton in Little Giant Stadium. UD took the late lead, but in "WAF" form, senior QB Dave Broeker led the Little Giants to a winning touchdown drive. This secured a home victory and maintained an unbeaten season and our playoff hopes. Some Little Giants!

Schuyler Nehrigh '20

2017 vs OWU. Gonna toot my own horn here, but as a kicker I scored all of our 13 points including a TD from a blocked FG in our 16-13 loss.

Hugh Vandivier '91

While I was freezing my feet off during the 1995 Snow Bowl, I witnessed sheer will as QB Chris Ings '96, down 0-2 in the 4th, marched the ball down the field to run a 10-yard scramble in to score, winning the Bell 7-2. WAF indeed!

Prof. Joe Scanlon '03

One of my favorite memories was being part of the 2002 football team that beat #4 Wittenberg at home in overtime. We were down 14-0 in the first quarter, but came storming back to tie the game at halftime on an 18-play drive that ended with a jump pass TD to our TE. I don't think I have ever been more exhausted than at the end of that drive. It was back-and-forth the entire 2nd half, but we managed to pull it out in OT. We had a ton of fans travel to the game and they were going nuts the entire time.

Isaac Myers '21

Bell Game 2017. Winning The Bell back on a two-point conversion, storming the field and running by Dean Raters as he said, "This is why you should come to a school like this." Couldn't have written it better in the script.

Dean Marc Welch '99

As an alumnus (before I returned to work for the College in 2006), my favorite sports memory is 'The Catch' from the 2001 Monon Bell game, where Jake Knott's throw to Ryan Short was tipped to Kurt Casper in the end zone. It's definitely the most exhilarating Wabash sports memory for so many: players, coaches and fans.

Boebert, Boebert... Boebert!



Tiernan Doran '26

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It seems trouble is brewing in Denver, Colorado. *Trouble with a capital T that rhymes with B* and stands for Boebert... Colorado Republican Congresswoman Lauren Boebert. Ms. Boebert's night on the town has given me a chance to reflect on and combine my two greatest and deepest loves: U.S. politics and musical theater.

While her fellow Coloradans gathered in Buell Theater to enjoy a production of the musical "Beetlejuice." Boebert, apparently, had her own *Show Stopping Number* in mind.

Specifically, she interrupted the show on multiple occasions with loud and obnoxious behavior. She sang, she danced, she recorded, she vaped and most fascinatingly, her and her date clumsily groped each other in the theater.

Boebert and her date became increasingly frisky as the night went on, and while I'm not one to judge what *Seasons of Love* they were in, there's no denying it was inappropriate for a public theater. Eventually, she and her date were escorted out of the theater, perhaps left looking in and *Waving Through a Window*.

While Boebert and her beau came close to clumsy coitus in the cushiony seats of the theatre, one can't help but reflect on the 'protect the children from the groomer gays' rhetoric that certain members of a certain political party have been endlessly and baselessly spouting.

This *Strange Loop* of bad behavior is illustrated over and over again. Accusations of perversion are thrust upon the LGBTQ+ community, followed nearly immediately by sexually inappropriate behavior by the very person making the accusation.

I and other members of the LGBTQ+ community are exhausted by the blatant hypocrisy and vulgar attacks.

To be clear, I don't think Lauren's actions have scarred any children. Rather, fetishization of guns and her inaction in implementing or accepting any reasonable gun-control legislation will be far more dangerous and will affect the futures of far more children than her clumsily *Rum Tum Tugging* on her date. It was hard to think that I could be any less fond of Ms. Boebert, but here we are.

I see a possible future, albeit an unlikely one, where Boebert goes from attacking us to becoming a celebrated ally of the LGBTQ+ community. She already dresses like a drag queen and her actions give off a sense of trash and camp that would even make John Waters gasp.

For heaven's sake, musical theater is one of the queerest spaces around. She can wear her tight dresses and fondle all the registered Democrats (who also own drag friendly bars) that she wants, but I beg her to stop her harmful and evil rhetoric against the LGBTQ+ community. She's in a position to make real change.

Some might call Boebert's behavior *Wicked*, but I see this as a great time to review theater etiquette. Don't be offended by my frank analysis; I'm on Lauren's side, I want her to be happier and I want her to be better, so I've made a little reminder about how to behave. Hopefully this will reignite her *Memory*.

There are several steps to follow to avoid being disturbance. One might ask themselves, *Do You Hear the People Sing?* If the fellow audience members aren't, that is a good indicator that you're breaking the etiquette of the theater, and you should sit down and shut up.

While a live performance can be a very personal and touching experience, the theater is not your *Candy Store*. Please be aware of the other people and how your actions might affect them.

You may find that it feels like I'm *On my Own* but you're not alone. While you might be tempted by the *Music of the Night* to get up and dance... don't. You should *Sit Down You're Rocking the Boat*.

The man behind Homecoming cont'd



COURTESY OF COOPER JACKS '24

because in my eyes I don't see any offense. That's certainly not the intent of the Queen competition, but I can't change how people perceive things. My job as a

leader is to step aside and look at everything from all viewpoints and all angles and approach a decision from there."

This Homecoming will still feature a charity competition in much the same format, with the theme of Wabash Royalty. Freshmen will still dress up, but with the choice to appear as either a king, queen or any other member of the "royal court". "If you want a jester to clap his hands and do a jig for somebody to get them to donate more, please feel free," said Jacks. The choice to remove the Queen from Homecoming has already generated controversy among the student body, but Jacks urges students to keep their eyes on the prize.

"At the end of the day, you're not even graded on how well you dress up," said Jacks. "It's all about charity. I do think there is merit in maintaining the overall tradition of dressing up to raise money.

What's most important to me is maintaining the overarching tradition rather than necessarily the means by which it's carried out. Traditions do evolve, and I think it's probably the right time for this one to evolve too. With that being said, you are by no means required to dress a certain way, nor are you forbidden from dressing how you wish. Personally, I am not comfortable with attaching my name or the Sphinx Club's to an event that strictly prohibits someone from dressing up however they please. I simply cannot in good conscience violate someone's freedom of expression."

Jacks' priority is not only to preserve and protect tradition, but also to draw as many people into that tradition as possible. Jacks acknowledged that while Homecoming is valuable as a freshmen-oriented experience, it is a time when the whole campus across all class years should be

uniting together.

"I would love to see more activities in which everyone's involved rather than just freshmen rallying behind their pledge class," said Jacks. "The way we try to help with that is the upperclassmen dodgeball. I feel as if this is a week in which everyone is very involved, but being the leader of an organization that's focused around campus unity, I love to see everybody show up to events and have a good time with it."

Even with a greater upperclassmen presence, Jacks has not lost focus on the freshmen and the traditions that they inherit. As the class of 2027 is fully inducted into the Wabash brotherhood, Jacks offers the most important advice.

"Just soak it all in. Looking back on it, these will be some of your best memories at Wabash."

Homecoming courtesy of the Ramsay Archives



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Phi Gamma Delta proudly displays a Homecoming banner ca. 1922.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

The Bachelor's Homecoming issue on October 23, 1931.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVES

The freshman class of 1925 pose next to an unkindled bonfire ca. 1921.

Homecoming opinion

We need to preserve our traditions...for now



Joshua Manfred '24

Reply to this opinion at jrmanfre24@wabash.edu

pole during the freshmen-sophomore scrap. While it may seem exciting now and I would love to have it back, we should contemplate how it might be perceived in the future. Will it be seen as a rite of passage for freshmen or as an opportunity for upperclassmen to beat the tar out of the freshmen? Sometimes traditions that have good meanings become dangerous because everyone wants to highlight the bad. The world is in constant flux, and some traditions may warrant a critical examination.

Currently, I love all the traditions that are part of the Wabash campus. Personally, I hold the view that our existing traditions do not hinder the progress of the campus or its students in any way. Moreover, it's heartening to be able to strike up conversations with anyone on campus about topics like Chapel Sing or the various Homecoming banners. These exchanges serve as a source of unity for the Wabash student body.

While I am a man of tradition, I believe if the times call for it, a careful overview of a tradition is necessary, to validate or warrant the tradition in question as dangerous or not. Moreover, traditions should not hurt the student to where it is impeding the student's success. On the other side, traditions don't have to be productive, progressive, or even helpful. If the tradition is simply fun and is not hurting anyone's success, then keep it. I hope we expand on these traditions and if the time comes to reanalyze them, we keep all the good parts that I still see today.

Wabash College is steeped in tradition, which serves as a unifying force among us. Historically, Homecoming activities like the banner, Chapel Sing and the float contest have been sources of enjoyment and fun as part of our traditions. However, it's important to recognize that my perspective on these traditions is influenced by the era I belong to, as ideas and viewpoints naturally evolve over time.

For example, it used to be bad to receive a 'W' during Chapel Sing, and the transition from compulsory chapel attendance to a more flexible, voluntary approach appears to be preferred by the students of our time. It is challenging to anticipate whether these contemporary traditions will be regarded favorably or unfavorably in the future. As we progress, it is wise to stay receptive to the potential for our current traditions to develop negative outlooks and be changed. This realization should encourage us to periodically reassess our traditions.

Consider the tradition of the greasy flag-

2023 Homecoming Awards

Honorary Alumni
David Miller H'05
Howard Hallengren H'12

Frank W. Misch Alumni Distinguished Service Award
Gary D. Reamey '77

Fredrick J. Urbaska Distinguished Civic Service Award
Jeffery H. Birk '74

Clarence A. Jackson Distinguished Career Achievement Award
Alonzo Weems '92

Jeremy R. Wright Young Alumnus Distinguished Service Award
Bryce C. Chitwood '08

Admissions Fellow
John M. Castro '97

Career Services Fellow
Ronald J. Dostal '92

'If the GDIs can do it...'

Comic by Preston Parker '26





PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash football competed against Division I opponent Butler University in Indianapolis in front of 6,271 spectators on September 16, 2023.

Football looks to send message cont'd.

This year, the offense wants to get back to the historic success of last year. Currently averaging 25.0 points per game this season and in the middle of the pack of NCAC offensive leaders, Wabash will look to dominate a bottom-feeder Oberlin defense that currently sits ninth out of nine teams in the conference in defensive efficiency to help get them back on track offensively.

Regardless of the relatively slow start, Morel thinks that this year's offense is something special. "We are a better team than we were last year," said Morel. "Overall, we are in a good space in all three phases of the game."

To succeed versus the Yeomen, Morel wants the Little Giants to "start fast on offense and defense." He also pays respect to the sophistication of the Oberlin defense.

"Oberlin gives various looks on defense and we can't get confused by their different alignments and

coverages," said Morel.

Defensively, watch for the Wabash run defense to make a statement against a fourth-ranked NCAC Oberlin ground attack. Wabash currently sits last in the NCAC in run defense after two games, so stopping the run on first and second downs will be a major key to success for the Little Giants.

Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings is ready to penetrate the formationally complex Oberlin run attack with a quite simple gameplan.

"It all comes down to fitting the gaps and tackling," Ridings said. "They have a really good running back that had a couple of big runs last year, so our defense needs to be cleaned up, definitely."

Ridings also likes the mentality of his guys after the loss to Butler.

"Our communication and growth have been great this week," said Ridings. "They're

hungry and ready to prove something [after the loss]. That was a playoff-type game."

This week all comes down to one major key for the defense: dominating the line of scrimmage.

To serve as the halftime entertainment during the game, the 2022-23 Wabash wrestling team will be honored for their 10th-place finish in the NCAA championships last year. Included in this team were National Champion Jack Heldt '23 in the 285lb division and All-American Chase Bascek '25 in the 184lb division.

Wabash has won 19 of the last 20 Homecoming matchups dating back to 2002, with their only loss in that period being last year's heartbreaker against Denison. A win Saturday would cap off yet another successful Homecoming week for the Little Giants, kick-starting their long trip through the NCAC this fall.

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER •

DePauw University Tigers (3-0, 1-0 NCAC)

Well, the Tigers have continued trouncing chumps, drowning Hiram in touchdowns to the tune of a 49-0 beatdown. But this isn't a surprise to anyone who knows that DePauw hasn't exactly faced the toughest opponents as of late. Though this is the case, it pains me to say that DePauw takes first place in the power rankings this week. They entered the season on top of the conference, and for now they appear to remain there. Key word: Now.

Wabash College Little Giants (1-1, 0-0 NCAC)

In reviving the old rivalry, the Wally's had a mixed bag of sorts in Indianapolis. Digging themselves a hole with a few key drops early on, including an interception drop that gave way to a Butler TD, the Little Giants fought valiantly. Morel still displayed a propensity to pull trick plays from every orifice imaginable, with a punting Blake White completing a fourth down pass before Jacob Riddle tossed the pigskin to a wide-open teammate in the endzone. If only the Rhynies hadn't been kicked out of the stadium, the Little Giants' end game push might've been successful. Keep shooting your shots boys, there're more air raids coming.

Denison University Big Red (2-1, 1-0 NCAC)

The Big Red of Ohio learned from their battle with top ranked Linfield to lay down metaphorical, literal, hypothetical and as many other hammers ending in 'al' as possible. Denison's lead back, Trey Fabrocini, could've showed up all by himself in the dominating win, as he collected more yards himself than the entire Oberlin squad on his way to five rushing touchdowns. With the 5'10" and 220lb senior at the helm, Denison completes a solid three team race for first this season.

Wittenberg University Tigers (2-0, 1-0 NCAC)

If there's one thing Wittenberg prides itself on this season, it is defense. The slightly preferred Tigers have forced 12 punts in two games, including five against Kenyon where they allowed a miniscule 3.7 yards per play. Hoping to put their D to the test, Witt looks to prove that they are truly in conference contention by facing off against the #20 ranked Alma College Scots this weekend.

Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (2-1, 1-0 NCAC)

Serving as the metaphorical mid-field of the conference, OWU took it to the Fighting Scots in a 49-20 victory. Most statistical differences were miniscule in Ohio Saturday night, excluding the wide turnover differential, which massively favored the Battling Bishops as they forced a fumble and two interceptions. If they can force the issue again on the defensive side of the ball, they could present a legitimate challenge to DePauw on Saturday. For those of you hanging around campus, Saturday for Homecoming, keep that score close at hand, as that could be a defining game of early conference play.

The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (1-2, 0-1 NCAC)

The only thing we'll likely be able to say about Wooster this season is that they were better than the likes of Oberlin, Kenyon, and Hiram. They are just incredibly forgettable. [McRoberts forgot to finish this entry]...

Oberlin College Yeomen (1-2, 0-1 NCAC)

Rumor has it that the establishment that is Oberlin College might be no more after a certain Big Red glow was seen there Saturday night. It turned out that there was an attendance record breaking bonfire that night, as for some ungodly reason 532 fans showed up that day. Gametime temps were 67 with clear skies, but it didn't take long for the heat to turn up and the smoke to start pouring into the sky. All this to say, I'm sorry, but I can't guarantee that the Little Giants will have a team to face come Saturday afternoon. At least I know the tailgates should still be good.

Kenyon College Owls (0-3, 0-1 NCAC)

Well, I don't really know how to rank the bottom three of the conference here, so I'll give the top spot to the Yeomen for their spectacular meltdown last Saturday. And because I had more fun writing the bit about Oberlin. So, I'll give the eighth spot to Kenyon because they actually scored some points over the weekend.

Hiram College Terriers (0-3, 0-1 NCAC)

These gluttons for punishment have mounted a measly 35 points over three games, while allowing 179. Now they are taking on the likes of Denison, who just routed Oberlin 70-0. Just to give you something to look forward to, Hiram, if you score tomorrow, I'll put you over

WABASH	
RUSHING YDS.	PASSING YDS.
62	276
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YDS.	
338	

BUTLER	
RUSHING YDS.	PASSING YDS.
244	198
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YDS.	
442	

Linemen out for blood

Dominating attitude pervades both sides of the line of scrimmage

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO EDITOR • Having completed their nonconference slate in a 47-21 loss against Butler University on September 16, Wabash football returns home to Crawfordsville after a rocky start to play their Homecoming game against Oberlin on Saturday, September 23.

This rocky start is not uncommon or even unexpected for the Little Giants. Unlike most of the competition in the NCAC, Wabash football has pursued some of the best talent, both regionally and nationally, to compete against in their nonconference schedule during the past few seasons. Reviving both the Gentlemen's Classic with Hampden-Sydney College and the Iron Key rivalry with Butler, as well as playing the 2022 DIII national champions—North Central University—last season, Wabash has tested its mettle in every way possible before entering conference play.

"We're battle-tested and hungry," said senior offensive lineman Mark Caster '24. "You see a lot of teams begin to fade [mentally] as the season progresses. That isn't happening [here]."

Along with the hard-fought loss to Butler, Wabash—for the second year in a row—won in a last-second thriller against Hampden-Sydney in the first week of the season. In both games, the Little Giants seemed to struggle to start and maintain momentum on both sides of the ball—especially defensively.

"We have a lot to prove from last year," said Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings. "We fell short in a lot of things [on defense]. So, our entire thought process is to not worry about who we are playing, but to hold ourselves to a certain standard of defense."

To emphasize his points and to maintain players' belief in his system, Ridings comes with receipts to show his players; receipts that show it is possible to translate theory into a dominant defense on Saturdays.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Joe Mullin '24 celebrates with the wide receivers against Butler University on September 16, 2023.

of what a dominant defense looks like," said Ridings. "[The clips include] things like stopping the run, being great in the redzone, being great on third down, and especially being great situationally in the two-minute drill."

Wabash fans have seen both sides of the late-game situation coin this season already. Positively, against Hampden-Sydney, sophomore defensive back Jake Pasch '26 caused and recovered a fumble with three minutes to go, giving Wabash the break it needed to seal the victory. Negatively, Butler was able to drive down the field with 11 seconds left in one play at the end of the first half and kick a 48-yard field goal to go up 24-14 as time expired.

"We're chipping away at [greatness]" said Ridings. "Our guys are getting better every week, and they're excited to play Oberlin."

Offensively, the Little Giants have more or less picked up right where they left off. Returning almost every skill position starter and an entire offensive line is certainly a recipe for success.

An underappreciated—but essential—cog in the Wabash offensive machine, the starting offensive line of Joe Mullin '24, Cameron Ford '25, Mark Caster '24, Kanon Kelley '25 and Quinn Sholar '26 have been a force to be reckoned with already this season.

"I've been coaching college football for 20 years and this is the first time that I've had all five [linemen] starters return," said Assistant Football Coach Olmy Olmstead '03. "We're pretty lucky to have this experienced group return in its entirety."

The extended experience from the group allows for an almost-inhuman level of focus. With two fifth-year seniors anchoring the interior, the Wabash offensive line knows that success starts and ends with their ability to execute effectively.

"We demand excellence from one another, understanding that anything less is failure," said Caster. "Wabash football is all about lining up across the line of scrimmage from a guy who you know hasn't been challenged like you have. You kick his ass because he sleeps through the week, doesn't condition after practice and doesn't put in extra work. That's practically second-nature here."

"Without a good offensive line, the rest of X's and O's on offense are for nothing," said senior quarterback Liam Thompson '24. "The guys want to block and never ask for any of the credit. We've had one of the best offenses in the country recently and that's on their shoulders, 100%."

Striving for excellence has already begun to pay dividends this



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

A horde of Wabash defenders bring down a Butler ballcarrier in their game against Butler University on September 16, 2023.

season for the Little Giants. Behind their stellar play at the line of scrimmage, all three major rushers for Wabash averaged above 4.5 yards-per-carry against Hampden-Sydney, a staggering statistic.

While it's difficult to compare since Butler is a DI university, the Wabash offense struggled to hold off the more talented Butler defense, letting up three sacks and fumbling three times. Despite these setbacks, the Little Giants were able to move the ball reasonably well against the Bulldogs, amassing three passing touchdowns and totaled over 300 yards of offense.

"With this group, I'm in a position where I know what each [lineman] is capable of," said Olmstead. "They're constantly working to perfect their craft individually and improve on whatever task I ask them to execute."

There should be no surprises in Wabash's first conference slate against Oberlin. Finishing last in the conference in 2022, Oberlin should serve as an excellent warm-up and entry to the Little Giants' long and arduous campaign through October and into November, leading to the 129th iteration of the Monon Bell Classic.