



Goodnight Greencastle!

Little Giants put an end to Dannies four-game win streak

Haiden Diemer-Mckinney '26
 OPINION EDITOR

When Wabash basketball made the 28 mile trip to Greencastle, they knew it was kill or be killed. Sitting in a precarious position within the conference standings, the Little Giants would either live to fight another day, knocking their archrivals out of contention along the way or would themselves end up just out of reach of the top spot in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC).

“We have the best fans in the country and they always show love in the most valuable ways.”

- Vinny Buccilla '25

On Wednesday, January 24, Wabash traveled to the School Down South to prove once again the DePauw Tigers were no match for the Little Giants. With Wabash prevailing in a 69-61 winning effort to complete the season sweep and improve to 11-8 on the season, DePauw is officially eliminated from the conference championship race.

Meanwhile, the Little Giants are currently tied for first in the NCAC standings with a 7-3 conference record, along with Wittenberg University (13-6, 7-3 NCAC), Denison University (11-8, 7-3 NCAC) and The College of Wooster (11-8, 7-3 NCAC).

The Little Giants controlled the majority of the game, with DePauw only leading for about two minutes of the entire game. Wabash's free throw shooting was the difference, as they shot 19-23 (83%) from the line in comparison to DePauw's lackluster 8-15 (53%) from the line.

Sam Comer '24 led the way with a well-rounded 10 points, four assists and seven rebounds. “It definitely felt like ‘do or



W. 69 Wabash – DePauw 61

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
 Josh Whack '26 shoots a runner on Depauw's Sam Jacobs in Wabash's 69-61 win on January 24th, 2024.

die,” said Comer. “We knew we had to make it happen tonight. Winning wasn't going to be easy, but we were confident as soon as we stepped off of the bus. We have significantly more urgency than we did during the mid-season slump and we are really trying to follow the coaches game plan defensively.”

Right behind Comer was Vinny Buccilla '25 with a team-leading 15 points and six rebounds. Even with a limited 22 min-

utes of playing time, Buccilla proceeded to shoot an astounding 4-5 (80%) from three-point range.

“We knew we had to come out with the most energy from the jump,” said Buccilla. “Especially playing on the road in a hostile environment at the School Down South. We just had to be patient with each and every possession and we knew we had a great chance to win.”

Perhaps the most shocking

performance from the night came from Noah Hupmann '25, accomplishing a jaw-dropping six blocks, setting a conference record for blocks in a single game this season.

Off the court, a huge contributing factor to the success of the Little Giants was the crowd support from the Wabash community that walked into Greencastle and shocked DePauw's disappointing student body size.

“Our support is so important

to us,” said Buccilla. “We have the best fans in the country and they always show love in the most valuable ways. Going on the road and still having that support system especially from our students is special. We need the Chadwick Crazies to be in full force for the rest of the season.”

“We knew we had to make it happen tonight. Winning wasn't going to be easy.”

- Sam Comer '24

With six games remaining in the regular season, the Little Giants aim to finish strong down the homestretch of competition. The Little Giants are currently tied for first in the NCAC standings with a 7-3 conference record, tied with Wittenberg University (13-6, 7-3 NCAC), Denison University (11-8, 7-3 NCAC) and The College of Wooster (11-8, 7-3 NCAC). Matchups at Denison and Wooster to conclude the season will likely shake out the final spots in the conference rankings.

“The expectations are high for the Wabash basketball program and this team is really trying to reach our goals,” said Comer. “We will accomplish this by playing harder than our opponents whenever we step onto the court and by continuing to lock in on the mental aspect of the game through following the scouting reports.”

However, to finish their ultimate goal of claiming the conference crown, the Little Giants must take it one game at a time, and focus on this Saturday, January 27, when the Little Giants host the conference leading Tigers of Wittenberg for a shot to avenge their loss from earlier this season and earn the top spot in the conference.

Alex DeLonis to leave Wabash

Finishes near 5-year tenure



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
 Alex DeLonis gives a speech at the Giant Steps Campaign Celebration on October 6, 2023.

JAMES WALLACE '26
 NEWS EDITOR

For many Wabash men, Trippet Hall, home of the admissions and financial aid offices, is seen as the beginning of their time at Wabash. But for just under the past five years, Alex DeLonis has seen Trippet Hall as his home at Wabash. However, on February 14, 2024, DeLonis will end his time at the College as the Associate Dean for Enrollment Management.

The move comes after a successful time at Wabash, in which DeLonis worked his way through different roles in the financial aid and admissions offices, starting as the Director of Financial Aid and eventually landing in his current role. Career advancement is what sparked DeLonis' transition into becoming the Assistant Vice President for Student Financial Services at St. Louis University. “At Wabash, I feel like I

had the best five years possible,” said DeLonis. “I've had the best financial aid team, and everyone has been great to work with. [The move] is more about the growth and leadership opportunity.”

At Wabash, DeLonis headed a team of three in the financial aid office, compared to his team of 32 at St. Louis University. This opens the door for DeLonis to continue to support students and their families on a larger scale.

“Alex has made a significant impact on the Wabash community,” said Apryl Bradley, Senior Assistant Director of Financial Aid. “Alex's move to another college doesn't necessarily mean the end of his contributions. Even though he is moving on to a larger university, he will continue advocating for financial aid policies at the national level through his board position at NASEFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid

Administrators).”

DeLonis has spent his time at Wabash committed to helping students through the many hats he has worn on campus. Whether it be getting the Student Support Fund process up and running shortly after coming to the college or navigating the newest FAFSA release after its 3-month delay, DeLonis has prioritized student well-being above everything else.

“Alex's dedication to improving the College's policies and procedures, as well as his efforts in presenting updates nationally on FAFSA Simplification, reflects a commitment to enhancing the student financial aid landscape,” said Bradley. “Alex kept the College informed about the latest policies impacting student financial aid which has been crucial for navigating FAFSA and financial aid changes effectively.”

Continued page 2

John Carroll University to join NCAC in 2025

ETHAN WALLACE '25
 SPORTS EDITOR

As if it wasn't hard enough to win the conference already, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) is about to welcome a new member with a strong slate of athletics programs. Beginning with the 2025-26 academic year, John Carroll University will join the NCAC.

The addition of John Carroll will return the NCAC to 10 teams, after Allegheny College left the conference in 2021 and will be the first expansion of the conference since

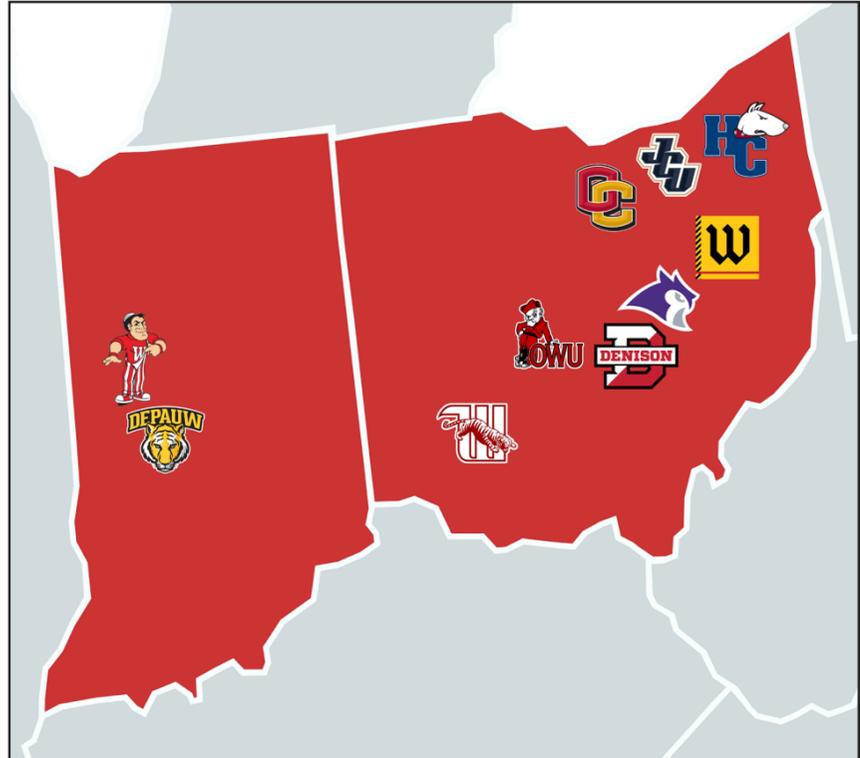
DePauw joined in 2011.

“John Carroll University is a welcome addition to the NCAC,” said Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05. “Its shared values and competitive athletics program squarely match the profile of a conference that prides itself on the championship achievements of our talented scholar-athletes.”

Located in University Heights, Ohio (outside of Cleveland), John Carroll, founded in 1886, sits right next to all the other Ohioan colleges in the NCAC. Similar to Ohio

Wesleyan, Hiram and Oberlin, JCU was founded as a religious institution, a culture that it carries to this day. Like Wabash, the school boasts their own lore of going toe-to-toe with much larger schools who have gone on to be exceptional DI teams such as Xavier University. With their blue and gold uniforms, the team is aptly named the Blue Streaks, another less-than-typical name to add to the NCAC menagerie.

Continued page 7



GRAPHIC BY LOGAN WEILBAKER '25
 Map of the North Coast Athletic Conference beginning in 2025 after the addition of John Carroll University.

DeSantis drops out

Trump and Haley don't back down

BEN DOUGLAS '27

STAFF WRITER

Florida Governor Ron DeSantis suspended his Republican campaign this past Sunday, concluding his 2024 bid for the White House. After several months of tensions between himself and former President Trump, DeSantis endorsed Trump despite becoming bitter rivals.

After high expectations during his reelection as Governor of Florida, DeSantis will return to the drawing board.

"The term overdetermined is a way to describe what happened to DeSantis," said Political Science Professor Shamira Gelbman. "This means that everything that could go wrong did go wrong. You can point to several things for what happened, such as campaign organization issues, personality issues, etc. One interesting point is he was seen more as a Trump figure in some ways in terms of ideology but without the baggage. However, for voters who like Trump, why would they want a substitute for Trump when he's already an option?"

Another factor to consider was the weather during the Iowa Caucus. During the election, Iowa and the rest of the Midwest underwent a significant snowstorm that brought temperatures to below zero degrees in Iowa.

"Another issue was the weather, which was the worst time to have an election," said Gelbman.

Many people who were lukewarm supporters of DeSantis were only willing to vote if the weather was suitable, leading to a lower turnout for DeSantis.

"He came in second in Iowa, and I believe that was expected," said Gelbman. "What was less expected or more in question was whether he'd be a close second or a distant second, and he was a distant second. The person who came in third, Nikki Haley, was much closer than expected. So Iowa being the first caucus means that's kind of where

people are in terms of how well candidates are doing among the voters, and if you don't perform well in Iowa, then you're going to lose steam."

At the beginning of his campaign run, DeSantis was very popular in the polls, but after several months, his popularity had dropped within the Republican Party.

"Some Governors appeal only at the state level, and it can translate well into support at the national level because to become governor, you're working up in the state," said Gelbman. "You've learned from everyone in the state regarding donors and community members. However, when you branch out, you don't have those benefits."

Desantis' appeal may have worked in Florida; however, Trump's name was far too popular among the general public.

There were several key points when speaking about the implications of Desantis dropping out and endorsing Trump.

"New Hampshire primary results showed that Trump did better than any other candidate," said Gelbman. "However, there was only one other meaningful candidate, Nikki Haley. Trump did better than any other candidate, but maybe not as well as expected because DeSantis was out, and his only real competitor was Haley. The expectations were that Trump would win New Hampshire by 20 points. However, it was only 10. As of right now, she is staying in for the time being. It's anyone's guess as to how long that'll last. Many say she could become the next Vice President, but only time will tell."

With DeSantis dropping out of the Republican Primary, it opens the door for either Trump or Haley to become the next Republican nominee. While some may be quick to judge that Trump will win, if things keep going as they are, Haley could make the Republican race closer than what Trump would like.



Ron DeSantis addresses New Hampshire supporters on January 17, 2024.

DeLonis cont'd

At St. Louis University, DeLonis will continue this prioritization at a larger scale. The institution has over 13,000 students enrolled and includes graduate programs, something that DeLonis has yet to work with. His new role oversees both student financial aid and student accounts, introducing opportunities for growth within his career.

"[The position] is still in the financial aid world, but also operates like Wabash's business office," said DeLonis. "There are a lot of aspects that I have yet to work with and I am looking forward to the growth opportunity and challenges that will come with it."

Filling the shoes of DeLonis will be Nathan Lohr, under the title of Director of Financial Aid. DeLonis' connections at the national and state levels helped with the hiring of Lohr, who has experience with collegiate financial aid from his time at the University of Indianapolis.

"Nathan's experience in serving students in higher education at large public and private institutions, and

his involvement in the Indiana State Financial Aid Association (ISFAA) and regional financial aid associations (MASFAA), are certainly valuable assets," said Bradley. "Nathan will assist the College in making strategic moves to enhance its financial aid leadership and support for Wabash students."

DeLonis' move fits comfortably with his progression in the professional world, with Wabash being the next step after serving as the director of Financial Planning at Ivy Tech Community College. However, while the position presents numerous growth opportunities, DeLonis doesn't downplay the impact Wabash has had on his career.

"Whether it's the people I worked with or the students, I have been proud of facilitating access to life-changing education [at Wabash]," said DeLonis. "I'm grateful for everything this school has done for me from the moment I got here. I hope to stay connected for a lifetime moving forward."

ELIJAH WETZEL '27

STAFF WRITER

Sweden

Sweden gained major ground this week in its quest to join NATO when the Turkish parliament voted to endorse Sweden's bid for membership. Sweden has been held up in the approval process to join NATO for nearly two years after they initially sought entry. The Nordic country, which historically maintains a policy of not entering into military pacts, broke that trend back in 2022 after the Russian invasion of Ukraine motivated them to seek out protection for fear of growing Russian threats to Eastern Europe. There had been several reasons the Turkish government was blocking Sweden's entry, including perceived support of Kurdish groups labeled as terrorists by Turkey and public burnings of the Quran by anti-Islam Swedes. Hungary, led by Prime Minister Viktor Orban, remains the only nation yet to approve Sweden's admission to the alliance. Orban, who has taken on an increasingly pro-Russian stance since coming to power in 2010, has leveled accusations at Sweden of peddling "blatant lies" regarding Hungarian democratic integrity. It is unclear how long Orban and Hungary will block Sweden from joining NATO.



COURTESY OF BLOOMBERG

Yemen

Yemen's Houthi rebels continued their string of missile attacks this week, including an attack that targeted two freighters flying the American flag. The ships, owned by Danish shipping company Maersk and under operation of the American arm of the company, Maersk Line, came under fire as they sailed through the Gulf of Aden off the coast of Yemen. The ships, the Maersk Chesapeake and Maersk Detroit, were carrying supplies belonging to the State

Department and Department of Defense, among other government agencies. Due to the nature of their cargo, the Chesapeake and Detroit were being accompanied by U.S. Navy ships which successfully intercepted multiple missiles after spotting explosions in the water. Despite airstrikes conducted by the U.S. and United Kingdom on Houthi strongholds, the group has continually reaffirmed its commitment to disrupting trade as long as Western support of Israel lasts in their war with Hamas.



COURTESY OF ABC

Houthi rebels stage a rally in Yemen on January 14, 2024.

Venezuela

Uncertainty surrounding the legality of candidates' campaigns and election manipulation continues to swirl around the upcoming 2024 presidential elections in Venezuela. Supporters of sitting President Nicolas Maduro and opposition candidate Maria Corina Machado gathered in the capital, Caracas, on Tuesday, January 23, 2024, to show support for their respective candidates. Maduro, who led Venezuela since 2013 during a period of economic depression and mass emigration out of the country, agreed last year to hold elections in the second half of 2024 in exchange for the easing of some of the U.S. imposed economic sanctions. Machado, who won her primary with more than 90% of the vote, has been banned from standing for election by Maduro's government due to accusations that her primary was run without cooperation with Venezuela's election authorities. However, Machado has refused to stop campaigning and requested that Venezuela's high court examine the legality of her ban. The U.S., backers of Machado's opposition party, have

threatened Maduro with more sanctions should he neglect to ensure the election proceeds with transparency and integrity.



COURTESY OF AP

Venezuelan government supporters gather on January 23, 2024.

Ukraine and Russia

A transport plane carrying 74 people, including 65 Ukrainian prisoners of war crashed in the Belgorod region of Russia on Tuesday, killing all passengers on board. Russian military statements claimed that Ukraine shot the plane down with anti-aircraft missiles from a nearby position and condemned the incident as a terrorist attack. Ukraine, after initially offering no comment on the crash, later said that they would welcome an international investigation of the event. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky accused Russia of "playing with the lives of Ukrainian POWs, with feelings of their relatives and the emotions of our society" and stressed the need to establish the facts of what happened during his daily update to the country. Russia has come under increasing international scrutiny as the war rages on, with accusations of intentional targeting of civilian zones being leveled against them. The Kremlin has flatly denied any such wrongdoing.



COURTESY OF CNN

Still image of the plane crash that occurred on January 24, 2024.

Ben Cody '26 sworn in as Student Senate chairman

DEREK MCDONALD '27

STAFF WRITER

Ben Cody '26 steps into the crucial role of Student Senate Chairman after a unanimous vote. Cody is involved on campus and an active member of the Wabash community. He is the treasurer of the Pre-Law Society, a writing consultant, a member of the Wabash Republicans and, most notably, Chairman of the Student Senate.

If you haven't been involved in a Senate meeting, Cody's job, in simple terms, involves directing Senate meetings in a professional and procedurally accurate way, ensuring that conversation is productive while effectively working through the agenda.

His peers are excited to have him serve as chairman and believe that he will be successful in his endeavors.

"I am delighted to see such a capable and diligent successor to Ben Jansen step into this role as chairmen of the Student Senate," said Student Senate Treasurer William Grennon '24. "Ben Cody is a meticulous and well-spoken facilitator who is passionate about the efficiency and productivity of the Student Senate."

Prior to becoming chairman of the Student Senate, Cody served as a justice on the recently formed Wabash College Student Supreme Court. Cody's active role as a justice gave him the experience that he needed to easily transition into his new role. Furthermore, Cody's group of executive members will provide support during the transition.

"I have been around the Senate so I know how it works," said Cody. "I know many of the representatives in meetings and my executive board

well. They have my back and support me well."

After presiding over his first Senate meeting, Cody reflected that although he is confident in his abilities, he is struggling in other aspects.

"Procedures are the hardest aspect right now because I am not used to it," said Cody. "It's not something that we think about in everyday activities."

While there will be hiccups for Cody to overcome, his fellow Senate members believe that he has stepped into the job with ease.

"Chairman Cody took the reins and immediately jumped into important discussions in the Senate during his first full meeting in the position," said Jake Weber '25. "He guided the Senate's deliberation surrounding allocations to MXI for the Blackburn Family event and oversaw discussion

regarding National Act's venue with ease."

Ben Cody hit the ground running by tackling funding implications and multiple other topics of discussion. His preparedness in his role, always having notes on hand to direct the meeting and the humble professional nature he brings with him give confidence in his abilities to effectively and successfully act as chairman of the Student Senate.

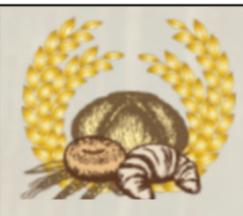
"I can confidently say Ben is a model Wabash gentleman," said Grennon. "Cody stands by his word, takes his commitments seriously and is not afraid to admit he is wrong. He acts with accountability and puts others' interests before his own. I am confident all these traits will translate into his success as chairman."



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Ben Cody '26 interning for the Mayor of Crawfordsville during Summer 2023.





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Three must-see students at Student Research Celebration

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26
FEATURES EDITOR

Every spring, Wabash dismisses afternoon classes on the last Friday in January. While the immediate response for many is to rejoice at the freedom from lectures and get an early start on the weekend, the escape from the classroom is actually an opportunity for learning of a different kind. The Celebration of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Work, a time-honored Wabash tradition, returns to Detchon International Hall on Friday, January 26th at 1:00 PM, running until 4:00 PM.

The event shines a spotlight on noteworthy student projects occurring within the last year. Students display a diverse array of posters and visual aids fair-style in the atrium of Detchon, while others hold scheduled presentations in assorted classrooms. Projects blossom out of senior seminars, advanced 300-level classes and even summer internships at Wabash and beyond.

The Celebration includes student projects from all disciplines; the only requirement for entry is an application to a committee of faculty from an array of departments. Assistant Professor of Economics Nicholas Snow serves on the Undergraduate Research Celebration Committee, where he finds great gratification in displaying student accomplishments.

"As the committee for student celebration organized the event, it was beyond impressive to see not only the quality, but the variety of fantastic work done by the students," said Snow. "I think student research celebration is a wonderful opportunity that I wish my undergraduate institution had. It's exciting to see not only my own students, but all Wabash students, impressing the community at large with the work they are doing."

While the event is intended to display extraordinary efforts beyond the normal scope of the classroom, projects still blossom from classwork. PPE major Derek Miller '24 thought he was simply taking a class on Decolonial Phi-

losophy, but the relationship he developed with Assistant Professor of Philosophy Jorge Montiel gave rise to a much larger project.

"I went to his office hours, and we just grew a great relationship from there," said Miller. "He thought my paper idea was an interesting topic and he kept wanting to develop it."

Miller's research focuses on critical race theory through the lens of decolonial philosophy. The celebration gives students like Miller a platform to meaningfully engage with the public on contemporary, and sometimes controversial, ideas.

"It's a pretty bold opinion and decolonial philosophy is such a new field," said Miller. "Sometimes people just don't want to listen."

Other students have developed their research after months of study away from Wabash through internships at other institutions. Psychology major Luis Rivera '25 spent this past summer at New York University studying the psychology of speech as it relates to political affiliation.

"We studied how people understand English speech differently based on the accents that they have, specifically when we control for location," said Rivera.

Rivera had the opportunity to join a team of high-level researchers in the midst of an ongoing project, and then continue the relationship beyond the summer months.

"Previous research in that lab had found that political affiliation does impact the way that people understand accented speech, but they didn't control for location," said Rivera. "Our goal was to choose an urban location that had lots of accented speech and diversity of political identity to be able to actually go further and test that hypothesis."

Rivera stays in contact with the lab, still assisting with lab studies through Zoom and helping prepare the project for a conference presentation. Even in such a prestigious academic environment, Rivera keeps a keen eye out for ways to optimize the research.

"Maybe we can get a more direct measure of listener exposure," said Rivera. "I think that just simply choosing a city and assuming that everybody in that city has been exposed to accented speech all the time is a bit arbitrary. We did the best we could, but it'd be interesting to develop an actual measure of exposure that better gets at the question."

"I think student research celebration is a wonderful opportunity that I wish my undergraduate institution had"

- Prof. Nicholas Snow

One research internship at a Division I university is impressive enough on its own, but for Tom Oppman '25, it's only half the work he will present. Along with a presentation on the work he's done in the Sorensen-Novak Lab here at Wabash, the Biochemistry major will be showcasing the project he assisted during his summer spent at Notre Dame University.

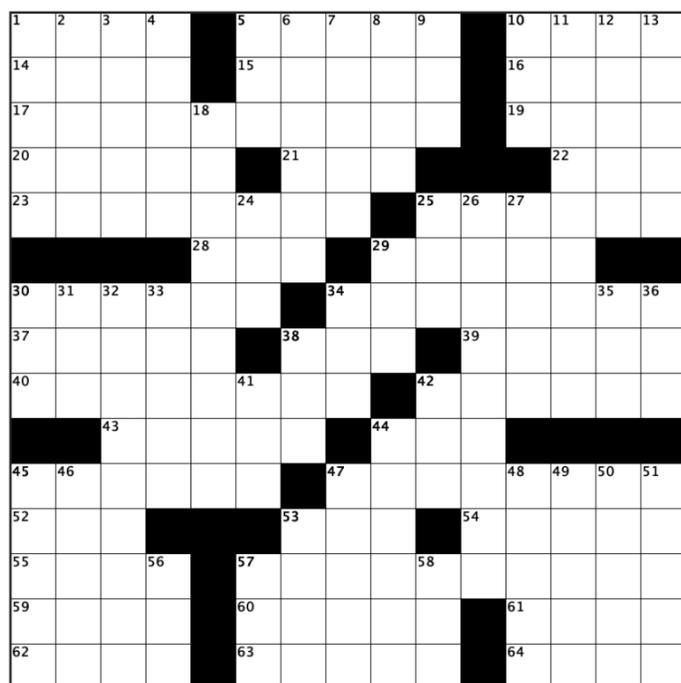
"[At Notre Dame,] I was basically doing some initial work using a fluorescent protein as a way to measure pH inside cells, particularly cancer cells," said Oppman. "I was just doing some preliminary work with that protein so that it can be used as a tool to image these cells in the future."

Even before entering medical school, Wabash men like Oppman are still contributing to invaluable and life-saving research.

Projects like these are only the tip of the iceberg of what to expect at the Celebration of Student Research. Few undergraduate institutions offer such an opportunity to come together as a community, show appreciation for one's brothers and learn a thing or two at the same time.

'Capital gains'

Crossword by
Logan Weilbaker '25



Across

1. Necklace worn at a concert, perhaps
5. Sacrifice site
10. Erase and replace, say
14. First man
15. Barely a movie?
16. Try again
17. *All of the Italian city, excluding the Vatican?
19. Killed, as a dragon
20. Bridge guard
21. Code-cracking org.
22. Kylo's father
23. Purloins a purse
25. They're often scheduled for 9 a.m.
28. "Psst!"
29. Holy hymn
30. Bug
34. Fetch
37. Indiana University's white
38. One of seven, biblically
39. "I repeat..."
40. Betrothed
42. Didn't gather, perhaps
43. Win for the underdog
44. Light bulb spec.
45. Food critic's asset
47. Stream, perhaps
52. LA NFLer
53. Low blow
54. Measuring tool
55. Certain Middle Eastern
57. *Afghani paving unit?
59. Wine flavor
60. Agenda bullets
61. Privy to
62. Kind of a jerk?
63. Passé
64. Taped-glasses type

Down

1. Nuts and bolts
2. Embellish
3. Neighbor of Fiji
4. Heat an ore
5. Mar. follower
6. Word with "bin" or "Tunes"
7. Bridge support
8. "Frozen" princess
9. Shepherd's weapon
10. Hosp. units
11. *Indian sandwich offering?
12. Paragon
13. Villages
18. Lead person in the Middle Ages?
24. Female pronoun
25. New York winter hrs.
26. Buccaneers
27. Adjust, as car wheels
29. Write
30. Angel dust, in brief
31. Goof
32. *Korean chum?
33. Buccaneers' Bay
34. Get ___ of
35. Compete (for)
36. Stopping point
38. Volleyball division
41. Schedule an appointment with, as an optometrist
42. Norse goddess of the underworld
44. Chickpea or lentil
45. TPing is a classic one
46. First man, alphabetically
47. Himalayan nation
48. Interject
49. Unequaled
50. Man of La Mancha?
51. What might show up in 53-Across, over time
53. Numbers to crunch
56. Wax producer
57. Young'un
58. "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds" subject, supposedly



Scan for solution!



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Luis Rivera '25 (left) explains his research to Eli Arnold '26 (center) and Morgan Govekar '26 (right) at the Celebration of Student Research on January 27, 2023

Cousin Rick's Pick Three NFL conference championship round

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST

Lines and odds provided by FanDuel, accurate as of January 24, 2024. Please gamble responsibly.

Last Week's Record: 1-2

Kansas City (@ Baltimore) at +3.5 (Kansas City ML) +166

I'm officially putting on my tinfoil cap for this pick. A Chiefs team that has looked mediocre at best this season and limped into the playoffs has suddenly found life behind its receiving core of all places. Marquez Valdes-Scantling, who seemingly couldn't catch a pass all year, put up 62 yards last week as Mahomes' third option. Worst of all, and this is where the tinfoil cap comes in, the NFL seems hellbent on cross-promoting Taylor Swift with this year's Super Bowl. Throw in the fact that Sunday's crew chief Shawn Smith has a statistically significant history of favoring the road team, and gentlemen, buy the Reynolds wrap.

Detroit (@ San Francisco) at +7 (Detroit ATS) -110

I like Detroit at this current line, but I'm not sure how much I would if it were to continue to move in their favor. The Lions have lost by more than one possession only twice this year; a blowout loss to the Ravens back in late October and a surprising embarrassment to the Bears last month. Generally though, the Lions have looked like they can hang around with anyone this year, apart from a couple of performances where the team failed to show up. Given what's on the line this time around though, I have a hard time seeing that be the case. Similarly, while the Niners have been dominant ever since midseason last year, they seem to be a team that's rarely made a habit of blowing anyone out. Just last week, a Green Bay team that resembles a slightly younger version of Detroit was able to give San Francisco a close game, something I'm expecting to repeat this week.

Isiah Pacheco (Anytime Touchdown Scorer) +135

While this pick may be redundant to last week, Pacheco has given me little evidence to stray away from my trust in him. For three weeks I've bet Pacheco and for three weeks I've made money. Throw in the fact that Vegas is continuing to give me plus odds on this pick and I can't see any reason to turn it down. I am aware that Clyde Edwards-Helaire has been putting in some impressive work for the Chiefs as the season has gone on and has been rewarded with a higher snap count, but Pacheco's offensive versatility and bruising running style will continue to make him a great red zone threat.



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COURTESY OF AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



COURTESY OF FOX SPORTS

Senior Spotlight: Chase Breaux, selfless advocate



COURTESY OF CHASE BREAU '24

Chase Breaux '24 has solidified himself as an icon of the campus community, and a staunch voice for marginalized communities.

TY MURPHY '27
STAFF WRITER

After hearing about a small liberal arts college in Indiana through his high school Emerge Program, Chase Breaux '24 would make the big leap from Houston, Texas to Crawfordsville, Indiana. A tenure that started with a "transformative" freshman tutorial for the Political Science major and Black Studies minor has progressed into a passion for advocacy through involvement.

In search of a "safe space," Breaux joined 'shOUT in which he would not only find an incredible "support system" but also a way to practice his passion for advocacy.

"It was very important to me to have a space on campus where I could express that authentically and also connect with other people who had a certain shared understanding of living and of living with that identity," says Breaux.

During his time at Wabash, Breaux has served in a leadership position of 'shOUT, the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies and the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He has taken these positions in support of the students he has seen "marginalized during his time here."

"It's all been about recognizing different problems that exist at Wabash and finding ways to solve them," said Breaux.

Through his experiences at Wabash, Breaux has recognized the need for representation. He has worked to recognize and change the "exclusionary culture" that he sometimes viewed in the brotherhood of the College. His desire to support alienated students has branched off into a future of advocacy in the field of law.

"I want to work on helping reshape the criminal justice system to truly embody equal protection and treatment under the law" says Breaux.

During his freshman year, Breaux took a class by Professor Scott Himself '85 covering the Civil War and Abraham Lincoln's leadership. He says that the class "really opened my eyes to the way that the law could be a tool to affect positive change" and shifted his focus to politics and law.

"The law is very fundamental to creating equality, to shape a society that is about equal treatment, equal protection and equal access to opportunities," said Breaux

Breaux's impression of the criminal justice system has been tainted by inequality, which he describes it as "a long-standing barrier in the way of actually enabling a lot of people to reach their potential." His goal is to "even the playing field" and change an unfair system to one that is built for everybody.

As the multitude of experiences swarms Breaux while he reminisces about his time at Wabash College, he reflects on that time as a young freshman in his tutorial where he could finally open his eyes to a passion. A passion of advocacy and social justice will fuel his journey to law school and so on into a career of fighting for people treated unfairly and marginalized by society, where he can work to help.

Interactive exhibit in Eric Dean Gallery

PROTO / DRIFT
interactive art // prototypes // works-in-progress
by human-in-process Owen Lowery



"You always go into a museum and it says 'do not touch, do not mess with anything.' But here, you're encouraged to do that."

- Austin Stockton '24

"Probably the entire darkroom is my favorite, just because there's so much that's touch interactive with the wall and the wood piece."

- Todd Handlogten,
Gallery Preparator



"Usually you're in an art gallery and you're quietly looking at stuff, and now here everybody's just pulling on stuff and pressing stuff and seeing things and making things."

- Matt Weedman,
Professor of Art



"Universal design is this idea that you create something for people of all accessibility situations: age, size, people in wheelchairs, people who are blind, deaf. You're trying to create something for everyone."

- Owen Lowery,
Artist-in-Residence



PHOTOS BY KYLE FOSTER '27

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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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The Bachelor is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in *The Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

The Bachelor is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

A Primary Primer



Prof. Shamira Gelbman

Reply to this opinion at gelbmans@wabash.edu

In the last two weeks, the United States has kicked off its presidential election season with the Iowa Caucus and New Hampshire Primary – events that receive a lot of media attention but can be confusing to those who aren't part of the action.

What Are Primaries and Caucuses?

Primaries and caucuses are both processes that give voters a say in whom the political parties choose to run for the presidency and other public offices.

A primary looks like most other elections in the U.S.: voters receive a ballot that lists all of their options and privately mark the one they like best. But in a primary, the candidates listed are all from the same political party and the one who gets the most votes becomes that party's nominee to run for the position. A caucus is more of a public event at which a community's voters gather in person to debate and announce their support for their preferred candidate.

The voters' role in choosing presidential candidates is relatively new. American political parties have held national conventions at which delegates from the states come together to choose their nominees since the 1830s. But for over a hundred years, the delegates were chosen by the state party organizations with practically no voter input. This changed after 1968 when the Democratic and Republican Parties reformed their procedures for choosing convention delegates. Ever since the 1972 presidential election, each state's delegates are chosen by voters in either primaries or caucuses.

It falls to the Democratic and Republican parties of each state and territory – but with oversight from their state governments and the national party organizations – to decide whether to have a primary or caucus, when it will be held, which voters can participate and other ground rules.

Why Are Iowa and New Hampshire a Big Deal?

By tradition, Iowa holds the first caucus and New Hampshire holds the first primary of every presidential election year.

As a result, they are an opportunity for candidates to test-drive campaign messages and build momentum by showing that they can get voters to stand up for them. Candidates who underperform in these states frequently drop out soon after. On the other hand, Iowa and New Hampshire are small states that don't reflect the full diversity of American voters, and sometimes candidates who performed well there run out of steam in later states' contests.

This year's presidential primaries and caucuses are less competitive than usual. Because the sitting president, Joe Biden, will run for reelection, there isn't a real contest for his Democratic Party's nomination, much as there wasn't on the Republican side when Donald Trump ran for reelection in 2020. And while several individuals initially threw their hat in the ring for the Republican nomination, only two – Trump and Nikki Haley – were left standing by the time this past Tuesday's New Hampshire primary rolled around. As of when I wrote this on Wednesday morning, it's still a two-candidate race, but it's unlikely that Haley will find a path to secure enough delegates to win the nomination and may drop out at any point.

What Happens Next?

Now that the Iowa and New Hampshire events are behind us, other states' primaries and caucuses will follow in the coming weeks and months. Some are very soon (South Carolina's Democratic Primary is next weekend, for example, and Nevada's Democratic Primary and Republican Caucus are shortly after that); a bunch will be on "Super Tuesday" on March 5; and still others (like Indiana's May 7 primaries) will come much later in the season. An easy-to-navigate calendar is available on the NBC News website at [nbcnews.com/politics/2024-primary-elections/calendar](https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-primary-elections/calendar).

If you're eligible to vote in U.S. elections, you may be able to participate in an upcoming primary or caucus. While the presidential nominations may well be decided, there are opportunities to weigh in on nominations for other important offices, such as governorships and U.S. Senate seats.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

BOTTOM DWELLERS

Lo-Five to Hiram basketball for picking up their 16th loss of the season. Who knew the Pistons moved to Ohio?

"I AM THE MACHINE"

Hi-Five to Jason Kelce for demolishing a beer shirtless and climbing into the stands at the Chiefs' playoff game. We don't watch football to see Taylor Swift, we watch football to see the absolute primal monstrosity that comes from copious amounts of beer and assigning one's self-worth to a sports team.

FIFTH FALL IN BUFFALO

Lo-Five to Tyler Bass for missing a kick wide right, blowing an opportunity to draw within even of the Chiefs. Who knows, Patrick Mahomes only needed 13 seconds to beat the Bills in the playoffs two years ago, so maybe the Bills tying the game with 1:40 left would've only resulted in a more gut wrenching loss.

QUIET QUITTING

Lo-Five to Jim Harbaugh for bolting off to coach the L.A. Chargers after winning the national title at Michigan. He must not have gotten enough of it during childhood, because he's about to get physically abused by his older brother for the next 10 years.

ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET

Hi-Five to the Little Giants for beating DePauw in basketball Wednesday night. The Bachelor staff did NOT have a Plan B for the front page in the event of a loss.

The Scramble to Gamble



Mark Stolte '25

Reply to this opinion at mcstolte25@wabash.edu

Sports betting is currently gaining immense popularity, with 46% of all American adults placing at least one sports wager in the past year, and 31% doing so weekly. Many people engage in sports betting for the enjoyment it offers, as consistent profitability can be challenging. While I'm no expert, I've been exploring this for a few months and have identified some key factors to consider when placing bets.

Firstly, it's crucial to have a basic understanding of probability. Without this knowledge, the odds provided can be confusing and detrimental to your success. Another important factor is the juice or vigorish (vig), which is the fee charged by sportsbooks for accepting a bet. For instance, in evenly matched matchups, sportsbooks often set odds at -110 instead of even, requiring bettors to wager \$110 to win \$100, ensuring the sportsbook gains an extra \$10 when bettors lose. Once you comprehend these odds and what they signify about the likelihood of an event, you can compare them with your intuition or even your model. For popular bets like NFL spreads and player props, sportsbooks likely account for various factors. I find value in identifying adjustments, and leveraging a machine learning model that predicts outcomes against the spread and moneyline in the NFL. The model, a specialized linear regression, minimizes multicollinearity and complexity. I gauge my perceived "edge" by examining my model's root mean squared error. With an RMSE of around six, I bet on games where

Vegas' implied predictions differ by more than six points from mine.

Adjustments in sports betting can be as straightforward as examining changes in a team's pass rate over expected when switching quarterbacks. Take the Bengals, for instance; with Joe Burrow at quarterback, they are likely to pass more compared to when Jake Browning is playing. Another way adjustments can provide an edge is by considering tail outcomes, especially in player props. Uncertainty becomes a significant advantage for the bettor over the sportsbook. For instance, players like CJ Stroud in the early part of the season may have lower totals because they haven't proven themselves yet. However, predicting tail outcomes becomes easier when assessing factors like the offensive strategy they employ. A good example is Bobby Slowik, the Texans' Offensive Coordinator, who is part of the Shanahan coaching tree, making the quarterback's job more manageable.

Lastly, effective bankroll management is essential. Your bankroll is the amount set aside for gambling, and using a smaller percentage on each bet helps mitigate exposure and potential losses. For instance, with a \$1,000 bankroll, betting 10% (\$100) would risk losing the entire bankroll in 10 consecutive losses. Reducing the percentage to 1% (\$10) extends your ability to handle losses, requiring 100 consecutive losses to deplete the bankroll. I typically start with 3% of my bankroll and use the Kelly Criterion formula when confident that my results aren't due to variance.

It's crucial to recognize that losses impact us more than wins, and sports betting can be mentally challenging. As the future of sports betting unfolds with increased advertising and legalization in different states, managing your bankroll, understanding probability and maintaining a balanced perspective are essential for a positive experience.

The Spring Rush Experience



Jackson Hughes '26

Reply to this opinion at johughes26@wabash.edu

Although I had quite a unique experience, rushing FIJI in the spring last year was well worth it. I say my experience was more unique than some others because I had a pledge brother who dropped out after one day. So, during the entire course of pledgship, I was on my own. While there were some positives and negatives from this experience, the positives outweigh the negatives.

Let's look at some of the negatives. In comparison to that of my other FIJI brothers, I believe my pledgship was a very easy one. Being the only pledge and having transferred to Wabash with a severe back injury, my pledgship experience was significantly different from the norm at FIJI. Additionally, my understanding was (and still is) that FIJI never did a Spring Rush until they allowed me to do it, which made it a bit difficult for the house to uphold some of the traditional activities. The only other real negative I can think of is that I had to finish my time of being a "freshman" during the fall semester, which was my first semester of sophomore year. But I can identify this as

a positive as well as a negative.

I view this as a positive because I became closer with the new freshmen class just as I grew closer with the guys in my class during Spring last year. Thankfully, we have a bunch of guys in the freshmen class that I believe I would've gotten to know well anyway based on their personalities, but being with them cleaning expedited that process.

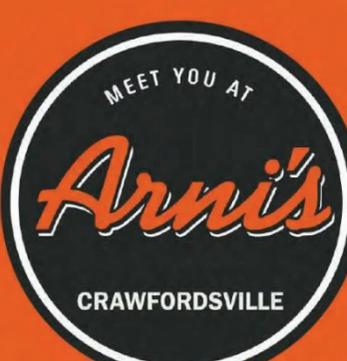
Another positive note was that I met each brother with others not confusing me for one of fifteen other pledges. It was nice to be the guy everyone in the house knew because I was also trying to get to know everyone, and introductory conversations were much easier when they knew me already. I also thoroughly enjoy always having someone to talk to, ask about homework, etc. And not to say I would not have had that same experience as an independent in the spring, but it was easy in FIJI to always have a couple of older guys in my major to ask about classes if I needed to. On top of that, I was living in a single in Martindale when I got to Wabash. Living alone as a transfer student who didn't have any friends at Wabash who were independents would have been very tough for me and I'm glad I'm a welcomed brother into FIJI.

To reiterate, my overall stance on Spring rush is very positive. Huge shoutout to my brothers at FIJI for easing me into the house and, again, welcoming me in under some strange circumstances for the chapter. Hopefully, we can continue to do this as we now have a new member who was just initiated this semester, Brody Page.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Brothers of Phi Gamma Delta cheer from the sidelines during Chapel Sing competition on September 22, 2023.



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Wally's Wall: National Act responses

Howie Steele '24

I'm excited about National Act being outside and in a different venue. I know that country music isn't super appealing to everyone, but I don't think it's fair to write the lineup and event off just because it's not your preferred genre.

The Prompt:

What are your initial thoughts and reactions regarding the National Act lineup (Rodney Atkins and Hank Ruff)?

Colton Pfoff '25

I thought the National Act committee really hit it out of the park with Rodney Atkins. I think this will be a great event that the whole campus will enjoy and I'm really looking forward to the atmosphere.

Jonah Billups '25

I'm not the biggest fan of the lineup, mainly because it's music that I don't listen to. But I know a lot of others that are very excited. Regardless of who's performing I just know I'm going to have a good time.

Tom Oppman '25

I'm more interested in it being outdoors than the artist, really.

Ben Sampsell '24

These guys over DJ Budler?

Evan Furuness '26

Seems like a very safe option. Not anything special, but also not something everyone will complain about.

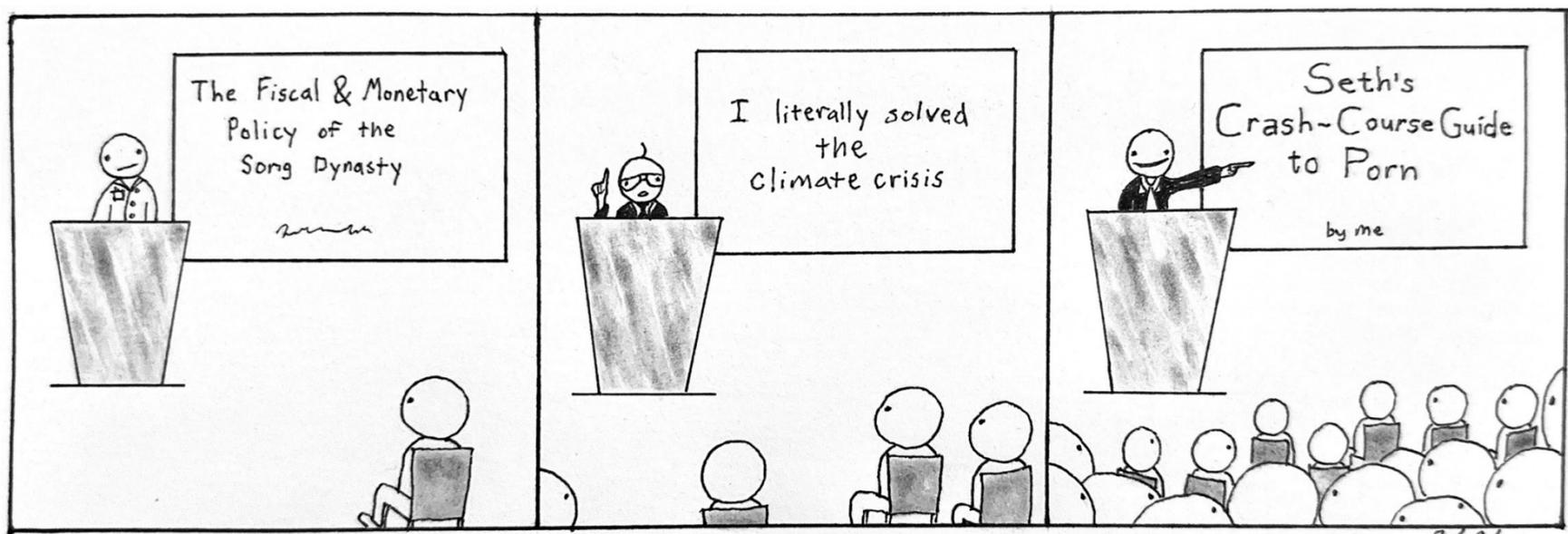
Brett Driscoll '24

I was excited when I saw Rodney Atkins coming. We haven't had a country artist during my time here, and I'm excited for the switch up in genres.

Quinn Sholar '24

When I saw who we had for National Act, I instantly told myself that I'm staying in the crib for two years straight. I'm personally not a big fan of country, and it's either you love it or hate it.

'Know your audience' Comic by Preston Parker '26



SPORTS

This week in sports: midwinter grind and season starts



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash competed in the Wabash College Invitational on January 20, 2024 at Knowling Fieldhouse.



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Wabash competed in a scrimmage against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on January 20, 2024 at Collett Tennis Center.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash competed against IUPUI on January 19, 2024 in the IU Natatorium.

DAYDEN SALPIETRA '27 SPORTS WRITER

This week in sports, basketball secures another pivotal conference win, swim and dive compete against tough competition, track and field posts several first place finishes, wrestling continues to improve with several podium appearances, and volleyball dominates on the road.

Basketball

The basketball team improved to 11-8 (7-3 NCAC), after defeating Oberlin and DePauw. The Little Giants overcame the Yeomen 69-62 at Chadwick court on Saturday, January 19. Noah Humpman '25 dominated on defense, recording five blocks and six defensive rebounds, along with 1 steal. To top off this impressive performance, Humpman had a putback slam in the second half. This performance earned Humpman NCAC Men's Basketball Defensive Athlete of the Week honors.

On the offensive end, Sam Comer '24 and Ahmoni Jones '24 combined for 30 of the team's 69 points. The bench also continues to impress, scoring 23 points in the contest.

The Wabash team put the nail in the coffin on DePauw's dreams of winning the conference this season, when they made the 28 mile trip to bash the Dannies 69-61 on their own home court. After the game DePauw fell to 11-8 (6-4 NCAC). Vinny

Buccilla '25 led the way with a blazing 15 points off 60% shooting.

Swimming and Diving

The swim and dive team competed in a long weekend of dual meets from Friday, January 19 to Saturday, January 20. Wabash went 1-2 over the weekend, matching with three division I opponents in IUPUI, University of Evansville and securing a win against Eastern Illinois University.

Eddie DaMata '26, Justice Wenz '25, and Dane Market '26 scored first, second and third-place finishes in the 100-yard breaststroke during the meet against IUPUI. In the same meet, Ethan Johns '25, Quinn Sweeney '27, John Allen '26 and Daniel Streeter '27 recorded first-place points in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

The Little Giants will have a short break to prepare for the annual NCAC Championships on February 14-17 at Denison University.

Track and Field

Wabash finished third out of eight teams at the Friday Night Spikes meet hosted by Rose-Hulman, only losing to Rose-Hulman and Millikin University. The Little Giants had three individual first-place finishes. Will Neubauer '25 secured first place in the 800-meter run, recording his season-best time. Brayden Curnutt '25 claimed a victory in the 3,000-meter run, with Joe Barnett

'24 not far behind to secure second-place in the race. In the field, Quinn Sholar '26 finished first in the weight throw.

The Little Giants will travel to Wittenberg University on January 27 to compete in the Steamer Showcase.

Tennis

Tennis had the first chance to face an opponent in the spring season when they matched up against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on Saturday, January 20 at Collett Tennis Center. The boys were happy to be back at it again, as they roared their support for teammates despite playing a stereotypically stifled sport.

Despite starting with struggles in doubles, the team was able to take the match— or would have if the contest had counted towards their season. Augusto Ghidini '26 and Cole Shifferly '26 were able to catch a win at Doubles-1, but Doubles-2 and Doubles-3 were not so lucky. But scrimmages are meant for growth not immediate success.

"Doubles wasn't exactly what we wanted to see," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "But with a situation like a scrimmage, any feedback is worthwhile. So I think, even though we played up to the standard that we want to see from our doubles this year. We find out a lot about what we've got to get better at."

In singles the team found plenty of success. Shifferly won his Singles-1 match and Tharakesh Ashokar '26 was able to capture a win in a tie-breaker at Singles-3. It was performance that required a lot of resilience which was the take-away from the match and a theme of the past few seasons

"The biggest thing I was very happy with was our response after not playing well in doubles," said Bickett.

The team will spend a weekend on the road from February 3-4 when they face Luther College and Augustana University.

Wrestling

Wrestling hosted the Wabash College Invitational on Saturday, January 20, as the Little Giants competed against Indiana University, University of Indianapolis, Mount St. Joseph, and Huntingdon University. The meet featured no team scoring, but the team recorded 26 top-seven finishes as well as three individual champions. James Day '26 finished the day 3-0 with a tech fall and two pins to secure the 125-pound weight class title. Arlie Benson '26 won two matches at 133 pounds to win the title and Jesse Herrera '26 scored 2 early pins before winning 2-0 in the final match to take home the 165-pound title.

The team will travel to the University of Indianapolis to compete against the Greyhounds on Friday,

January 26.

Volleyball

The volleyball team took over at Rockford University on Friday, January 19, sweeping the Regents 3-0, securing their first win of the season and giving head coach Ashaur Baker the first collegiate win of his career. The two teams traded blows in the first game before Wabash went on a 13-6 scoring run to take the victory 25-17. The Little Giants dominated the second set, winning 25-15. The team never trailed in the third set, but had to weather a final rally, tying the set at 24-24. Will Beikes '25 put Wabash up one with his third kill of the night, and the team sealed the deal after an attack error by Rockford. Jackson Leeper '25 led the team with ten kills, and BawiBawi Thang '27 not far behind with eight kills. Beikes recorded 28 assists against the Regents, adding to his Wabash record in assists.

During the match, Beikes surpassed 1,000 career assists.

The team will travel to Chicago on Friday, January 23 to face-off against Concordia University.

JCU joins NCAC cont'd

As their premiere graduate, JCU can boast Don Shula, former head coach of the Miami Dolphins and the most-winningest coach in NFL history.

This expansion will shake up the athletic landscape of the conference, as John Carroll is expected to immediately rank among the top teams in the NCAC for multiple sports. The university sponsors 11 men's athletic teams: baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling. Similar to Wabash, they also have a successful club rugby team.

"We are excited to join the NCAC, because it offers John Carroll the opportunity to compete against and partner with vibrant institutions that have developed stellar reputations academically and athletically and also draw stu-

dents from a national footprint," said John Carroll University Director of Athletics Brian Polian.

Wabash athletics teams can look forward to a few changes right away. The first of these will be another bus ride to Ohio every year. The next change is a much harder path to winning the NCAC in almost every sport. The conference has added another top-notch athletics department and Wabash will have to overcome that in the coming seasons.

For tennis, an extra team will mean that one of the nine teams (Hiram doesn't have a men's tennis team) will not fit into the eight-team tournament bracket. For other sports with an eight-spot tournament, where there are already nine teams, there will be no important changes other than an extra team finishing early each season.

Sports like basketball and football are adding another team that will bolster their chances to receive an at-large bid for the NCAA tournament.

The NCAA DIII Men's Football tournament consists of 32 teams. The winners of 28 of the NCAA conferences — including the NCAC — receive automatic bids just for winning their conference. This leaves just four spots to be given as at-large bids, which is chosen based on strength-of-schedule. This means that many teams who would otherwise be good enough to compete in the playoffs don't make it in because they finish second in their conference. Basketball works the same way, except there are 64 teams in the tournament with 20 at-large bids available.

While it makes sense for John Carroll to join the NCAC, the big-

ger question is why they left the Ohio Athletic Conference (OAC) in the first place. Along with how John Carroll meets the academic profile of the conference, there are a few athletic reasons for the move.

The Blue Streaks have won the OAC all-sport trophy in their last eight seasons, meaning this transition to the NCAC might be partially motivated by the desire for stronger in-conference competition.

Another explanation would be that the Blue Streaks, who have been the historical runner-ups in the OAC for football — almost always falling behind the University of Mount Union — have made the move to make it easier for their football program to win conference championships. Mount Union has been the most successful Division III football program since

the first DIII national championship was played in 1973, winning 13 national championships (eight of those coming since 2000), the most of any college or university. Given the difficulty of receiving an at-large bid to the NCAA football tournament, it is possible that the move from the OAC to the NCAC reflects the university's desire to find a conference where their football program can compete for first place to receive an automatic bid to the NCAA tournament.

So come 2025, Wabash fans can expect to offer the Blue Streaks the same warm welcome they give to every other team in the conference with plenty of loud crowds and tough competition to show that despite most of its members residing in Ohio, the NCAC belongs to Indiana.

JCU

- Baseball finished 28-17 and was ranked SEVENTH in Region VII.
- Basketball is ranked THIRD in the nation for Men's basketball.
- Cross country placed FIRST in Great Lakes Regional this season.
- Football finished SECOND in their conference, just behind the nationally second-ranked University of Mount Union.
- Swimming & diving finished first in OAC in their last seven seasons.
- Soccer program was ranked SECOND in Region VII.
- Track & field program sent FIVE individuals and TWO relays to the NCAA DIII Outdoor Championship and finished THIRD in team scoring.
- Wrestling program finished FOURTH in the regional tournament last season, just one spot behind Wabash.
- Rugby finished 13th/18 in the men's small college division in Rugby nationals.

Wabash

- Baseball finished 24-18 last season and was unranked in the region.
- Basketball has been in and out of the national rankings this season.
- Cross country finished 10th place at the Great Lakes Regional this season
- Football finished SECOND in the NCAC
- Swimming and diving finished FOURTH in the NCAC last season.
- Soccer was not ranked this season.
- Track & field sent TWO runners to the NCAA DIII Outdoor Championship last season, and the team did not place.
- Wrestling finished THIRD in the regional tournament last season.
- Rugby finished THIRD in the men's small college division in Rugby nationals.

Sights of the Indiana University Natatorium



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

Wabash competed against IUPUI on January 19, 2024 in the IU Natatorium. The natatorium, completed in 1982, is the premiere swimming venue in Indiana. The venue has hosted multiple U.S. Olympic Trials: diving in 1984, 1988, 1998 and 2008 and swimming in 1996 and 2000. The location has also hosted the 2009 USA Swimming World Championship Trials in 2009. Wabash finished with 83 points, losing to the Jaguars 203 team points. The 200-yard freestyle relay of Ethan Johns '25, Quinn Sweeney '27, John Allen '26 and Daniel Streeter '27 recorded first-place points in the meet.

Countdown to the Conference Championships

A tough weekend prepares swimming for season finale

NICK WANGLER '27
SPORTS WRITER

A three-meet weekend against a slate of Division I opponents revealed the swimming & diving team's plans to hit the ground running when they enter conference play in just under three weeks.

IUPUI was the first team to face Wabash over the weekend. The Little Giants traveled to Indianapolis on Friday, January 19 for dual meet against the Jaguars. The team would end up falling 83-203.

Then on Saturday, January 20, the Little Giants showed they could handle tough competition as they competed against Eastern Illinois and the University of Evansville where they split the meets 1-1, beating EIU. This result showcases the toughness this team has shown all year, no matter the competition.

This week, *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Swim and Dive Coach Will Bernhardt to discuss the team's success and what to work on heading into the conference championship.

The Little Giants currently sit in a mix for a third-place finish in the

conference with Wittenburg, DePauw and Oberlin. The team's pre-season goal was to finish third in the conference, only behind Denison and Kenyon, and their chances are looking good if they compete well in the conference championship. The Little Giants are proud to be in the chase of this goal with strong performances from the entire team.

"We're trying to align ourselves to start catching those two schools," said Bernhardt, "That was our preseason goal."

To achieve their goal, work must be done before the championship. Swimmers must keep themselves healthy on top of critiquing anything that may cost them in the end. According to Coach Bernhardt, focusing on the details is what the team will be working on heading into the conference championship.

"The starts, returns, the breakouts, just all the small things that when you're in the middle of the season, those are the things that you kind of give up on the easiest because you're so tired," said Bernhardt.

With the regular season in the rearview, there were certainly some swimmers that stood out over the year. This year's team is younger than usual, so freshmen have had to step up in order to help the team compete.

"The starts, returns, the breakouts, just all the small things that when you're in the middle of the season, those are the things that you kind of give up on the easiest because you're so tired."

- Coach Bernhardt

Quinn Sweeney '27 and Nicholas Plumb '27 have caught many people's attention with their high placements this year. Sweeney '27 even captured NCAC Men's Swim and Dive Athlete of the Week last week, while Plumb '27 has consistently shown his talents with multiple high placements.

"The genuine love I feel from my teammates every day keeps me motivated to keep getting better each day," said Plumb.

"We all do a great job of holding each other accountable in and out of the pool," said Sweeney.

Some leadership from upperclassmen has set this team up for success heading into the last stretch of the season. Justice Wenz '25 has battled through adversity this season but continues to impress in the water with help from the coaching staff who emphasize the mental side of swimming.

"Their [the coaches] intentionality in instruction goes beyond the physical aspects of the sport, as they actively assist us in navigating the mental obstacles that accompany our roles," said Wenz '25.

With the conference tournament approaching, the Little Giants will need to focus on the details to set them apart from the rest of the competition. Working hard day in and day out is the only way for the team to achieve their preseason goals. In just under three short weeks, your Little Gi-

ants will compete in Granville, OH in the NCAC Men's Swim and Dive Conference Championship, where they are ready to attack the competition swimming beside them.

"The genuine love I feel from my teammates every day keeps me motivated to keep getting better each day."

- Nicholas Plumb '27

Wabash swim will take on the North Coast Athletic Conferences from February 14-17. With three solid meets behind them, the team should be ready to make big splash against even the best in the conference meet.

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PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

McRoberts: NCAC basketball top-10 players ratings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
STAFF WRITER

Now that we are in the heat of conference play, the dust has settled on the first edition of the NCAC Player Rankings.

1. Jamir Billings, JR, G, The College of Wooster



Billings brings trickery to both sides of the ball, compiling a stunning 6.4 APG in addition to 3 SPG, while also leading his team in rebounds and compiling double digit points each game. He is the best.

OVR - 97 (93)
Playmaking - 98
Steal - 95 (93)
Overall Shooting - 84 (79)
Rebounding - 83

97
OVR

2. Trey Killens, JR, G, Wittenberg University



Killens has elevated his game and his team with it. Leading the charge for the current conference leaders, Killens averages 19 PPG and 3.8 APG on the back of stellar shooting numbers across the board.

OVR - 95 (85)
3PT - 94 (87)
Draw Foul - 93
Playmaking - 88
On Ball Play - 87 (83)

95
OVR

3. Ahmoni Jones '24, SR, F, Wabash College



Ahmoni Jones is the leader for a Wabash team that has been struggling mildly to this point in the year. Despite the team's offensive doldrums, he remains one of the most dynamic scorers coming up big when it matters most.

OVR - 92 (95)
Pump Fake - 99
Clutch - 93
3PT - 91 (88)
Mid-Range - 86 (98)

92
OVR

4. Ricky Radtke, JR, F, Denison University



Radtke stands as the most dominant pure forward in the NCAC, as he combines elite post scoring, shooting 60% in his career, with a formidable offensive and defensive presence on the boards.

OVR - 91
FT - 66 (58)
Inside Scoring - 94 (96)
Def. Rebounding - 86 (89)
Paint Defense - 85 (84)

91
OVR

5. Ashton Price, JR, G, The College of Wooster



Potential Newcomer of the year Ashton Price has stayed hot with the rise of conference playing, raining 3s on opposing teams to the tune of 15.1 PPG. Playing a whopping 33.6 minutes per contest, he is playing a pivotal role in the revival of the Fighting Scots this season.

OVR - 89 (82)
3PT - 95
Mid-Range - 83 (80)
FT - 81 (78)
Playmaking - 85 (75)

89
OVR

6. Vinny Buccilla, JR, G, Wabash College



Buccilla was the conference leader in 3PT shooting last season with 43% as well as cracking the top 5 in overall shooting at 53%. However he has struggled mightily to this point in the season with numbers below 15% and 28% respectively.

OVR - 89
3PT - 92
Layup - 89
FT - 70
Streakiness - 99

89
OVR

7. Trent Jakacki, JR, G, Hiram College



The lone ranger that is Trent Jakacki retains solid play despite abysmal team play. He keeps putting the ball in the net from anywhere on the court. He's got a better shot at the all-conference team than his team does at getting 2 conference victories.

OVR - 86
Shot Creating - 89
Endurance - 94
Off Rebounding - 82
3PT - 90

86
OVR

8. Gefen Bar-Cohen, JR, F, Kenyon College

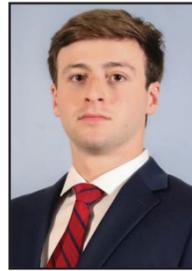


Bar-Cohen is a true double-double threat every week for the Owls, shooting 58% on the season while averaging just over 6 RPG. If he perfects a free throw, he could become a force in the post.

OVR - 86
Inside Scoring - 89
FT - 71
Athleticism - 82
Off. Rebounding - 92

86
OVR

9. Darren Rubin, SR, G, Denison University



Rubin was Second-Team All-NCAC last year as a guard who was competent outside the arc as a scorer and distributor, while also finishing at the line. He has started the year injured.

OVR - 86
3PT - 81
FT - 89
Finishing - 88
Toughness - 75

86
OVR

10. JJ Gray, FR, G, Oberlin College



Freshman of the year candidate JJ Gray has provided a powerful offensive presence to a building Oberlin unit. He stands alone above 90% FT% in 68 attempts with a 50% FG% and 37% 3PT%. He could be a future NCAC star.

OVR - 85
FT - 92
Mid-Range - 90
3PT - 87
Playmaking - 83

84
OVR



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