

132nd Monon Bell Classic moves to Muncie

ABBAS HAKIM '29
STAFF WRITER

For the first time since 1922, the Monon Bell Game won't be decided in Crawfordsville or Greencastle. The 132nd meeting between Wabash and DePauw will move to Ball State's Scheumann Stadium in Muncie on November 14. The venue change was due to construction on DePauw's Blackstock Stadium, which is being demolished as part of an \$80 million rebuild that won't open until fall of 2028, leaving no on-campus venue big enough to host the rivalry.

if it were played in a parking lot with nobody there. Two great teams playing for pride, regardless of where it's at."

Gilbert's Little Giants are coming off a 9-2 season and a strong NCAC finish, though the conference season ended with a disappointing loss on home turf to the Tigers. All bell games are full of emotions, and he knows the venue adds a wrinkle to an already intense week.

"I'd pretty much rather go to the Sahara Desert than go to Greencastle."

- Football Head Coach Jake Gilbert '98

said Peeples. While Muncie will be the site of this year's match-up, it could have been an even bigger venue. Lucas Oil Stadium was floated as another neutral-site option. Peeples said he and Wabash College President Scott Feller discussed the idea with DePauw leadership, hoping to fill the lower bowl in Indianapolis. The main problem: one of the country's largest marching band competitions occupies Lucas Oil for the same weekend every year. The Bell Game will, of course, return to campuses once DePauw's new stadium opens and after Wabash hosts next year, but though the change in venue was very much out of their hands ultimately, Gilbert and Peeples are choosing to emphasize the uniqueness of what a change in venue can be.

"This is probably a one-off in our lifetimes," said Peeples.

"If the draw was big

enough, it may entice people who aren't alums to come see this game and grow it nationally," Gilbert said. "We'll see how this one goes."

With a stadium more than twice the usual size, both men had the same message for the Wabash community: show up.

"We need to pack those stands," said Gilbert. "We need every Wabash alum out there to come back for this one."

Peeples is also cautious of empty seats. "If we don't take a big crowd to Muncie, it'll be disappointing for our team," Peeples said. "I'm not as worried about what our crowd is going to look like. I know how passionate our alumni are about Little Giant football." He added, half-joking, that Ball State's red and white colors won't make the game feel so distant. "We've got Wabash colors there, so I think we're going to have a great turnout."



The Monon Bell Game will be held on a neutral site for the first time in over a hundred years at Ball State's Scheumann Stadium.

Bell buses take shape

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

There is little unprecedented ground for a 132-year-old game. But with The Monon Bell Game being moved to Muncie, Indiana due to construction on DePauw University's Blackstock Stadium, the student body of Wabash College finds themselves facing 89 miles worth of unprecedented ground. This being the first time in over a century that the rivals have matched up on a neutral site and the challenge of how students will get there has been raised and a consortium of funds has risen to meet it.

Fraternity leadership were blessed with an email from Vic Lindsay, the Coordinator for Student Success, on September 17, informing them that in addition to \$8,000 from his office and donations from alumni, the Big Cookie Fund would be kicking-in funding to help pay for charter buses for students. The Big Cookie Athletics Spirit Fund, named after was established to provide resources for fun activities for students, especially at athletic events.

"On behalf of Student Life, the Student Senate, Sphinx Club, IFC and IMA, I'm proud to report that the Big Cookie Fund has agreed to help pay for buses to ensure that all interested students have a safe and convenient ride to the Monon Bell Game in Muncie this November," said Lindsay. "Many students have expressed concerns about safety and logistics. We've heard those concerns and are ready to meet the need."

In response to the increased price of the Bell Game, the Student Senate has been cutting food budgets for regular club meetings in order to balance the budget. With the intervention of the Big Cookie Fund, some of the stress on the budget has been alleviated.

"The funding of buses and high priced tickets has put a strain on the student senate," said Student Body Treasure, Zachary Wagner '27. "We have been fortunate enough that Vic Lindsay has used some of the Robinson's fund and the Big Cookie fund to help mitigate the effects of this large toll on the senate budget. Although this has put a strain on the student senate, the senate is still in a great place financially."

One can't help but be thankful for the stability and support that students receive at Wabash when they look 27 miles down south to see how the budget can tighten quick.

"While budget requests for this semester amounted to \$159,055, limited funds from the DePauw administration meant DSG [DePauw Student Government] could fulfill only half of those requests, leaving 40 out of 79 student organizations who received less than half of their requested

budget, and out of those 22 who received nothing," said Evelyn Zachary the Assistant News and Sports Editor of the DePauw student newspaper in her article, "Administrative budget cuts, student government procedures leave over a quarter of student organizations without funding."

The message is clear: the grass is not always greener. With the budgetary stability that Wabash has set itself up with, this is a minor speed bump, not a road block. This only highlights the importance of this game for both schools.

"The Bell Game is a central moment when we're one Wabash, and the micro-communities that often identify us become secondary," said Lindsay. "I think showing up to the game together, as one Wabash, is an incredibly powerful act. When a fleet of buses pull up and a red-and-white army pours out of them, everyone in Muncie will know that Wabash has arrived and that we mean business."

When making the decision to ride the bus, it's incredibly important to consider all factors of this year's festivities. This is not going to be a typical Bell Game. With the increased distance students may be less willing to drive and it may be harder to find transportation, especially with the threat of higher gas prices looming over our heads.

"Providing transportation addresses accessibility concerns for students without cars, as well as safety and convenience for everyone," said Lindsay. "Gas is expensive. Parking costs money. Who knows that the weather will be. Buses help solve all of these problems while also making a statement of our intent as a community."

The use of the Big Cookie Fund has not been granted lightly. They want to ensure that the funds are used for things that students need and will use.

"I currently have over 300 students who would like to or need to ride a bus to the game, along with another 80+ requests for guest spaces," said Lindsay. "That's certainly a record for Wabash transportation, if they all show up. Between now and November, we need students to continue to affirm those commitments, so we don't squander valuable resources like the Big Cookie Fund."

With the increased distance, comes increased risk. More traffic, lots of drinking on the day and potential hazardous weather. For all students planning to travel to the game, making plans sooner rather than later seems prudent. If you think there's any possibility that you may end up resorting to unsafe transportation, save yourself the trouble and get on that bus.

Wabash Glee Club prepares for their Homecoming concert

PHILLIP BARRE '30
STAFF WRITER

With the Wabash Glee Club's upcoming concert rapidly approaching, members have spent their time rehearsing, practicing their individual parts and getting comfortable performing together. The concert takes place on September 26, giving the group only a short amount of time to prepare and put everything together.

Cheryl Everett, the Glee Club's pianist and accompanist, said she is "over the moon" about the upcoming concert and has been impressed by what she has seen from the group this year. Everett described the Glee Club as having a great energy and said that this is the best she has ever seen the club. She said the group has been working hard and that the excitement around the concert has been noticeable during rehearsals.

One of the biggest challenges for the students is the amount of time they have had to prepare. Everett said the Glee Club members have only had about four weeks to get ready for the concert. Even with the short

preparation time, she said she believes the students are doing "perfect" and that everything is coming together well. She also said the students have put in the work needed to prepare themselves and that their effort reflects the morals, ethics and expectations of Wabash College.

For the newer members of the Glee Club, including freshmen, the experience has also been a chance to become comfortable with the group and learn how everything works. Everett said the freshmen are doing quite well despite having to adjust quickly. With rehearsals moving quickly toward the concert, the students have had to learn their music while also learning how to work with the rest of the group.

Glee Club director and advisor Juan Hernandez said that preparations for the concert have been going well. Hernandez described the upcoming performance as exciting and said that everything has been moving very quickly. Because the Glee Club has only had a few weeks to prepare, time has been of the essence.

Part of that prepara-

tion includes dividing the singers into different vocal sections. The Glee Club works with different voice parts, including tenors, baritones and basses, which allows students to practice the music that fits their individual voices. Hernandez explained that separating the singers into these sections helps create more organization and keeps rehearsals more prepared and focused. Different sections also have opportunities to practice separately before bringing everything back together as one group.

According to Hernandez, the fast pace of preparing for the concert has actually helped the members gain confidence. He said that the students already have experience with singing and performing, so they are not starting from nothing. Instead, the goal is to build on what they already know and help them become more confident in their abilities.

For Hernandez, however, Glee Club is about more than simply being able to sing. He said singing and making music can help students become smarter and more well-rounded

people. He also wants the club to create a sense of teamwork and vulnerability, where students feel comfortable putting themselves out there and being involved with the people around them.

That welcoming environment is something Hernandez said is important to the Glee Club. Students do not already have to be accomplished singers to join. Students who believe they can sing, as well as students who may not have much singing experience at all, are welcome to participate. Hernandez also emphasized that the club welcomes students from different nationalities, ethnicities and backgrounds.

The Glee Club's preparation for the September 26 concert is therefore not just about learning songs. It is also about bringing students together, learning how to work as a team and becoming more comfortable performing alongside one another. With only a few weeks of preparation, the members are continuing to rehearse and build the confidence they need before stepping in front of an audience.



Glee Club performing at their March concert in Salter Hall with Juan Hernandez directing and Cheryl Everett on piano.

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International Center recieves much needed makover



DANNY VALLOS '30
STAFF WRITER

If you walk across the street from the TKE house, you'll come across the International Center. It is a distinct white house with a fancy red door. It didn't always look this good upfront, however. For years, the building has sat somewhat quietly on the periphery of the daily student experience, blending into the residential landscape rather than standing out as a premier destination for student life. But behind that red door, a significant transformation is taking place, one that asks us to reconsider how we support a crucial segment of our campus community.

The driving force behind this revitalization is alumnus and Trustee Munawar Ali '93, who originally came forward with the idea to the College's administration. As a former international student himself, Ali understands the unique transition of coming from abroad to a tight-knit college campus. Coming to a new country requires a space where students can feel completely grounded. But while the International House, as it has been known, has served students the best it could — thanks to the work of individuals like Director of International Programs Amy Weir — the space limited the ways that students could use it. Having reconnected to Wabash through an appreciation of President Scott Feller's emphasis on creating community on campus, Ali saw his opportunity to make an impact by turning the building into something more akin to the other student safe spaces on campus.

"In my mind, community is created by the sharing of ideas, knowledge and experiences

together, and I just felt like that was missing, which is what led me to pitch the idea to the school," said Ali.

The transition from a former residence into a student center is not always a seamless one, and for a long time, the building lacked the warmth and functionality required to serve as a true home away from home.

"We are hoping to turn this place into a more dedicated space like the Latino Community

educated within the wider community.

"Sharing knowledge and experience together is what was missing," said Ali.

Imagine a space where domestic and international students regularly cross paths, share meals, cultural traditions and global perspectives on a Friday afternoon. That is the kind of vibrant, interactive environment this project hopes to spark. However, this current phase is just the beginning. The renovations are more of an experiment to see if the concept is flourishing and worth truly investing into to make a dedicated building down the line. By breathing new life into the existing structure, the College can gauge student interest, measure foot traffic and see if the campus embraces the Center as a core part of student life. If it succeeds, it could pave the way for more investment



Center and Malcolm X Institute for Black Studies," said Weir.

Due to the Center's long history as a residential house, some alumni may not even recognize it in its current state — many will know it as the house of legendary professor of religion Hall Peebles (known to many students as simply Yahweh).

"This is a way to rebuild the image of the International Center," said Weir, "so the international center can build a new reputation of its own."

This lofty goal, to elevate the building's purpose from a simple residential house or advising space to an active, educational hub, will require work from all parties. But it is worth it because it centers on having the ability to hang out and get students more involved and

down the line.

The renovations are projected to take only a few months. The turnaround time is fast, especially given that it was only this spring that plans were formally introduced. The work crews are focusing on the essentials: improving the cosmetic appeal, making the space functional, ensuring it is handicap accessible and upgrading the rooms so that students can make the space their own. Ultimately, this project is about equity and representation, but it's also about claiming part of Wabash's story.

"Wabash has a rich history of reaching out across the geographical boundary, even before being global became vogue," said Ali. "We were already on that vein. So, we just need to claim it. I think we need to claim it and own it and celebrate it. That's all it boils down to."

International students make up around 10% of the student body and contribute in no small part to the functioning and learning that happens at the College. With the fancy red door now serving as a welcoming beacon, the International Center is finally taking its rightful place as a cornerstone of our community.

Flu vaccines available ahead of flu season

Wabash Student Health Services



Wabash Always Fights... The Flu!

Keep Our Community Safe and Healthy!
Flu Vaccine Clinics at Wabash:

Tuesday, Sept. 29 from 4 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 7 from 4 to 7 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 22 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Other Vaccines Available!

Allen Athletics Center Lobby
Just inside the main entrance

Vaccines administered by Franciscan Immunizations — bring your insurance card!

COURTESY OF THE STUDENT HEALTH CENTER

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

Flu season is right around the corner beginning on October 1. Last year was a virtual epidemic for campus. 145 students found themselves sick enough to go into the health center, and one in three of them had the flu. Numbers like that at a school just shy of 900 is bad enough, but Nurse Practitioner.

Ahead of this the school is partnering with Franciscan Health to give vaccinations on September 28 as well as October 7 and 22. This will be on the first floor of the Allen Center. Franciscan nurses bill insurance, so students should bring a paper or digital insurance card. Tdap, a tetanus booster, will also be on offer. Many seniors are becoming due for that shot if it has been long enough since childhood.

"14 percent of students got a flu shot last year, which was up from 11 percent the year before," said Amidon. "So, not enough to make a difference. Just take our word for it. This will help you have a healthier winter. It is miserable to have the flu."

It is important to note also that it takes about two weeks post-vaccination to build up immunity. The first round of vaccines hopes to provide this before the midsemester break. Furthermore, vaccines are less effective the further out from the actual season, making it the perfect time to get it right before it starts. The most important form of prevention, however, is to wash your hands.

"All over campus women's restrooms have their soap replaced more often than men's," said

Amidon. "Think about how few women there are percentage-wise. Campus Services says there's some bathrooms where they hardly ever have to replace the soap. We are seeing a little bit of a vomiting bug this lately, and that's entirely preventable by good hand hygiene."

To boost turnout, Dean of Students Scott Brown will buy chicken wings for the independent dorm or fraternity with the highest percentage of students vaccinated. Sign in under your living unit to get credit. Particular concern goes out to athletes, who outside of tight living spaces spend time on long bus rides and inside locker rooms and have the most to lose from total physical depletion in illness.

"The flu can cost you more than just a weekend. Often you can suffer up to a full week or more," said Nurse Rene Cook. "It is a huge inconvenience to miss class, exams, labs, work and or practice for that long. You could fall behind significantly."

The vaccine doesn't guarantee protection either, but it usually makes the illness much milder according to Amidon. Last year students who came in simply because their roommates had it could be cleared if they had the vaccine. Otherwise tamiflu is deeply useful. Vaccination is especially important for students with weakened immune systems, asthma and those who live with someone who has those conditions.

The flu typically peaks in February and continues into spring break. Getting this out of the way early is a strong investment in your success.

Wabash channels creativity with Homecoming banners

Left to right and top to bottom: Phi Gamma Delta, Lambda Chi Alpha, Delta Tau Delta, Tau Kappa Epsilon, Independents and Beta Theta Pi



COURTESY OF LANDON HUBER '27

FEATURES

Campus unites for fourth annual Mental Health Mile

The Mental Health Mile occurred on Thursday, September 17, to raise awareness for men's mental health. Numerous Wabash faculty, staff, alumni and students participated in the event to show support.

Photos by Will Duncan '27







Welcome Home, Wabash

 [wabashclubofindianapolis](#)  [facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis](#)

2026 Homecoming award winners

Presented by the National Association of Wabash Men, these 11 individuals are being recognized for their contributions to the college. Prepared by Wabash Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Communications & Secretary of the College Jim Amidon '87.

Alumni Awards of Merit

Gregory E. Birk '77 — Frank W. Misch Distinguished Alumni Service Award

Greg Birk, an economics major and Beta from St. Charles, Illinois, was a standout student-athlete at Wabash, earning four letters each in cross country and track, serving as a two-time captain and receiving the J. Owen Huntsman Award. He served the College professionally for more than a decade, including as Director of Admissions from 1987 to 1996, and helped build Wabash into a national cross country power alongside Coach Rob Johnson H '77. Now living in Switzerland, he has been a Class Agent since 2002, serves as 50th Reunion Gift Chair for the Class of 1977, and organized the 2025 Red Pack and Track reunion at Big Bash that drew more than 100 harriers and trackmen back to campus —

Honorary Alumna, NAWM and Engagement Awards

Jennifer Evans H'15 — Honorary Alumna, Class of 2015

Jennifer Evans, mother of Jack Montgomery '15, is being welcomed as an Honorary Alumna in recognition of her transformative leadership at Wabash. An accomplished executive with more than two decades in banking and corporate finance with degrees from UC-Berkeley and Northwestern's Kellogg School, she made history as the first woman elected to the Wabash College Board of Trustees. As Chair of the Student Development Committee, she reshaped the committee's charge to include mental health, wellness, nutrition and leadership, and she co-founded the Wabash Women's Collective, which now raises more than \$100,000 annually for students. Beyond Wabash, she serves as executive director of the Tankersley Family Foundation, is a leader with the Clyfford Still Museum and the Women's Philanthropy Institute, and is an accomplished textile-collage artist whose work celebrates the strength and resilience of women.

as well as leading the fundraising drive to name the Red Pack and Track Suite in the new Little Giant Stadium.

Eric L. Hiser '86 — Frederick J. Urbaska Distinguished Civic Service Award

Eric Hiser, a Classics major and Lambda Chi Alpha brother from the Class of 1986, has built a distinguished career in environmental and natural resources law in Phoenix after graduate study in forestry and environmental studies at Duke University. His most enduring impact, however, lies in Scouting: as past president of the Grand Canyon Council and national standards chair for Scouting America, he has shaped how camps across the country are accredited, and he helped lead the "Leave No Trace" initiative, ultimately creating the National

Medal for Outdoor Achievement — the highest recognition a Scout can earn for outdoor excellence. He has also served as past president of the Arizona Trail Association and the Santa Fe Railway Historical Society, embodying a lifetime commitment to wild places, young people and the communities that depend on them.

Eric J. Rowland '86 — Clarence Jackson Distinguished Career Achievement Award

Eric Rowland, an economics major and Beta Theta Pi brother from the Class of 1986, has built a distinguished architectural career that is reshaping Midwestern skylines and campuses. After earning a master's in architecture from the University of Illinois, he rose from principal architect at Rowland Design to Chief Architect and now principal at

Luminaut following its merger, with a portfolio ranging from IU Health facilities to fraternity and sorority houses — including the Beta Theta Pi Tau Chapter house at Wabash. Named to the IBJ's "40 Under 40" and a Stanley K. Lacy Leadership graduate, he has served as board president of the Design Arts Collaborative, board member of Indiana Landmarks, president of the Kiwanis Club of Indianapolis, a leader at St. Luke's United Methodist Church and a two-term member of the NAWM Board of Directors.

John Andrew "Andy" Walsh '14 — Jeremy R. Wright Distinguished Young Alumnus Award
Andy Walsh graduated magna cum laude from Wabash as a psychology major and Phi Beta Kappa inductee, distinguishing himself as a three-sport, five-letter

student-athlete, campus leader across multiple organizations, and recipient of the Frank Hugh Sparks Award. He went on to earn master's degrees from Ball State University in clinical mental health counseling and sport and exercise psychology, followed by a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of North Texas. Now Director of Sport Psychology and Athlete Mental Health at Purdue University, he oversees mental health and sport psychology services for the University's student-athletes, coaches and staff. A loyal donor for 14 consecutive years, he frequently returns to campus as a guest speaker and volunteer, particularly in support of student-athlete mental well-being.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Board of Trustees Member Jennifer Evans H'15 and husband Jack Tankersley. Jennifer is being welcomed as an Honorary Alumna due to her transformative leadership at Wabash, including being the first woman elected to the Board of Trustees and chairing the Student Development Committee.

Honorary Bachelor's Degrees

Stephen J. Jay '63

A biology major and Delta Tau Delta brother, Steve left Wabash after three years to attend the Indiana University School of Medicine, graduating with honors in 1966 before completing residencies in pulmonary medicine at Texas Southwestern Medical School and Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas. In 1976 he became a Professor of Medicine and Public Health at the IU Medical School, and in 1999 he was appointed the founding chair of the Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health at IU, a role he held until 2006. A prolific author on public health, bioethics, tuberculosis and tobacco control, he has been recognized with the American Lung Association's Auerbach Award and the Tony and Mary Hulman Health Achievement Award. Since joining the Global Health Initiative Advisory Committee in 2014, he has generously shared his expertise, connections, and vision with Wabash, embodying the ideal of scholar, healer, leader and humble servant.

Thomas D. Stocks III '73

A mathematics major and Beta Theta Pi brother, Tom left Wabash after seven semesters when Northwestern University's prestigious MBA program admitted him early, departing before he his class graduated. He built a distinguished 45-year business career, beginning in finance and treasury roles at Chicago-based Fortune 500 companies and rising to senior operating positions, lead director roles and chief executive posts, earning a strong reputation in private equity investing, board leadership, and turnaround consulting. Among his most notable roles, he served as the 17th President of St. John's Northwestern Academies in Delafield, Wisconsin, where he helped raise more than \$23 million and established a freestanding foundation to strengthen the 137-year-old institution. Today he serves as a senior advisor to Julius Capital and, alongside his wife Marie, has made his home in Crawfordsville, where the couple actively supports local nonprofits and are fixtures at Wabash College events.

Michael B. Weeks '65

A biology major and Lambda Chi Alpha brother, Mike's Wabash career was cut short during his junior year when he tragically lost both parents within weeks of each other. He completed his undergraduate degree at Indiana University in 1966 and earned his medical degree from the IU School of Medicine in 1970. After an internship and residency at Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco and private practice in Sonoma, he returned to Indiana in 1977 to join Saint Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis and to serve as Assistant Professor at the IU School of Medicine, spending the rest of his career healing patients and teaching physicians at Saint Vincent and later Eskenazi Hospital. His devotion to Wabash never faded — he attends nearly every reunion, Homecoming, and Monon Bell game — and his legacy continues through his daughter, an IU medical school graduate, and his grandson Andrew Weeks '27, a current Wabash senior with plans to become a physician.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Thomas Stocks III '73 is recieving an Honorary Bachelor's Degree from Wabash College. Stocks, a Crawfordsville native, has an extensive and impressive career in finance, and regularly contributes to local nonprofits and Wabash College events.

'24 Hours 24 Miles': IFC hosts men's mental health fundraiser

JOSEPH BOGGS '30
STAFF WRITER

This week has been bustling with activity and competition as the campus teems with Little Giant spirit. Homecoming has come upon us, and, just as quickly as it came, it is already nearing its inevitable end. As the week winds to a close, we get the opportunity to look back at more than just another successful week of spirit-



COURTESY OF KYLE FOSTER '27

Brothers of Phi Kappa Psi stand on the chapel steps before running their sponsored mile. The IFC event raised over \$4,000 in total.

ed competition and Homecoming pride. We get to celebrate all of the support that students, fraternities, staff and others were able to raise for a cause of ever growing importance: mental health.

Standing on the memories of true Little Giants, Wabash College has made great inroads in raising awareness and providing resources to better the mental health of those who step foot on our campus. Still, the job is never finished. This year, students once again sought to further this effort. The Interfraternity Council (IFC) and the Sphinx Club brought together extraordinary participation from students in supporting mental health and the Wabash community.

The IFC hosted the first ever mental health 24/24 marathon this past Saturday, September 19. On Saturday at 12:00 a.m. the first of 24 miles began, with one mile being run every hour. Throughout the course of the following 24 hours, students from all over campus came to put in a mile. Additionally, each fraternity sponsored a mile by contributing 100 dollars, bringing the support of brothers to the event. Soon enough, the miles added up and

the twenty-fourth and last mile began at 11:59 Saturday night.

The marathon is a clear step up from the mental health mile earlier in the week.

"It is a little bit more of a challenge," said Kyle Foster '27, president of the IFC, who ran or walked every mile. "That is what Wabash is all about, just being presented with challenges and taking it in stride, one step at a time."

More than just the challenge, the event allows the IFC to expand upon existing fundraising efforts during homecoming, allowing Wabash to raise as much as possible. The donations raised through the mental health marathon combine with the donations from the yearly fraternity charity competition, with the goal for this homecoming season being \$10,000. As of the morning of Wednesday, September 23 Wabash has raised \$5,286. Of all events to host, the IFC brought a unique change to the standard methods of raising awareness for mental health. IFC Treasurer Colton Cooper '28 highlighted the intentionality of choosing such an event.

"Events like this break the barrier of presentations to a new realm of spreading awareness,"

said Cooper. "They allow people to come together to support an idea in a way that usually does not happen."

All of the proceeds from the fundraiser are split between two mental health foundations that sit close to the Wabash community: the Evan R. Hansen Foundation and the Carriage House in Fort Wayne (on behalf of Leslie's Hope), both standing in support of mental health and its struggles.

"I think that everyone can account that at some point they have dealt with some mental health struggles," said Foster. "It just shows the care for our community and our brotherhood that people are willing to come out and show their support."

In a week full of competition, an event that brings everyone together is what Wabash needs.

With such a focus on mental health, the message from our student leaders could not be more clear: Wabash is intent on ensuring that mental health does not go forgotten. This message is one of great importance to Wabash. Needed now, perhaps more than ever before, is the assurance that nobody stands alone whether they are a Wabash man or not.



COURTESY OF KYLE FOSTER '27

Brothers of Delta Tau Delta stand on the chapel steps before running their sponsored mile.

"You never know when one of your brothers are going to be going through a mental health struggle or crisis," said Cooper. "The more people talk about it, the easier it is going to be to engage or start that hard conversation with someone you're close with."

Wabash is determined to win the battles against mental health. Wabash always fights, and one thing we will always fight for is greater mental health.

Homecoming: Wabash becomes home for freshmen

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

At most schools, homecoming is almost all for the alumni. Students might get a few more parties or an easy win out of it, but ultimately, the goal is for alumni to reconnect to their alma mater. While alumni certainly return to Wabash each year for Homecoming in droves, the week also features current students heavily, particularly freshmen. While the traditions for first-year students have certainly changed over time — no more bonfires the size of a building — freshmen activities during Homecoming are still a vital part of what it means to be a new member of the student body. “No matter where one lives, Homecoming is a rite of passage that provides a shared experience not only among freshmen themselves, but one that connects past, present and future generations of Wabash men,” said Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch ’99. “To me, Homecoming is a pivotal point when freshmen transition from new students to Wabash men.”

The buildup began in earnest on Sunday evening, when the Sphinx Club — which organizes, runs and judges the Homecoming festivities — emailed the schedule of events, point totals at stake in each event and the official criteria for Chapel Sing. By the next morning, freshmen were working to organize themselves to succeed with the chants and banner competitions, held Tuesday and Wednesday respectively. Both the chants and banners require freshmen to think creatively about how to praise Wabash and poke fun at their opposition on the gridiron before the football game on Saturday.

The most heavily awaited, and highest rewarded event is on Thursday morning, when Chapel Sing commands the attention of everyone on campus. After weeks of practicing “Old Wabash,” anticipation is high.

“I’m looking forward to Chapel Sing the most because we have the Glee Club concert right after, so I’m just going to see how bad my voice will be,” said Mann Vats ’30, a freshman at Kappa Sigma.

After Chapel Sing, upperclassmen can garner some points for their house with Senior Dodgeball, but Saturday is when it all comes to a head. Freshmen make wooden floats and act in creative skits to, once again, boost Wabash spirit and sap the opponent’s. Finally, after a week’s worth of fundraising for charity — with this year’s proceeds supporting the Evan R. Hansen Legacy Fund at Wabash and The Carriage House of Fort Wayne (on behalf of Leslie’s Hope) — the winner of Homecoming 2026 will be announced at halftime of the football game. Phi Gamma Delta is hopeful it can repeat successfully as Homecoming Week victors.

“I am excited for it,” said Cameron Lattimore, a freshman at Phi Gamma Delta. “I hope I get no sleep because it’s all going to be worth it when we win it. So that’s all that matters.”

Already busy Wabash schedules usually are pushed to the breaking point during Homecoming; there’s often a mix of excitement and anticipation among freshmen of the challenges that lay ahead.

“I’m looking forward to all the events: putting together the banners, floats, the chants and all that stuff,” said Gabe Fink, a freshman at Phi Kappa Psi. “I’ve heard from some brothers in the house that, in the past, there has not been a lot of time for sleeping this week. So we will be relying very heavily on caffeine.”

Still, even with the demands on their free time being greater than usual, it’s not pointless work that the freshmen are up to. In many ways, they’re laying the foundations of friendships that will last them all four years at Wabash, and hopefully decades beyond that.

“You build so much brotherhood this week,” said Sphinx Club Vice President Ayden Salpietra ’27. “You’re together constantly, working on projects. You’re doing everything together, and it’s for a bigger cause. It’s such a deep-rooted tradition, and the fact you get to work with your pledge class on it all week is just a beautiful thing.”

The skills they learn through Homecoming don’t just bring them closer with their friends in their fraternities and dorms, but

it also marks a crucial turning point during their first semester of college. They’re not just fresh faces on campus anymore — they belong to a community.

“Homecoming activities promote the embodiment of Wabash: school spirit, teamwork, brotherhood, community, belonging, camaraderie and living unit pride,” said Welch. “For freshmen, Homecoming isn’t so much about coming home, but rather Wabash becoming home.”

Many men will return to Crawfordsville this week in a reflective mood, eager to catch up with pledge brothers and swap stories with classmates. But even for the students, who have yet to leave campus permanently, seeing the newest class of Wabash men begin their journey stirs up fond memories.

“I don’t think I took my time for granted, but it makes me want that time back a little bit more,” said Salpietra. “Seeing these guys go through it and get so close while doing it makes me just a little reminiscent.”

"Resident Evil" is deviously detailed



COURTESY OF TMDB

CHRISTIAN HANNA '29
STAFF WRITER

"Resident Evil" is written and directed by Zach Cregger, and stars Austin Abrams as Bryan: a medical courier transporting a high-importance package to Raccoon City General Hospital. On his fishtailed-path through the snowstorm, he comes across a strange woman, and his might rapidly shifts into something more than he bargained for.

Video game tie-in films have been getting a bad rap for a good while. 1993 gave us the, to put it lightly, unfortunate release of "Super Mario Bros," followed even more unfortunately by "Mortal Kombat," "Tomb Raider" and of course "Resident Evil" in 2002. It goes without saying that these films are bad, or at the very least sub-par; in both the departments of storytelling and in any attempt at being a faithful adaptation to its source material. However, in the 2020s, gaming fans have been eating well with series like "Arcane," "Cyberpunk: Edgerunners," "The Last Of Us," and feature films like "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," "Sonic the Hedgehog," and "Iron Lung." All that said, in terms of filmography, the "Resident Evil" intellectual property (IP) has been dragged through the Hollywood gutter; featuring six saddening Paul W.S Anderson movies, 2021's "Welcome to Raccoon City" and a Netflix series that nobody remembers. Needless to say, the community surrounding this IP has every right to be skeptical, and after seeing this latest entry, it's safe to say they can put their skepticism to bed.

As a character, Bryan feels relatable because his dialogue feels completely natural. Never once while watching did you think he's doing something uncharacteristically stupid or something that you wouldn't do given the same situation. He's a flawed, scared guy put into an impossible situation, and it's felt within every scene. For instance, when he's given his assignment at the start of the movie, he takes the job because it pays double the normal rate. Every step after

that, consciously or not, is taken because he needs the money — which doesn't make him a bad person, it makes him more relatable in that he's doing a good thing for his own benefit.

The action in this movie very much feels like a video game; bodies don't so much "hit the floor" as much as they do explode like water balloons. Weapons feel weighty, and gunshots feel as explosive as they ought to in real life. On the topic of guns, the movie makes a conscious effort to keep ammunition counts constant, and uses it as a source of tension. Bryan doesn't have a bottomless well of magazines topped off with a nine-millimeter magazine with thirteen rounds to shove into his stolen beretta. To add to this tension, Bryan is consistently a terrible shot, and wasted several rounds in the process of taking out a member of the undead.

Speaking of the undead, they are a standout in this movie. Scrub-tier zombies sprint with arms outstretched toward their prey, and none of them go down easy. When they finally are taken out, there's no guarantee they'll stay down, as the movie also shows them to be capable of morphing together into a gradually larger and larger ball of torsos, arms, legs, eyes and tendrils, with one of these amalgamations becoming the "big bad" chasing Bryan throughout most of the 95 minute runtime.

An unexpected yet welcome aspect of this movie is actually the humor, and it meshes surprisingly well with the overarching tragedy it presents: a dying city ripping itself apart from the inside-out. Humorous moments never overstay their welcome, and usually are not the result of a marvel-style one-liner, instead coming from character interaction and, again, relatably frustrated self-talk from our main character.

The icing on this cake is the sheer volume of references to both the gameplay and story of the "Resident Evil" franchise. In this way "Resident Evil" rewards, rather than demeans, the loyalty of its preexisting fanbase. Small things like the print on a box of twelve-gauges, a typewriter in a study and the overall form the infection takes, are just a few of the onslaught of references this film has in store. Overall, tickets to this movie are money well-spent. If you have no interest in the Resident Evil IP but just want a gnarly good time at the cinema, watch this movie. If you are already a fan of the games and want another slice of bioweapon pie, you are doing yourself a disservice by not watching. "Resident Evil" is intelligently written, fun all the way through with some fantastic jumpscare and deserves a spot on your yearly halloween watchlist.

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



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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.

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

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‘Thy loyal sons’



Jackson Ray '28

Student Body President

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Gentlemen, It's that time of year again. The air is beginning to grow cold, classes are picking up and a new Homecoming is upon us. Homecoming is a special time here at Wabash. Homecoming represents the culmination of fall social efforts for students, faculty and alumni organizations alike. For those Wabash men who find themselves on campus this week, they will observe a great buildup to Saturday's football game. Each night, the freshmen's cries of our fight song grow louder; more paint and wood are used to assemble banners and floats and most importantly, campus becomes prepared to gather and compete.

I am not the first to emphasize that competition at Wabash is unlike any other. From Greek life to Geed living, competition forms a key part of Wabash culture. This competition keeps Homecoming fun, exciting and invigorating. This infectious spirit which will blanket the campus this week not only entertains us, but makes us better. This week we become better runners, better artists and for many tired freshmen, better singers. For generations of Wabash men, these events will form the backbone of the Wabash experience. At the heart of these experiences is competition. It is in these moments of fierce competition that pledge brothers become true brothers and roommates become lifelong friends. Socrates is quoted as saying, "Men cannot know each

other till they have eaten salt together." It is these moments of competition where Wabash men eat salt together and build our brotherhood. Competition is a central part of the Wabash homecoming experience.

However, homecoming is more than just this competition. Homecoming represents the gathering of all Wabash men, current and former. It represents the breakdown of the very social ties that create this competitive spirit.

So how do we balance these two ideals? Can we encourage competition while all being on the same team?

Absolutely. This becomes clear through a view of the Wabash experience in its entirety. Homecoming introduces freshmen to their first campus family. Competition feeds and builds these bonds in a way that few experiences can. However, as an upperclassman, a very different bonding experience takes place. What we come to realize is that the whole of Wabash is our campus family. Through classes, dinners, athletics and clubs, the social boundaries of Wabash begin to break down to reveal the true brotherhood. After we graduate, those social boundaries dissolve nearly completely. In less than a decade we no longer approach each other on the street and ask if you are a TKE, a Delt, a Lambda or a GDI, we ask if you are a Wabash man. It is in this spirit of what it means to be a part of the Wabash family that thousands of alumni will return to campus on Saturday. I implore all of my Wabash brothers to enjoy late-night competitions, enjoy eating salt together, enjoy Chapel Sing and enjoy competing. However, do not confuse competitive tradition and campus tribalism. As you compete, never forget that the tradition of Homecoming outlines one thing above all else: a gathering of our largest brotherhood. So when we pump our fists in the air this week, we must ensure that all of Wabash's loyal sons remain in our hearts.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Three freshmen stand proud with their W's during Chapel Sing on September 22, 2022.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

STRETCH THOSE HAMMIES

Hi-Five to the IFC and Sphinx Club for their joint effort for the '24 Hours 24 Miles' event this past weekend. You boys up for a marathon next year?

THE FINAL FOUR

Hi-Five to the freshmen of Theta Delta Chi for placing 2nd in chants while only having four freshmen. Somehow they were louder than the air raids we hear across campus.

INDIANAPOLOSS COLTS

Lo-Five to the Colts for starting yet another season 0-2; is it too late to tank for Arch Manning?

"THEY'LL NEVER SEE IT COMING..."

Lo-Five to the students who stole from fraternities during chants. Just because it's Homecoming Week doesn't mean you need to be coming home with a new composite.

REPORTING THE REPORTERS

Lo-Five to the Trump administration for banning CNN from reporting from the White House. If he didn't like CNN's coverage, wait until he finds out about The Bastard...

Dueling Opinions

Who was more popular? The Beatles or Michael Jackson

The Beatles: Timeless dominance



Jimmy Hawksworth '28

Reply to this opinion at
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John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr. You probably recognize these names, even if you don't listen to or know anything about The Beatles. This opinion piece is very simple: The Beatles are more popular than Michael Jackson. The debate between who's more known, Michael Jackson or The Beatles, is a timeless discussion. The fact that Jackson and The Beatles are still listened to and talked about to this day says a lot about them as artists. I'm not here to discuss Jackson's successes, I'll leave that to Ben Church '28. My job is to tell you why The Beatles are more popular than Michael Jackson.

Let's talk about the discography of The Beatles to start. From their first album in 1963, "Please Please Me," to their last in 1970, "Let It Be," the Beatles accumulated an insane amount of fame. This created the term "Beatlemania," which was the intense, frenzied fan obsession surrounding the band from 1963 to 1966. These included fans surrounding their limos and planes when they arrived for a concert, barely letting them out and proven facts of their concerts smelling like urine, due to women not wanting to leave to go to the bathroom. A perfect example of Beatlemania is on YouTube, when they sold out Shea Stadium in 1965. I would highly recommend watching that, to see how obsessed fans were over the band. The reason I say this is because most Jackson fans will say that people would do the same or even sell their limbs to see him perform. While that is true, The Beatles had a similar occurrence happen to them and, I would argue, an even crazier, more obsessed fanbase. Another story that makes the band even more likeable is their U.S. tour in 1964. While performing in Jacksonville, Florida, they realized that the audience was

segregated. The Beatles refused to perform until the promoters allowed whites and Blacks to sit with each other, making them one of the first bands to play in front of an unsegregated audience in the American South.

One of the most difficult questions to answer is what the best metric is to measure popularity. Personally, I think looking at total records sold is a good place to start. The Beatles have sold a total of 500-600 million total records, while Jackson has sold 400-500 million. On top of that, The Beatles were able to sell more records while being a band for 10 years when Jackson released music for 39 years. When looking at number one hits, The Beatles had 20 to Jackson's 13. To the people that don't listen to The Beatles that much, I guarantee you know more songs than you think you do. Here are some popular movies that include a Beatles song in them: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Boss Baby," "The Social Network" and "Minions (2015)." Songs such as "Blackbird," "Here Comes the Sun," "Hey Jude" and "Let It Be" are some of many timeless Beatles songs that are still played everywhere today. Even though they broke up way back in 1970, the longevity of their music is what makes them one of the most popular bands in modern day.

They also played a role in influencing so many other bands after them and how people made music. As their albums progressed, they experimented with various instruments and sounds no one had ever heard before. On the album "Revolver," the song "I'm Only Sleeping," features the first backwards guitar. Another song, "Rain," was the first song to have backwards vocals, which comes at the end of the song. This shows that they created so many different sounds and music ideas for generations to come.

Lastly, The Beatles have some of the most iconic album covers in music. Someone who doesn't listen to The Beatles will recognize the famous Abbey Road cover, as well as Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band. So, when it comes to influence, longevity and popularity, The Beatles clear Michael Jackson. I strongly believe that The Beatles music will never fade and you will hear their songs for the rest of your lifetime. If you aren't an avid Beatles listener like me, sit down, put your headphones on and listen to their timeless masterpieces.

The 'King of Pop' beats the 'Fab Four'



Ben Church '28

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A few days ago, a friend of mine and I got into an argument that I still have not let go of. He believes The Beatles are more popular than Michael Jackson. I believe the contrary. I know that picking against The Beatles is a bold move as they are seen by our parents and grandparents as the band that changed music forever. But when you look at the numbers, and at who people are still listening to today, Michael Jackson comes out on top.

Start with sales. Beatles fans usually point to estimated sales of 500 to 600 million records, compared to Michael's 400 to 500 million. The problem is that those are estimates, and Guinness World Records itself says sales figures for this era "vary wildly from source to source." What is actually documented is this. "Thriller" is the best-selling album in history, with over 67 million copies sold worldwide according to Guinness World Records, and the Recording Industry Association of America certified it 34 times platinum in the United States alone in 2021. No Beatles album comes close to that, and it is worth mentioning that Michael did it as one man, not four.

Popularity also means reaching people

all over the world, not just in America and Britain. The Beatles stopped touring in 1966. Michael Jackson's HIStory World Tour played 82 shows across 35 countries on five continents and drew 4.5 million fans. That is a huge number of people who paid to see one performer in person, many of them in countries where The Beatles never played.

The strongest part of my argument, though, is what is happening right now. As of this week, Michael Jackson has around 90 million monthly listeners on Spotify. The Beatles have around 35 million. That means Michael is being streamed by more than two and a half times as many people, most of them far younger than the fans who bought his records in the '80s. Then look at the box office. This past spring, the biopic "Michael" came out, and by July it had crossed \$1 billion worldwide, making it the first biopic in history to reach that mark. Most of us were in elementary school or younger when he died in 2009, yet our generation helped make his movie one of the biggest of the year.

I will admit The Beatles changed music, and they influenced almost every artist who came after them, Michael included. But being influential and being popular are not the same thing. Popularity is about how many people love you, where they are, and whether they keep loving you decades later. Knowing this information, the answer is clear. The Beatles may have started something, but Michael Jackson took it further than anyone. He was such a fan of their work that in 1985 he bought the rights to most of their songs. It is hard to argue a band is more popular than the artist who owned their catalog.

MJ or the 'Fab Four'?
Scan to cast your vote!
Results will be posted
in next week's issue.



Revenge of the Little Giant journalists



Tim Padgett '84

Reply to this opinion at
tpadgett@wlrnnews.org

If I were to sum up the history of journalism at Wabash College in one word, it would be “Revenge.”

In 1984, as a Wabash senior, I applied for a reporter internship at a large Indiana newspaper. I thought I had a pretty good crack at it.

For two summers I’d been an intern reporter at Newsday in New York, one of the country’s largest dailies. I’d also interned at ITV News during a semester in London. I’d written and edited for *The Bachelor* from the day I arrived at Wabash, and I’d just been accepted to the journalism master’s program at Northwestern University’s Medill School, one of the nation’s top three.

But this particular newspaper turned me down. At first I thought: OK, there must have been strong competition; that’s the way the steno pad flips. Then I asked the internship director what was lacking in my application.

“Well,” he said, “we just didn’t feel you had the journalism classroom instruction we look for.”

That was the lamest answer he could have given me – and an insulting one.

Liberal arts Wabash doesn’t offer a journalism major, so of course I didn’t have any journalism classroom instruction on my résumé. Or rather, I did – when you consider that actually doing journalism on deadline for professional news outlets is the best classroom instruction there is.

What really frosted me, though, was the internship’s clueless dismissal of why I’d had a measure of student journalism success without classroom instruction.

Journalism is a consummate liberal arts pursuit – it emphasizes rigorous inquiry, broad subject engagement and sharpened communications skills – and that made Wabash in many ways as good a J-school as Northwestern.

I’m certainly not knocking journalism education; some of the best colleagues I’ve ever worked with were journalism majors.

But some of the best were also English, history, political science, economics, philosophy or Spanish majors. One especially gifted reporter I hired when I was TIME’s Latin America bureau chief had been a physicist at Cambridge. Turns out explaining the collapse of black hole matter and explaining the collapse of Venezuela’s economy aren’t all that unrelated.

Still, in those days media bosses carried a J-school bias that liberal arts graduates had to battle whenever a

newsroom position opened up.

And too many continue to follow that prejudice today – including the Indiana newspaper that swatted me down 46 years ago, which has yet to accept any of the talented Wabash journalists who’ve since applied for its summer internship.

I know how talented they were because, as a Bachelor alumni adviser, I’d followed their work. I recall one Wally, who got rejected some 20 years ago, had produced some of the best reported and written news features you could ask of a college journalist.

And yet, did I mention revenge? The Revenge of the Little Giant Journalists?

You may have heard the Indiana Collegiate Press Association (ICPA) named *The Bachelor* the state’s best small college newspaper this year. Oh, excuse me, for the past four years – and eight of the past 18.

It took home a remarkable 21 ICPA awards this year, including Best News Story – you know, the sort of thing you can only learn to do in a journalism course, right?

The Princeton Review ranked *The Bachelor* one of the 10 best college newspapers in the country this year – in the country – and one of the top 30 for the past eight years.

But the revenge doesn’t stop on campus.

Given Wabash’s size, its roster of alumni media leaders would turn any J-school dean’s head.

For starters, Peter Prengaman ’98 –

the Associated Press’ Global Climate and Environment News Director and its former Brazil director – is one of the country’s best climate change journalists.

Brandon Mitchener ’87 and Ben Kesling ’02 were award-winning Wall Street Journal correspondents. The late Frank Reynolds, who attended Wabash before serving in World War II, was ABC’s network news anchor; his son Dean ’70 was an acclaimed ABC and CBS correspondent. Ryan Smith ’03 is an Emmy-winning CBS news producer. Ron Recinto ’87 is Yahoo Online Media’s Detroit editor.

I hope my own career has been a middle finger flashed at journalism’s anti-liberal arts gatekeepers.

It’s back on campus, though, that Wabash shines in a way that counts most amid today’s toxic First Amendment atmosphere.

A large university down the road – one of the J-school institutions Wabash journalists are so often told they can’t measure up to – was recently embroiled in a national censorship controversy.

Administrators had tried to shut down student news reporting, allegedly because they found some of it uncomfortable.

The university denies the charge. Either way, that doesn’t happen at Wabash, especially not under administration counselors like Jim Amidon ’87.

It’s one more reason Wabash journalists have been able to exact rich revenge on those who call us “uninstructed.”

AI and the Gentleman’s Rule



Elijah Wetzel '27

Editor-in-Chief

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“Why are you at Wabash?” This question comes from many people. From your friends back home, in fraternity interviews and in any number of other situations. But how many times have you asked yourself, “Why am I really at Wabash?” Not everyone’s answer will be the same, of course, but in our better moments, I imagine most of us replying with something like this: “I am at Wabash because I want to push myself to do hard things, to surround myself with great people and place myself in situations for growth.” Someone who embodies this has a moniker within our community: A Wabash man. Our collective desire to be Wabash men is codified in our Gentlemen’s Rule. “The student is expected to conduct himself at all times, both on and off campus, as a gentleman and a responsible citizen.” It’s explicit, comprehensive and demands obedience. When it is implemented effectively and paired with just consequences, the Gentlemen’s Rule is one of our greatest strengths. But like with any muscle, thoughtful maintenance is needed to prevent atrophy. So it is appropriate to consider threats to the Rule’s health. I’ll share my concerns about one here.

I’m worried that our use of AI will lead us away from the Gentleman’s Rule if we are not careful about how we use it. I’m no luddite, but I think there are contexts where we should resist AI’s intrusion,

or at the very least have the presence of mind to ask ourselves seriously what we might be giving up by using it unconsciously. That is my aim. To ask the Wabash community — to ask you — to pause and reflect on when AI use may harm more than help, and to diagnose what that harm may be. Because it could be that what is at stake is our very self-definition — what does it mean to be a Wabash man, formed by and subject to the Gentlemen’s Rule?

If you’ve read anything about the risks of AI, you’ve likely come across the term “cognitive offloading.” Cognitive offloading is the use of external resources, physical actions or devices to reduce mental effort and process information. We do this all the time, like when we make to-do lists or use a GPS to find our destination. Cognitive offloading is not bad by itself. But AI is not a pad of paper. It probably already is the most powerful tool humans have ever created. Here’s the thing. If we cede too much of our cognitive function to AI, we’re not just offloading, we’re surrendering. “Cognitive surrender” is when you stop really thinking at all. Can you think of a time where you’ve asked an AI agent a question, and when it produced an answer you thought, “Oh wow, I guess I could have come up with that myself?” That’s cognitive surrender.

Perhaps that seems like a pithy example, but consider this. Last month, the New York Times reported this: “Last year, a small study from M.I.T. showed that individuals who wrote in partnership with AI chatbots recorded lower brain activity while they wrote, compared with those who worked without chatbots. The writers who used AI struggled to remember what, exactly, they had written, and felt little ownership over their work.” The manner and the extent to which we use tools, espe-

cially powerful ones like AI, impacts our brains’ capacity to do hard things. Surely, our ability to recognize and overcome adversity is one of the greatest opportunities we have.

Doing hard things is worth it on its own, but it is especially valuable in light of the growth they produce. I think this is one of the core lessons Wabash teaches us and that Wabash men internalize. Subjecting yourself to things that push your limits creates growth, and quite often that growth simply would not have happened without facing what seemed like an impossible obstacle at the time. A good friend of mine taught me this saying a couple years ago: “You can’t grow in your comfort zone, and you can’t have comfort in your growth zone.”

I am not saying that using AI precludes one from doing hard things. Actually, I think good implementation of AI will spur us on to harder, more challenging tasks and therefore more personal growth. But my worry is that we won’t implement AI that way in our academic work, that we’ll instead create habits of responding to difficult assignments or questions by turning to an AI model.

We should be ultra-vigilant about this potential pitfall because we’re actually very poor judges of when we’re learning and when we’re not and learning sticks more when it requires effort. We may think we’re understanding things when really we’re simply interacting with them on a shallow, impermanent plane. Again, AI use does not preclude deep learning, and it can certainly catalyze it, but to ensure we don’t deceive ourselves out of one of the Gentleman’s Rule’s core ideas — that adversity leads to personal growth and wisdom — we must be judicious about the manner of our AI use.

I’ve laid out a couple of reasons why subjects of the Gentleman’s Rule should think carefully about AI use. AI has the

potential to dissuade us from confronting difficult situations, thereby denying ourselves avenues of growth. I’ll share one final reason why the Gentleman’s Rule should prompt AI discernment among us.

Each of us has an immensely profound gift to self-reference. We can reflect on our motives, question our existential place in the world and glean subtle, sacred mysteries from ostensibly insignificant things around us. We take this for granted usually, but in moments of clarity, I think we can all recognize the awesomeness of this ability. In my mind, it gives us an advantage that AI currently cannot match, and (again, in my opinion) never can match.

Here is the further beauty we must not miss. Our ability to self-reference, in the way that I briefly and unworthily described it, can be done in community. Wabash, we can live humanely by self-questioning, praising, mourning, understanding and believing together, as one. Not as a totally unified, neutral singularity, but a conflicting — yet caring — community of self-referential individuals. Perhaps the greatest harm AI could render us would be to isolate us from each other; to turn us away from others when we have questions, need comfort, search for wisdom or crave friendship. If we run to it, instead of each other, in our moments of want, we will have lost the ethos of our College.

The Gentleman’s Rule requires this collective self-reflection. Its meaning is not exact; it must be interpreted and divined, pored over and questioned constantly. It demands we answer, on our own account, who a Wabash man is and how he ought to live.

This is an answer we can only receive in communion with others. *Sine qua, non.*

Close the yearbook



Will Duncan '27

Photo Editor

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A conundrum that would’ve never been considered as an issue a decade ago is now eroding and staining the integrity of professional and collegiate sports. The now unfortunate pattern that is happening more and more each day: collegiate athletes who get drafted to the pros, take a look at the money they’re making, and realize they could make more if they stay in college. Yes, athletes can make more money in college than in the professional leagues, thanks to the Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) policy that the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) finally put into fruition on July 1, 2021. At first, the idea made sense. If an obvious future professional athlete was already a star while still in college, why not allow them to make some money off of it? Maybe it’ll help them stay in school for multiple years and deter the “one-and-done” mindset many basketball players have had in the past. And, in some ways, it’s worked, but maybe too well.

Now, we’re getting scenarios with athletes such as Trey Kaufman-Renn. Kaufman-Renn had been a standout for the Purdue Boilermakers for years, so much so that he was selected 59th overall in the 2026 NBA Draft by the Minnesota Timberwolves. A considerable win for a guy who many analysts projected to go undrafted. Here’s where you’d be wrong. Kaufman-Renn appealed for a shocking 6th year of NCAA eligibility, citing the NCAA’s “five-for-five” eligibility model (according to ESPN). To put it simply, Kaufman-Renn argued that under this model, which was just passed in June 2026, he wouldn’t have had to “burn” one of his eligible years redshirting. As I write this, he is currently back in the transfer portal, awaiting a team to pick him up for year 6 of college basketball. This example is just a microcosm of a sports world now infected with athletes choosing to turn away a professional contract to seek more playing time and better payouts in college sports.

To be blunt, I hate it. I hate what college sports are becoming. NIL is good in principle, but allowing drafted players to return to college makes no sense to me. I can’t understand a world in which NIL and the opportunity of the transfer portal become more enticing for athletes than professional sports. Though I admire the NCAA allowing athletes to make life-changing money that they deserve, I do wonder if the integrity of the game is lost. In my mind, if you declare for a professional draft, regardless of the

sport, and get drafted, you should never have the option to go back. It should be a calculated risk that, if installed, would limit the number of college kids attempting to make the preemptive jump. These athletes are simply playing a game of seeing which league benefits them more. The integrity of the leagues is getting tarnished by allowing athletes to go back and forth between the two, like they’re both fine being sidechicks.

But to be clear, I can completely see why athletes would do this. Just because you get drafted as a late second-round pick doesn’t mean you’re guaranteed a substantial contract or even a roster spot. If they can play a bigger role, get more money and continue to get an education if they go back to school, then I can’t blame them. However, there has to be a line somewhere. College athletics was never supposed to be a professional minor league that allows players to bounce like they’re getting called up

to The Show. For the longest time, there was a clear difference between what you could get in college and how much more you’d be able to get once you turned pro. Yet, with the addition and ramifications that NIL has brought in, that line has been made extremely blurry. These college athletes don’t feel the same necessity to “make it to the league” when a majority of them can make more money by simply staying in school.

To me, it makes the dream of getting drafted feel like a temporary pit stop rather than the end goal. College sports won’t ever be what they once were, and maybe that’s not entirely bad. I’m all for athletes getting money and recognition for their work, but a boundary is desperately needed. Getting drafted, wearing the team gear of a professional team, should mean something. If college athletes continue to have free rein in the portal, the integrity of sports will soon be entirely lost.

Request for opinions

Have an opinion on campus culture or a hot take to share? Write an opinion piece!

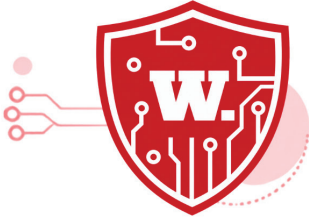
If interested, contact pdhawksw28@wabash.edu

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Hard



WABASH

CYBERSECURITY CLUB

BASIC SECURITY HABITS

POINT 01

USING UNIQUE PASSWORDS
Reusing passwords can leave multiple accounts vulnerable from one small breach.

POINT 02

NOT SKIPPING/POSTPONING UPDATES
Postponing an update leaves you vulnerable to any exploitable vulnerabilities. Update!!

POINT 03

ENABLING 2FA (2-FACTOR-AUTHENTICATION)
Having 2FA codes gives you an extra layer of protection. It can be annoying, but being hacked is worse.

POINT 04

DON'T STAY LOGGED IN ON SHARED DEVICES
When using a computer at a lab, remember to log-off. Staying logged in puts you at risk.

‘These fleeting years’

Crossword and Sudokus by Paul Hawksworth '28

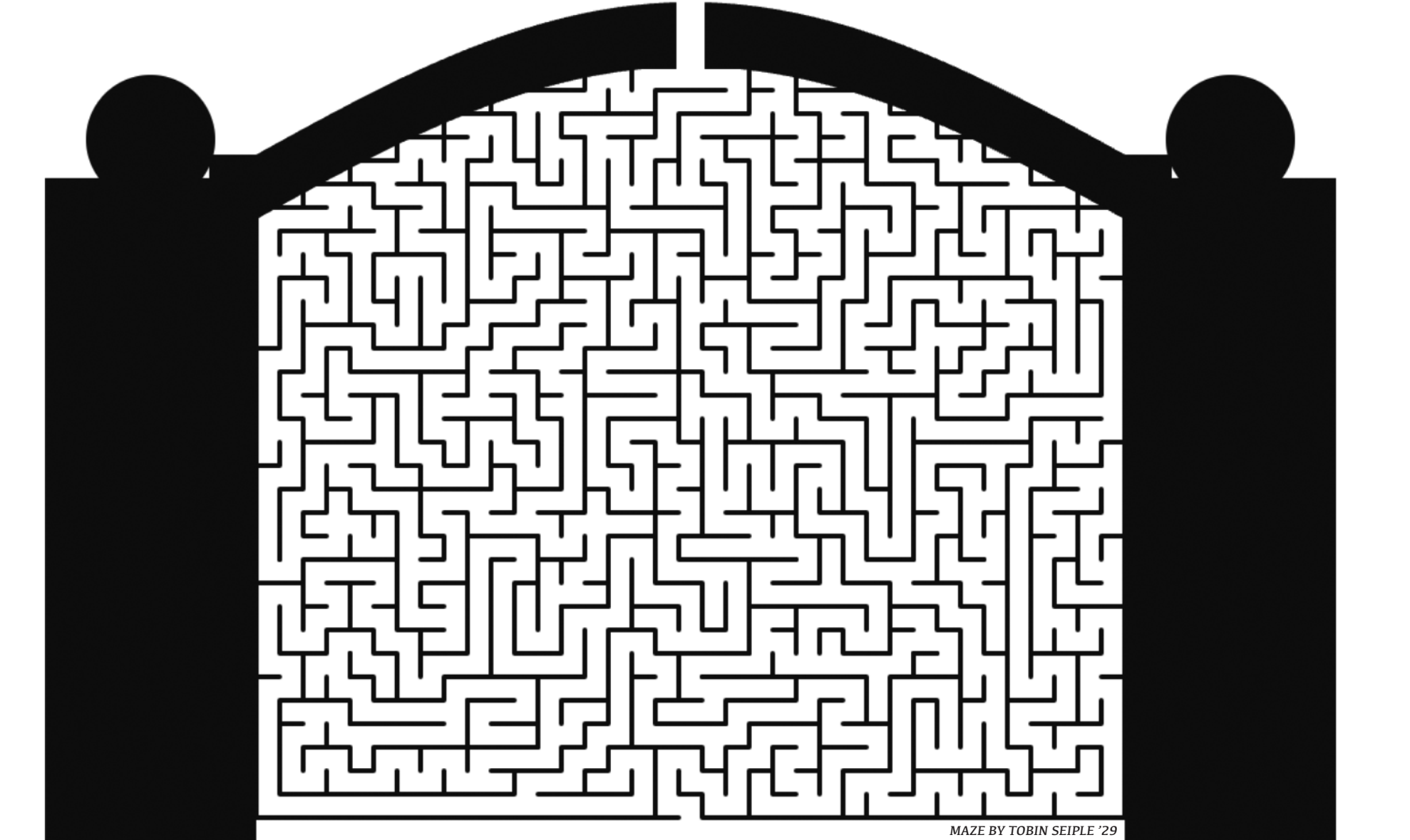
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- Across

 - 1. Fundamentals
 - 5. Some visual FX
 - 8. Historical periods
 - 14. Winnie-the-____
 - 15. Dadaism artist Jean
 - 16. “Sophie’s Choice” Oscar winner
 - 17. Artist’s mixing boards
 - 19. Dress shirt feature
 - 20. Constellation components
 - 21. Large brass instrument
 - 23. Great rage
 - 24. Historic bonfire sleepwear caravan
 - 28. Impreza, for one
 - 31. Try again
 - 32. One ____ kind
 - 33. T. Rex or Stegosaurus, for short
 - 36. Southeast Asian ethnic group
 - 40. Historic all-campus social event
 - 44. City in Japan’s Kansai region
 - 45. In addition to
 - 46. 007 creator Fleming
 - 47. Founded, as a co.
 - 49. Defeat in
 - 52. Historic vocal competition where W’s were shaved into heads
- Down

 - 1. Instagram and YouTube, e.g.
 - 2. Ship
 - 3. Soft drink
 - 4. Himalayan guide
 - 5. Feline
 - 6. Actress Garbo
 - 7. Lorem ____
 - 8. Break free
 - 9. Vacation tm.
 - 10. The Magic, on scoreboards
 - 11. “As You Like It” girl
 - 12. Confirmation, in kitchens
 - 13. Buying binge
 - 18. Old Russian sovereign
 - 22. Business tycoons
 - 25. Karate’s cousin
 - 26. Reason for an Adderall prescription, perhaps
- 27. Tomato variant
 - 28. Manhattan district
 - 29. E.T. ships
 - 30. Crimson tide, familiarly
 - 34. New father’s proclamation
 - 35. Zero, in soccer scores
 - 37. Sleep ____ (decide tomorrow)
 - 38. College sports org.
 - 39. Bloke
 - 41. Squeaks by, with “out”
 - 42. Paper money
 - 43. Desert in northern China
 - 48. Countdown starter
 - 50. Hall of fame slugger Slaughter
 - 51. Mystery novelist Christie
 - 52. E’s musical equivalent
 - 53. “Wreck-It” arcade character
 - 54. Live coal
 - 55. Duke or earl, for example
 - 56. Kills, as a dragon
 - 60. Lower ten
 - 61. Time, en Español
 - 62. Name given to low effort AI content
 - 64. Ahead of, in poetry
 - 65. High card in many card games
 - 67. Congressman, for short

Scan for solutions!



MAZE BY TOBIN SEIPLE '29

Little Giants wipe the floor with Oberlin in 34-7 win

ABBAS HAKIM '29
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College Little Giants earned a commanding win over Oberlin College this past Saturday, September 19. The Little Giants took control early with a 27-0 halftime lead and cruised to a 34-7 victory against the Yeomen at the Austin E. Knowlton Athletic Complex. The win puts the Little Giants' record at 3-0 overall and 2-0 in the North Coast Athletic Conference.

Wabash elected to receive the ball to open the game, a notable change the coaching staff installed specifically for this matchup.

"That was something that we decided for the game to do just to kind of get our names on the board," said Tanner Crouch '28. "We got the energy up early."

The move was quick to pay off. Brand Campbell '27 directed a 73-yard opening drive, spreading the ball to Nick Witte '28, Luke Adams '28 and Keith Jackson '28. Cole Dickerson '28 followed with the first touchdown at 10:50 in the first quarter. Additionally, the defense played a crucial role in Wabash's 27-point win. Oberlin was forced to punt on their first two possessions following stifling tackles from Crouch and William Harris '28. Wabash responded with an 85-yard drive to close the quarter, finished off by a 2-yard Javon Garry '27 touchdown as time expired in the first.

Jackson Gilbert '28 relieved Campbell at quarterback in the second quarter

and was nearly flawless, going seven for seven for 151 yards and two touchdowns - both to Domanic Barnett '28. Gilbert hit Barnett for 18 and 39 yards on a 92-yard scoring drive, then found him again for a 9-yard score to push the lead to 21-0. Camben Singer '28 added two sacks and a tackle to force another Wabash possession.

"We don't let our standard change no matter who's in the game."

-Tanner Crouch '28

With just under two minutes left in the half, Wabash stuffed Oberlin on fourth-and-14 to set up one more scoring opportunity. Gilbert connected with Konner Chase '28 for gains of seven and 34 yards before hitting Barnett with a 31-yard touchdown with six seconds left, sending Wabash to the locker room up 27-0.

"It was kind of a two-minute tempo, and the rain started coming down pretty heavy," said Barnett. "Our go concept was just four streak, and I was on the inside, and it kind of just timed up, and Gilbert threw me a good pass over the middle, and then two guys hit me, and I didn't go down, so I just kept going for

the end zone and dove in."

Barnett finished with a career-high 97 yards and two touchdowns, which were numbers he didn't expect coming into the game. Barnett found his confidence early after missing much of his sophomore season with a broken foot.

"I didn't actually feel too good in warmups," said Barnett. "But definitely after that 40-yard bomb that I caught on that first drive, I was like, 'just keep feeding me for sure. I was kind of in that zone.'"

Much of that chemistry traces back to his relationship with Gilbert, his Sigma Chi brother.

"We first met coming into my freshman year over the summer... running routes together, and we've been doing that every summer since," said Barnett. "He knows my ability, and I know his."

Oberlin got on the board in the third quarter, recovering a Wabash fumble near midfield and driving for its only score of the day. From there, the Little Giants denied any other opportunity. Wabash used the second half to rotate heavily. Crouch estimated the team traveled with roughly 30 more players than usual, and the reserves delivered a late highlight when freshman safety Owen Dorrel '30 intercepted a pass in the fourth quarter. Linebacker Greyson Skeels '29 also came away with what would have been a pick-six, though the play was erased by a penalty.

"That's not on the stat sheet, but

definitely something fun that you really never see," Crouch said. "It was called back because of the penalty, but it was fun in the moment."

The Little Giants closed out the game 34-7.

Oberlin managed just 101 yards on offense. Crouch credited the defense's discipline for never letting up, regardless of score and competition.

"We don't let our standard change, no matter who's in the game," said Crouch. "We don't give up four yards on a first down. We don't not get takeaways. We hit hard."

Wabash returns home Sept. 26 to host The College of Wooster for the College's annual Homecoming game, with kickoff set for 2 p.m. at Little Giant Stadium. Both Crouch and Barnett pointed to the team's 3-0 start and what they learned from the season opener against Hampden-Sydney as reasons for confidence heading into conference play.

Barnett echoed the sentiment, saying the team is more focused on its own execution than on any single opponent.

"We're not gonna play down to our copetition," said Barnett. "We think we really haven't had a really good game yet. We're excited to see where we're going to take off."



Tez Humphry '29 celebrates a sack in the game against Hampden-Sydney College on September 5 at Little Giant Stadium.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27



Nick Witte '28 hits a first down celebration after a grab in the game against Wittenburg University on September 12 at Little Giant Stadium.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Cross Country puts forth impressive result at Gil Dodds Invitational

JOSEPH BOGGS '30
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash College cross country team beat the storm this past Friday, September 18. Originally scheduled for Saturday morning, the Gil Dodds Invitational got pushed up a day due to weather concerns, making for an early trek to Wheaton, Illinois. Despite the last minute change, the Wabash RedPack rolled into Wheaton College ready to race.

With colleges coming from Illinois, Iowa and Wisconsin, Wabash College was the sole college representing Indiana at the invitational. The RedPack finished seventh out of the 19 competing teams. Taking home the win, the University of Chicago took first place overall for the second year in a row. While no conference competitors attended the meet, it was the first 8,000 meter race of the season and an important opportunity to gauge where the RedPack lies in the early season.

Once again, Samuel Vaught '29 led the way for Wabash College, placing twelfth overall out of the 251 competitors. Vaught finished the 8K race with a time of 25:51.5, setting his baseline for the 2026 season. Next to finish for Wabash was Johnathon Loney '28 with a time of 27:22.3, earning himself a 56th place finish and putting himself neck and neck with his results this time last year.

Following Loney came a commanding line of four freshmen, displaying the talent that has been brought to the team. First behind Loney was Austin Baugh, placing 76th with a time of 27:49.7. Only ten seconds back and ten places back, Cooper Knoblauch finished 86th with a time of 27:59.9. Raul Delgado soon followed suit, finishing the race in 112th place with a time of 28:36.0. Rounding off the freshmen point scorers, Malcolm Cruz placed 134th with a finishing time

of 29:11.9.

"They're [the freshmen] excited to learn and they're really adaptive when it comes to coaching," said Evan Shupe '27. "I can't wait to look at the results in a couple years and see those guys absolutely killing it."

Finally, taking the last point scoring position for Wabash, Shupe came across the line with a time of 29:30.7 and placed 145th, putting all seven point scoring Wabash men firmly into the top 150 finishers. Outside the points, Austin Jewell '27 (30:24.7), Kaiden McGuire '29 (30:26.4), Nathan Hollcraft '28 (31:06.0) and Nash Ochs-Wald '29 (31:09.8) finished 168th, 170th, 197th and 199th respectively, rounding off the competing Wabash men.

The Wabash RedPack put forth an impressive result for the first 8K race of the year. Despite the onslaught of challenges in the early season, several times were put up that bested or matched results from this tournament last year. At the same time, the freshmen have once again come in punching, laying a foundation for what is sure to be a strong line-up come the end of the season and after.

"The strategy going into this race was really emphasized on pack running," said Shupe. "We've been training really well together coming into this meet and we really just wanted to be on top of each other in a big group."

The RedPack now set its sights on next week's competition. The team will take its talents down to Louisville, Kentucky to compete in what is sure to be quite the derby. Returning to The Greater Louisville Cross Country Classic at E. P. Tom Sawyer State Park, Wabash College will compete in the 8K-Blue race at 10:15 a.m. on October 3.



Sam Vaught '29 leads the way during the finish at the Grizzlie Invitational in Franklin, Indiana on September 5.

COURTESY OF NICO CLEMENTZ



Johnatahn Loney '28 pushes through the middle of the course at the Louisville Cross Country Class at the EP "Tom" Sawyer state Park on October 4, 2025.

COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Legends of the scarlet: NAWM announces 2026 Athletics Hall of Fame class

Presented by the National Association of Wabash Men, these players and teams are being recognized for their significant impact to the College. Prepared by Wabash Chief of Staff and Director of Strategic Communications & Secretary of the College Jim Amidon '87.

From an improbable November comeback to a wrestling dynasty built one match at a time, the newest members of the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame share a common thread: they shared a Wabash Always Fights work ethic and attitude.

There's a certain kind of athlete Wabash College tends to produce. They aren't always the biggest or the most heralded. They don't always arrive with fanfare. But they leave behind broken records, moments frozen in memory, and a standard that the next generation has to chase. The 2026 Athletics Hall of Fame class is full of those athletes.

2011 Football Team: The Team That Exceeded Expectations



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

Byron P. Hollett Little Giant Stadium hosted a lot of memorable afternoons, but on a November Saturday in 2011, it hosted something closer to a miracle.

Wabash trailed North Central in the second round of the NCAA Division III playoffs. The starting quarterback was out and the season on the brink. What followed was, in the opinion of anyone who was there, the most improbable comeback in Wabash football history — a 29-28 victory engineered by backup quarterback Tyler Burke and played in front of a crowd that couldn't believe what it was watching.

That game was the gem in the 2011 Little Giants' crown. The team ripped through a 10-0 regular season, claimed the NCAC Championship, and fought all the way to the NCAA quarterfinals with a 12-1 mark. Their defense was suffocating, forcing 32 turnovers, allowing just 12.9 points and holding five teams to a touchdown or less.

The Little Giants dismantled DePauw 45-7 in the Monon Bell Game, holding their arch-rivals to just 150 total yards. They ran through Illinois College 38-20 in the opening round of the playoffs. And after the North Central miracle, they met mighty Mount Union — a 14-1 juggernaut that would play for a national championship a week later — and made the Purple Raiders sweat. Wabash lost 20-8. But the Little Giants held Mount Union to 236 total yards, forced a fumble, made four sacks and picked off a pass. The final score doesn't tell the story, but the film never lies.

The Anchor: C.J. Gum '12



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

If the 2011 defense had a heartbeat, it was number 33, C.J. Gum. The powerful linebacker came back for a fifth year after a knee injury robbed him of his 2007 season,

and he made every one of those extra snaps count. In the Monon Bell rout of DePauw, he had 16 tackles. Against Mount Union in the quarterfinals, he had 13 tackles and 2.5 sacks — an incredible performance on the biggest stage of his career — causing Raiders Head Coach Larry Kahres to say, "One of the best I've ever seen."

By the time he was finished, Gum had made 297 career tackles, 31 tackles for loss, 7.5 sacks, and three forced fumbles. He was a First Team AFCA All-American and a two-time NCAC Defensive Player of the Year.

The Blindside Guardian: Weston Kitley '13



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

Offensive linemen don't get statues and rarely are seen on highlight reels. What the great ones get is the quiet, permanent respect of the quarterbacks they protected and the running backs they sprung. Weston Kitley got all of it.

A three-year starter and team captain, Kitley was the cornerstone of a Wabash offense that averaged 210 rushing yards and 409 total yards per game his senior year. He was a three-time First Team All-NCAC selection, a D3football.com All-North Region honoree in 2012 and an Honorable Mention All-American as a sophomore. Later, when the conference celebrated its 30th anniversary, Kitley was named to the All-Decade Team.

Then there was his performance in the classroom. In 2012, Kitley was a Capital One First Team Academic All-American. In 2013, he was awarded the NCAA Post-Graduate Scholarship. On the field and off it, Kitley was exactly what a Wabash man is supposed be: smart, fearless and committed to his brothers.

The Sluggers: Matt Dodaro '09 and Jake Thomas '09



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

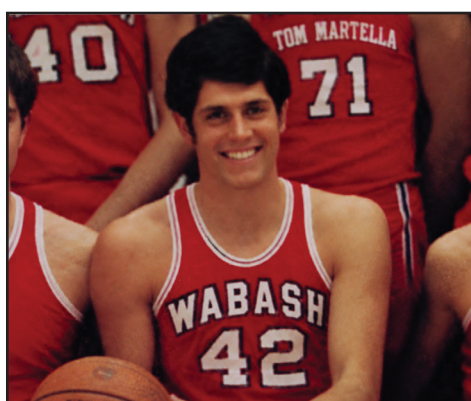
Some of the best baseball stories at Wabash come in pairs, and this one is a classic. Matt Dodaro and Jake Thomas came in together, played four seasons together and left together in 2009 as First Team All-NCAC selections and cornerstones of one of the most productive offensive eras in program history.

Dodaro was pure power and consistency. As a freshman, he hit .369. As a sophomore, he hit .356 with nine home runs and 37 RBI. His senior season, he posted a .320 average with seven homers, 31 RBI, and nine stolen bases across 42 games. Twice he earned First Team All-NCAC honors.

Thomas was the pure hitter and opposing pitchers dreaded facing him. He led the Little Giants in hitting as a sophomore and as a senior, batting .424 as a sophomore

and .404 as a senior. Along the way, he collected ABCA Second Team All-Mideast honors, Third Team All-Mideast honors, and Academic All-District recognition — a career highlight reel one hit at a time.

The Giant Beneath the Rim: Tom Martella '71



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

Long before Division III existed, before the NCAC, before the modern era of Wabash athletics took its shape, Tom Martella was pulling down rebounds against Butler, Indiana Central and Valparaiso.

A 6-foot-6 center, Martella twice did something that only three other players in the entire history of Wabash basketball have ever managed to do over a full season: he averaged a double-double in points and rebounds in the 1970 and 1971 seasons.

More than a half-century later, his career numbers still hold up against anyone. He ranks 15th all-time in points per game (16.4) and second all-time in rebounds per game (9.5), trailing only future NFL legend Pete Metzelaars '82. He was a Second Team All-American in an era when All-American selections were far scarcer than they are today.

Putting in the Miles: Seth Einterz '11

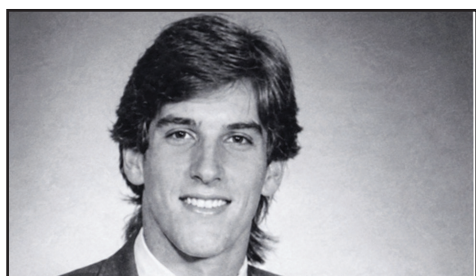


COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

Championships are built on empty roads, at 6 a.m., in weather nobody wants to run in. Seth Einterz ran a lot of those miles. By the end of his Wabash career, he was a two-time All-American, finishing 20th at the 2010 NCAA Cross Country Championships and third in the 5,000 meters at the 2011 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. He was a four-time All-NCAC honoree in cross country and team MVP in 2007, 2008, and 2010. He was a First Team Academic All-American.

And when the Little Giants made history in 2011, capturing their first-ever NCAC indoor and outdoor track and field titles, Einterz was in the middle of it. He won the 5,000 meters and was runner-up in the 3,000 at the indoor meet, then, outdoors, was runner-up in the 10,000 and third in the 5,000.

The Hurdler: Garrett Tallman '87



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

It took Garrett Tallman just 52.45 seconds to run the 400-meter hurdles at the 1986 NCAA National Championships — a performance that ended with a national runner-up finish and cementing him as one of the finest hurdlers in Wabash history.

Tallman was a four-time letterman and a four-time national qualifier, running at nationals in the 1,600-meter relay as well. He captained the team twice and, as a senior, received the J. Owen Huntsman Award as the Most Valuable Runner.

The Coach: Brian Anderson



COURTESY WABASH ATHLETICS

Every dynasty starts with someone stubborn enough to build it. For Wabash wrestling, that was Coach Brian Anderson.

The peak came in 2022, when the Little Giants finished second at the NCAA Division III National Championships, the best team finish in program history. They ended the tournament just one point behind national champion Wartburg. Five Little Giants earned All-America honors. Three finished as national runners-up in their weight classes. Anderson was named the NCAA Division III Wrestling Coach of the Year, D3wrestle.com Coach of the Year, and NCAA DIII Central Region Coach of the Year—a remarkable coaching triple crown.

That season is just one of two decades of excellence. Coach Anderson helped Riley Lefever do something no other wrestler in Division III has accomplished: winning four straight national championships.

In 2023, senior Jack Heldt capped his career by winning the 285-pound national title, joined on the All-America stand by Chase Baczek at 184 pounds. In 2016-17, Wabash finished third in the country with a school-record seven national qualifiers, one individual national champion, four All-Americans, a Midwest Regional title, and Regional Coach of the Year honors for Anderson.

In 2015-16, Wabash was fourth in the country with two national champions and a 13-1 dual-meet record. In 2014-15, Wabash was third in the country with two more national champions and a fifth-place NWCA Scholar All-America team finish (3.51 GPA). Going farther back to 2004-05, Wabash captured its first NCAA Regional title since 1983.

Wabash Soccer wins one and draws one in two game stretch

TY MURPHY '27

MANAGING EDITOR

The first loss of the season seemed to roll right off the Wabash College soccer team as they battled it out with Augustana (IL) College before steamrolling right past Mount St. Joseph University in shoutout number four of the season.

The team travelled to Cincinnati, Ohio on Wednesday, September 23 for their game against the Lions. But when Alfredo Campos '27 set up the assist for Zane Biggerstaff '28 to hammer the ball into the net in minute 20, it felt like nobody was home. The Little Giants went up 1-0 and refused to let up. In minute 58 Campos attempted the corner sending it straight to Colton Hughes-Suiters '29 whose header sent the ball careening off the bar and into the heel of an opposing player, where it would then bounce into the net for an own goal and a Wabash 2-0 lead. Not long after, in minute 66, Danny Tkachuk '29 sealed the game with the final goal to secure a 3-0 Wabash victory.

"The whole game went exactly the way we wanted it to go," said Tkachuk. "We kept possession, had high pressing and played with passion. Coming off some games in which we underperformed, we knew we needed to make a statement to keep our spirits high. Getting a win on the road is really important because it shows to the team we can perform on all cylinders even when we all had classes and a two and a half hour bus ride."

This game comes after the Little Giants battled against Augustana (IL) in a thriller on September 19 in Fischer Field to a rowdy home crowd. It was all defense in the first half thanks to keeper Rafael Cordova's '30 five first half saves to keep the match a 0-0 stalemate heading into the half. But in minute 60 of the match, the Vikings went up 1-0 thanks to a goal by Salvador Gil Colmenero. It looked like it was over for the Little Giants, but thanks to a Brady Reiter '29 assist, Bryce Kinnaman '27 took an opportunity to rifle the ball from outside the penalty area into the bottom corner to put the game at 1-1.

But despite shots from both sides the game ended in a 1-1 tie to put Wabash at a 7-1-1 overall record.

"We played well," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "We've been fighting the injury bug, but we stood tall. Scoring early is always ideal and we had been scoring early most season, but it's good to grind some results out. I am proud of the fight we have shown."

The Little Giants will soon get a taste of their first North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) competition at the start of October when they begin their campaign for a position in the conference tournament. And even with such a hot start, they will still stay hungry as they begin the second half of their season.

"We are one game at a time right now," said Keller. "The NCAC soccer conference is a top three conference nationally so every game and every point is going to matter."

But before October begins, the Little Giants will get one more opportunity to refine their skills when they face Principia

College on September 26 at Fischer Field. And with Homecoming getting closer and closer, the team will not look to ease up for their bout against the Panthers.

"We proved to ourselves that we can bounce back and still be the competitive team we are," said Biggerstaff. "And we have no intention of letting up anytime soon."



PHOT BY JEREMIAH RUNGE '29

Brady Reiter '29 boots one from the midfield line into attacking territory in a game against Alma College on September 5 at Fischer Field.

Athlete Spotlight: The story behind Cole Dickerson '28's breakout season

HUTCH NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giants' football season is off to a hot start this season fueled by the hard-nosed running of Cole Dickerson '28. After a close home opener against Hampden-Sydney College, Dickerson was lights out against Wittenberg University, and enjoyed the sights and sounds of Oberlin College in Ohio last week, where he did not touch the ball after the first quarter due to Wabash's command of the game. Dickerson manages to get the ball moving at every facet of the position.

"He's got speed to break away if he needs to, but really, it's the punishing running and the strength and the yards after carry," said Little Giants running backs coach Brian Baker-Watson. "[Dickerson] does a great job receiving the ball coming out of the backfield, so if it was baseball, you would call him that five-tool player. He adds dimensions to our offense because he's got a lot of versatility to him."

Dickerson's role in the offense has greatly expanded already this season, reflected in his rushing and receiving yards per game nearly doubling. This is doubly impressive considering he has only seen the field in eight of the 12



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

quarters so far this season. The running back attributes much of his success in football to the program head coach Jake Gilbert '98 has built in his first two years on campus. The most notable improvement, according to Dickerson, being the culture developed by Gilbert.

"Gilbert's brought a lot to this program in terms of our culture within our team," said Dickerson. "You can see it in our retention. Since he's been coach this is the biggest roster we've had. We've started taking trips to different places just to make the away trips fun because those are five, six hour drives. Getting to go to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, or the "Shawank Redemption"

prison, just cool stuff like that to hang out with the team."

Aside from developing a positive culture, the product on the field has improved. That's due in part to a slew of hires made following Gilbert's elevation to head coach. Players now receive more

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-Cole Dickerson '28

specialized coaching and attention for their specific specialty group.

"He's brought a lot of detail oriented staff, versus before we were stretched a little thin with people having to coach multiple positions," said Dickerson. "But now coaches can really focus on individual players, and it's helped our culture where everyone just wants to improve."

However, this was not the future that Dickerson had in mind when he initially considered Wabash, though his return to football was second nature.

"I got here because of wrestling; I wanted to do it out of high school and ended up here," said Dickerson. "Out of all of the colleges I was looking at, in terms of education and tuition, it was pretty much a no-brainer. I got here and realized I still wanted to play football, so I joined the team. I fell in love with the football program, so I just stuck with that."

Although Dickerson's arrival was due to wrestling, football has always been in the picture. His high school career came with accolades from each sport.

He earned a first team all-district and third team all-state honors for football and was a two time state qualifier for wrestling, placing seventh in the state during his senior year at 215 pounds. However, football is what runs through the Dickerson family.

"Ever since I was a kid, it was always football," said Dickerson. "My dad was a football coach, my brother was [in football], we were all in sports, so it was a no-brainer. I was gonna play football. My dad says I could name all 32 NFL teams when I was like three. [My dad] let me practice with the kids even though I was younger. It's because of my family that I fell in love with it."

However he got into football and decided to play at Wabash, Little Giants' fans are happy with how it worked out. With an North Coast Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Week award under his belt already this year, Dickerson seems primed to carry the Little Giants offense into a deep November run.

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If there's a script here, it's a familiar one. Wabash's defense has been the story of the season. They have been stingy against the run, opportunistic in the passing game and getting stronger as the non-conference tune-ups give way to conference grinders. There defensive front has looked especially powerful, controlling the line of scrimmage in every game they have played thus far.

"We have a very solid group of guys on the defensvie-line that are able to hold their gaps and stop the run," said Samuel Poriah '28. "If we can hold our gaps then our linebackers can hit their gaps and if everyone does their job then the result is very few yardage and few or no points."

Wooster's offense has shown real flashes (that Kenyon win didn't happen by accident), but the Denison game exposed just how quickly things can unravel when a defense like Wabash's — playing downhill, swarming to the ball — gets rolling. If the Little Giants bring anything close to what they showed against Wittenberg and Oberlin, this has the look of a slaughter by the fourth quarter.

"Our defensive players have really developed," said Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98. "We are in our third year in the scheme and starting a bunch of juniors, so that helps a lot. We are playing confident and fast and can really dominate up front, which makes the entire defense look better."

Wooster's counter has to be establishing tempo early with a quick, athletic quarterback that is as competent on the ground as he is through the air.

"Wooster's QB is very athletic and a good runner," said Jake Gilbert. "He can scramble and make plays with his legs. That always concerns me."

Stealing a possession or two on special teams and hoping the Homecoming atmosphere works against Wabash instead of for it would be the recipe for success against the Little Giants. It's a tall order, though, against a defense that hasn't allowed a team to find a rhythm all season, save perhaps in the first half of their opening game against Hampden-Sydney, but that didn't last long. Watch for how Wooster's offensive line handles Wabash's front — if the Scots can't protect long enough to hit the kind of deep shots that troubled Kenyon's secondary, this game could get out of hand early, the same way Wittenberg and Oberlin did.

On the other side of the ball, Wabash's offense has been humming through three weeks, averaging 369 total yards and 31.3 points per game. They use a unique two-quarterback attack: Brand Campbell '27 has handled the bulk of the workload (27-of-48 passing for 363 yards and two touchdowns), while Jackson Gilbert '28 has come in as a change-of-pace weapon for every third drive and has been nearly unstoppable when he does, completing 17-of-21 passes for 254 yards and two more scores. Between them, Wabash is completing more than 62 percent of its passes at 8.47 yards-per-pass.

The workhorse, though, is running back Cole Dickerson '28, who's turned into the offense's engine early this season. Taking 45 carries for 270 yards and four rushing touchdowns, plus nine catches for 89 yards and another score through the air, he is punching defenses in the teeth every chance he gets. Dickerson leads the team with 30 points scored on his own. Nick Witte '28 and Luke Adams '28 have led the receiving game with 161 and 120 receiving yards, respectively.

Expect more of the same here.

Wooster's defense has already shown it can be had for chunks of yardage, and a Wabash offense firing on all cylinders like this will have every incentive to just keep feeding Dickerson and letting Campbell and Gilbert pick their spots through the air.

Kickoff is set for 2 p.m. at Little Giant Stadium, and if history is any guide, the stands will be full well before then. Homecoming football at Wabash dates back to 1920, and the Little Giants have made a habit of treating the day like a

formality. Wabash is a staggering 67-27-8 all-time in Homecoming games.

Add it all up, and this looks like exactly the kind of game a 3-0 team wants heading into October: a chance to stay unbeaten, keep the defense's hot streak alive and send a packed Homecoming crowd home happy before the road trip to Denison next week. Old Wabash will be echoing across the Mall well after the final whistle — and if the last three weeks are any indication, it'll be for a Little Giants win.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jaron Smith '29 tackles a Hampden-Sydney receiver on September 5 at Little Giant Stadium.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Cole Dickerson races ahead of the Wittenberg defenders for a long touchdown against Wittenberg University on September 12 at Little Giant Stadium.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

TJ Williams '28 celebrates a first down after his catch against Hampden-Sydney on September 5 at Little Giant Stadium.