The Bachelor
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908
132ND MONON BELL CLASSIC SPECIAL ISSUE
NOVEMBER 13, 2026

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BEAT DEPAUW!



CARTER MCCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

For the first time since 1922, the Monon Bell Classic will be played somewhere other than Crawfordsville or Greencastle. When Wabash and DePauw meet Nov. 14 at Ball State's Scheumann Stadium for the 132nd edition of the rivalry, the backdrop will be unfamiliar. The question facing the Little Giants is a familiar one: can anyone in the North Coast Athletic Conference slow DePauw down? Look past the records, and Wabash has more of the answer than it might seem.

The Tigers have held the Bell for four straight years, their first such run since 2000, and they have scored at least 33 points in each of the last five meetings, something no team in the series had done before. Last November's 41–20 win in Crawfordsville cut Wabash's all-time lead to 63–59–9. In games played for the Bell since 1932, Wabash's edge is down to 44–43–6. Another DePauw win would even the Bell-era series at 44–44–6.

The two programs arrive in Muncie on opposite trajectories. Wabash is 4–4 overall and 3–4 in the NCAC after losing four straight. DePauw is 7–1 and 6–1, riding a six-game winning streak and ranked No. 25 nationally entering its Oct. 31 win over then-No. 14 John Carroll.

Wabash's season has been a tale of two halves. Through four games, the Little Giants looked like a team ready to fulfill their third-place preseason ranking in the NCAC coaches' poll. They beat Hampden-Sydney 29–20, shut out Wittenberg 31–0, and handled Oberlin and Wooster by identical 34–7 scores. Over that stretch, Wabash outscored opponents 128–34, an average of 32–8.5.

Then came October. A 24–23 loss at Denison was followed by a 24–17 loss at John Carroll, a 27–17 home loss to then-unbeaten and eighth-ranked Washington University, and a 35–28 loss at Ohio Wesleyan, the Battling Bishops' first win in the series since 2021. Over those four games, Wabash has scored 21.3 points per game and allowed 27.5. But Wabash has not been pushed around. Three of the four losses came by a touchdown or less, and the Denison game was decided by a single point. This is a team that has been a play or two away in almost every game, from the same program that won nine games and a bowl a year ago.

Bell costs balloon

PHILLIP HARVEY '29
STAFF WRITER

Ever since it was announced that the 132nd Monon Bell Classic would be played in Scheumann Stadium at Ball State University, two of the biggest questions on students' minds was how will they get there and what will it cost. Luckily, after lots of planning and deliberation, it was the Student Senate who came to the rescue, picking up the tab which is nearly double the usual.

In a normal year, the host school sets game day logistics. This year, both schools are guests, and Ball State is running the game the way it runs any home game. Tickets run through Ticketmaster because they are the ones that set the cost. Tickets for this year's game cost fans $50, plus a $9.80 Ticketmaster fee.

"The tickets are objectively more expensive," said Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay. "We were spending more per ticket times 400 or 450."

Wabash offered to host again, but DePauw wanted to keep its home game. Before settling on Ball State, Depauw made sure they looked at all their options. The schools had many different venues to explore such as the field at Butler University, the University of Indianapolis and the Indianapolis Colts' training facility before settling on Muncie. What made it an especially difficult decision was simply what it costs to host this historic rivalry.

"You're going to operate at a loss to host a Bell game," said Athletic Director Jim Peeples. "Their policies become our policies because they're the host site."

Demand this year is above the normal 400 tickets the Student Senate has historically bought for away games. At face value alone, those tickets come to $27,500, nearly double the roughly $14,000 the senate spent on 400 tickets at $35 in previous years.

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'The Catch' 25 years later

GABE FINK '30
STAFF WRITER

With the clock quickly running out at the end of the fourth quarter, the Little Giants created a miracle to win the 2001 108th Monon Bell Game. 25 years later, the excitement of "The Catch" still hangs in the air, relived through the memory of those in attendance.

For many, the historic play restored what makes the Bell game so special, and introduced new people to the spirit of Wabash. The rivalry against DePauw has always been more than just a football game. It is integral to Wabash and provides a rollercoaster of emotions every November. Picture this: the Little Giants went into the 2001 Monon Bell game having lost the last five games against their most bitter rival. Spirits were low. Wabash College was not overflowing with optimism; many fans expected the same result this time around. This game, however, wasn't just another loss to DePauw. It had its own story to tell.

Initially, the game seemed promising. At the end of the first half the Little Giants led by two touchdowns. This lead didn't last long after halftime; the Tigers managed to claw their way back to tie the game by the fourth quarter. For many fans, it seemed that the Little Giants had blown the lead and the game would be another case of disappointment for the Wabash faithful. Anticipation of yet another loss hung in the air as the stands prepared for disappointment. However, the determination of the players didn't waver as Wabash always fights.

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New town new rules

Ball State rules change typical Bell Game environment

OWEN VERMEULEN '28
NEWS EDITOR

New house, new rules. Ball State is laying down the law for the 132nd Monon Bell Classic.

At Wabash we're used to a high trust environment where intervention exists only when it's needed. In Muncie the event organizers are preferring to take a more hands on approach. Tailgating rules are tightening, post game celebrations are contained and the police have a shorter line than the Dannies defense. On a weekend that normally plays host to over-the-top levels of "soft drink" consumption, Wabash administrators wants students to be aware that business is not as usual with our Ball State boniface.

To start, tailgating rules will be strictly enforced before fans ever get into the stadium. Along with alcohol over 15%, glass bottles, kegs and large source containers are all not allowed in the designated tailgate areas. Law enforcement will be checking IDs to ensure that all individuals partaking are over the age of 21. This has been a major point that has been stressed to students. Administrators are stressing that this is a situation where students should follow the Gentleman's Rule and abide by the law.

"Follow the Gentleman's Rule," said Directory of Safety and Security Buck Waddell. "Be your brother's keeper, take care of each other. If you see your friends or family are having too much, cut them off. We don't want anyone getting arrested."

There is planning on the student side to keep this year as fun as years prior while keeping everyone inside the guidelines. There has been a great effort to inform students of the short leash they have this year.

"Obviously it's going to be more strict and we're facing more challenges this year," said President of the Inter Fraternity Council (IFC) Kyle Foster '27. "We'll be far away, and there will be close to 70 state troopers along with Ball State Police. We were informed that this will be the third football game that they've worked in just two weeks. A lot of [the officers] have worked 16 hour days. They will be very strict on us, and we just have to be Wabash men and do our part."

Not rushing the field has also returned as a point of contention, however, the talk of courtesy last year has been replaced with cuffs this year. Organizers created a new plan for allowing students to celebrate with the Bell after we win.

"The first thing [Munce Police] said is, 'if people rush the field, we will institute our mass arrest policy'," said Waddell. "I believe we have a really good plan. Once we win decisively, we will take the Bell to a grass lot behind the stadium and let the team and folks take pictures with it."

It was emphasized at every point possible, that the most important thing was that we bring the Bell back to Crawfordsville along with everyone that went to Muncie. Once students get the Bell back on campus, we'll have near-total freedom in deciding the new traditions with the Bell. With all of the new regulations though, the job of the students has not changed from any other year. Support the team.

"This senior class has kept this team together and positive every step of the way," said Director of Athletics, Jim Peeples, speaking at the Wabash Acts Responsibly (WAR) Bell Game informational session. "We owe it to them to show up and be supportive. When we bring the Bell back, you, the students, will decide the new traditions that we start with the Bell. But please act responsibly while you are in Muncie."

DEPAUW TO HELL, GET THE BELL!

"HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GAME BEING IN MUNCIE THIS YEAR?"

"It's definitely very interesting in the fact that both schools have to drive over an hour and a half to get there."
-Mason Pierlie '28

"It's going to be interesting going to a neutral site. It's the first time in history where that's going to be happening. I'm glad to be a part of it."
-Ryan West '28

"Not a big fan, but we'll go anywhere to watch the Bell game because it's very important to us."
-Colton Cooper '28

"It's a little annoying. Like I understand that Depauw has a renovation going on, but I just feel like there is a better way to go

"WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MONON BELL-RELATED TRADITION YOUR SCHOOL

"Bell hell for me. Just seeing all the fraternities band together and just competitions is just a great way for all the fraternities to be able to prepare and get that energy up on campus before the big day."
-Blake Horn '29

"I'm a big fan of Bell Chapel. I know that is one of the coolest chapels of the year for sure. I'd have to and just do a lot of excitement and readiness for the game. It really just gets you super pumped up for the weekend and the rivalry, just in general. So, ding ding."
-Mason Pierlie '28

"Bell cuts, has to be. Love seeing all the freshmen with their janky cuts."
-Willie Shearer '29

"HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD SOMEONE HAVE TO GIVE YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SCHOOL TO LOSE THE BELL GAME THIS YEAR?"

"I don't want money. I want the Bell."
-Blake Horn '29

"Nothing. The Bell is priceless to me."
-Bryce Kinnaman '27

"SCORE PREDICTION?"

We're gonna win."
-Bryce Kinnaman '27

"We have a very good defense, and our offense has been pretty methodical so far. So, I'm thinking a lower scoring game. 20–13, Wabash wins."
-Colton Cooper '28

"Wabash by a million."
-Willie Shearer '29

"IF YOU COULD TAKE ONE THING FROM THE OTHER SCHOOL AND ADD IT TO YOUR OWN, WHAT WOULD IT BE?"

"Hell no."
-Bryce Kinnaman '27

"I've been to DePauw and I'm not a fan of most of the stuff they got there, but they do have the Monon Bell, and that is what I would want to take because they don't deserve to have it. They don't care about it like we do, so I think we should have it."
-Colton Cooper '28

"WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS IF YOUR SCHOOL WINS THE BELL VERSUS IF YOU LOSE?"

"If Wabash wins, we have to get back to Crawfordsville first, and then it's going to be an all-campus celebration. We're gonna have it at the Chapel steps. We're gonna bring it around to different fraternities. We'll have a great time celebrating it with our guys."
-Colton Cooper '28

WABASH STUDENT INTERVIEWS

D*!@&W STUDENT INTERVIEWS

"HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE GAME BEING IN MUNCIE THIS YEAR? ARE YOU GOING TO THE GAME?

"I feel like there's some pros and cons to it. Obviously, it's a hell of a ride compared to just going down to Wabash. So I feel like that's kind of what played a role in me not wanting to possibly go."
-Fernando '30

"I would have preferred it if they were like, 'We're having it at Wabash the second year in a row.'"
-Anya '27

"I think it's interesting, especially since my first experience with the Monon Bear was here at Blackstock Stadium and I'm from Ghana. Fans from Wabash, fans from Depauw, everybody's gonna be there; so I think it's gonna be an amazing game."
-Keldon '28

"It's a little annoying, in my opinion. But got to do what you got to do. I mean, our stadium's being rebuilt, so it's not really possible to host it here."

"I'm not going to the game. It's actually my birthday on Friday."
-Owen '30

"It's kind of a hassle, and I feel like we don't really understand all the administrative stuff that went into that decision."
-Katie '27

"I sadly have prior engagenments. I have to go to an ethics bowl tournament in Marion University. But we're planning on watching it while there."
-John '30

"WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE MONON BELL-RELATED TRADITION YOUR SCHOOL HAS?"

"I've been listening to the ["Ballad of the Monon Bell"] a lot."
-Owen '30

"I would say the tailgating. I know tailgating is like obviously a big thing in general, but they make it seem bigger because there's people that just go to tailgate that aren't even gonna stay to watch the game, so I feel like that's pretty like unique."
-Fernando '30

"HOW MUCH MONEY WOULD SOMEONE HAVE TO GIVE YOU IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SCHOOL TO LOSE THE BELL GAME THIS YEAR?"

"I'm a freshman, so I'm going to say $50."
-Nora '30

"I'll be honest, I'd take like $250."
aCarlos '30

"A hundred grand."
-Owen '30

"SCORE PREDICTION?"

"50–0 Depauw."
-Owen '30

"I hope DePauw wins 34–17."
-Carlos '30

"We'll win, but score wise I don't have anything specific."
-Anya '27

No ticket? No problem

Alumni set to tune in around the globe for 132nd Monon Bell Classic

HUTCH NORRIS '27
STAFF WRITER

Year after year, Little Giants across the world gather in anticipation for the four most important quarters of the year. From Seattle to Switzerland, our greatest tradition brings together hundreds of alumni near and far. Monon Bell telecast parties are now a long-standing tradition among the college's far-flung alumni base. This year's list totaled 48 parties across 24 states, as well as Washington, D.C. and Switzerland.

The latter party is organized by Greg Birk '77 who generously opened his home to several of our European alumni. Birk received the Frank W. Misch Alumni Distinguished Service Award at Big Bash in recognition of his devotion to service for the College, and he continues to demonstrate his selflessness in his hosting.

"He is really going above and beyond because he is hosting a number of those people," said Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement, Ron Dostal '92. "He's the guy doing all that heavy lifting."

This sort of heavy lifting is often required of telecast party hosts, but Wabash men are no strangers to bearing that sort of responsibility.

"We really rely on those volunteers because we don't play an organizing role at any of the given events," said Dostal. "We send them a box with some swag in it, so they can decorate the space and have some goodies to give out."

Because of its importance, the game can often be one of an alumnus' only engagements with the college throughout the year. The parties serve as an opportunity for alumni to both reconnect with the College and with their fellow alumni locally. Events like these allow the college to claim its 3rd place ranking in alumni giving rate, falling behind Princeton and Virginia Union University.

"It can be a revival of engagement moment for some alumni," said Dostal. "We also see it being helpful for alumni if they move from one location to another. It can be a good way to meet some local fellow Wabash alumni because the parties are well attended across the country."

"The biggest one is around 30," said Assistant Director of Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement Connor Thompson '25. "The party in Phoenix is expected to have over 20 guests. It ranges from roughly 10 to upwards of 30 across the country. It is safe to say that somewhere between 500 and 1,000 people are attending the watch parties."



COURTESY OF INDIANAPOLIS MONTHLY

Students cheering at 131st Monon Bell Classic in Little Giants Stadium.

Considering the College has less than 10,000 living alumni, this many individuals gathered across the globe in celebration of this great tradition speaks to the undying love of the loyal sons. From Portland to Pittsburgh, from West Hollywood to Wilmington, Wabash men will gather in celebration and anticipation for the action to come.

Little Giants walk-off Anderson on Cannady's three-pointer



PHOTOS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Bring it home.



New Week, New Stadium, New Mindset.. DING DING

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

wabashclubofindianapolis facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

Bell costs

Continued from page 1

"The student senate is covering the lion's share of the tickets," said Lindsay. "Because we were able to help pay for extra buses, we're also able to use a little bit of that money to help cover additional ticket costs."

But it is not just tickets Wabash had to worry about. With Muncie being around 100 miles away, the school brought in buses to get the students safely to the game. Now buses are not on the senate's dime. Seven charter buses, all nearly full, are being paid for by funds Lindsay manages. Even with that extra help, that means the largest cost increase over prior years falls on the senate.

The ticket bill has shaped the senate's budget since the fall legislative session began. Student Body President Jackson Ray '27 wanted to ensure that every student who wanted to go to the game could actually go to the game, even before anyone knew the price. The senate has trimmed elsewhere to keep that promise.

One example of the shift is the Audit and Finance Committee's new precedent of denying funds for food at regular, member-only club meetings. The rationale is that those meetings will happen whether the people there are hungry or not. The committee also recommended saving money on decorations and prizes.

"We're really just trying to stretch every last dollar to go as far as it can to have the most amount of impact," said Student Body Treasurer Zach Wagner '27. "That's why there's way less funding for private meetings than in the past."

"It may cost significantly more than previous years, but we are going to work it out together as campus leaders," said Ray. "A sea of red and white is the executive team's goal for Muncie this year."

As the day draws near for students to load onto the buses that will take them to the 132nd Monon Bell Classic, all involved hope for a smooth and safe travel with a Bell to bring home to. One thing students can be sure of is a stadium that won't look out of place. Ball State's colors happen to be red and white, too.

"Maybe there's good karma there for us," said Peeples.

Take a break from the Dannies for 'A Year with Frog and Toad'



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Frog, played by Alex Schmidt '27 (left) and Toad, played by Eamon Colglazer '28 (right), enjoy a conversation about their relationship at the pond.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Three birds, played by Megan Arnone (left), Mann Vats '30 (center) and Beth Daniel Lindsay (right) hit a high note.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Snail, played by Benjamin Donaldson '29, makes his way across the stage to deliver a letter to Toad.

NOAH MINTIE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

Right on the eve of Wabash's most intense week comes its most serene play. Leaping off of the pages of Arnold Lobel's iconic book series and Willie and Robert Reale's acclaimed script, "A Year with Frog and Toad" lands as the Wabash College Theater Department's first-ever children's production. Thanks to efforts from director and Associate Professor of Theater and Department Chair Heidi Winters Vogel, this delightful production has brought a whole new audience to the Ball theater.

The production depicts four season's worth of adventures for Frog (Alex Schmidt '27) and Toad (Eamon Colglazer '28). The duo bring a great energy to the stage, nailing their comedic timing while also delivering a dash of sincerity to the project. Across the stage in the role of various other animals is Benjamin Donaldson '29, Mann Vats '30, Assistant Technical Director for the Fine Arts Center Megan Arnone and Assistant Professor, Associated Faculty Research & Instructional Librarian Beth Daniel Linsay, who each bring their vocal talent and expressive acting to every second onstage.

Technical Director and Scene Designer David Vogel knocks it out of the park with the most beautiful set that I've yet seen in the Ball Theater. The set perfectly evokes the pages of the books. In addition, the play's effects are charming and at times even dazzling, timed to perfectly compliment the live orchestra.

Another notable distinction between "A Year with Frog and Toad" and other Wabash productions is its length. Clocking in at around a breezy ninety minutes and lacking an intermission, the production keeps an upbeat pace more suited for new theatergoers.

Keeping with the faster pace is a lighter tone, but that doesn't mean that "A Year With Frog and Toad" abstains from introspection. On the contrary, the play manages to get on the level of children without talking down to them. It openly explores the more complex aspects of friendship, mental health and self-image, all important things for children to grapple with in a supportive environment.

After last year's slate of intense and politically-charged programming, it's neat to see the theater department ease into a more mellow story. Even so, Frog and Toad's swamp is, in its own way, uncharted water. Likewise, the cast and crew deserve extra credit for pulling it off.

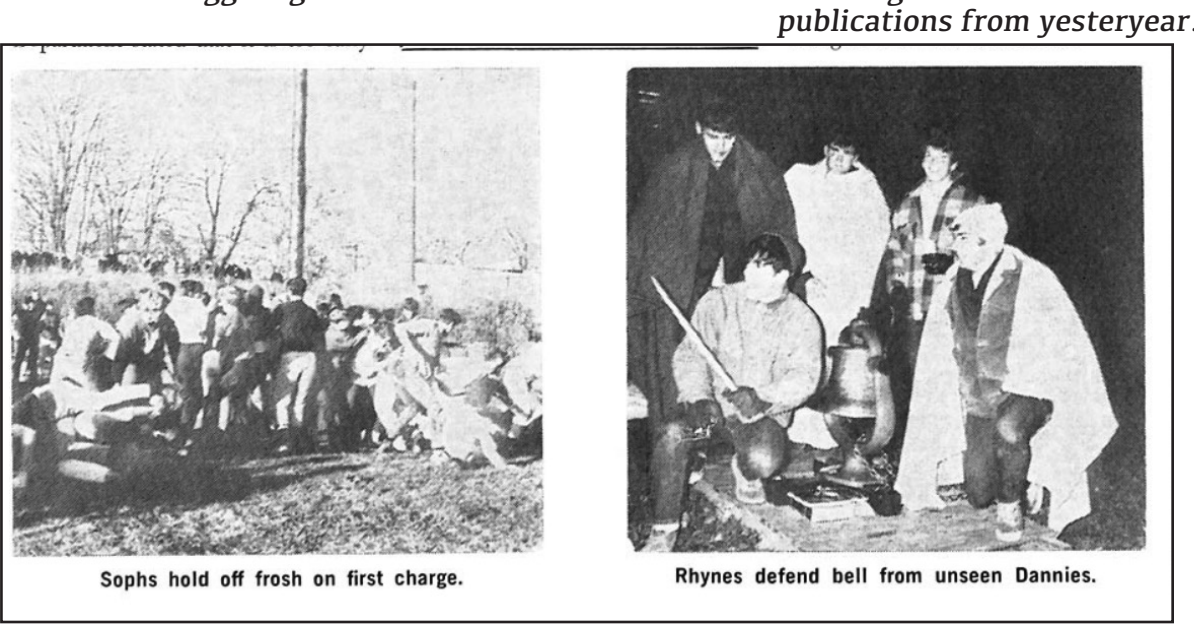


PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Toad, played by Eamon Colglazer '28, dozes off while waiting for his flowers to grow.

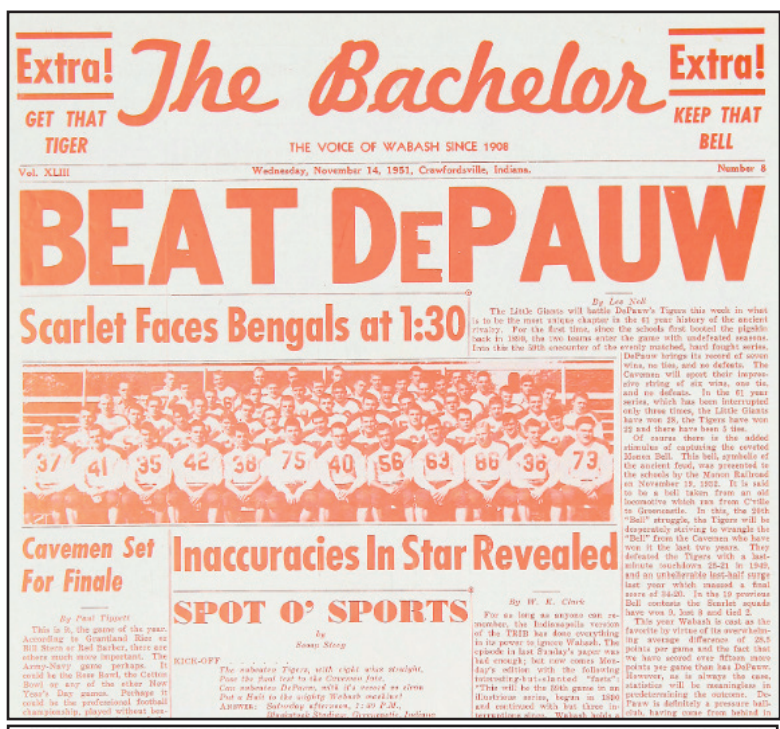
Treasures from the archives

Wabash's biggest game and most sacred traditions have long been featured in The Bachelor, *so rewind a few decades and enjoy these publications from yesteryear.*



Sophs hold off frosh on first charge.

Rhynes defend bell from unseen Dannies.



Extra! GET THAT TIGER

The Bachelor

THE VOICE OF WABASH SINCE 1908

Extra! KEEP THAT BELL

Vol. XLIII — Wednesday, November 14, 1951, Crawfordsville, Indiana. — Number 8

BEAT DEPAUW

Scarlet Faces Bengals at 1:30

Cavemen Set For Finale

Inaccuracies In Star Revealed

SPOT O' SPORTS



DePauw to Hell - keep the Bell

THE Wabash Bachelor

The Voice of Wabash Since 1908

VOLUME LX — NOVEMBER 12, 1963 — CRAWFORDSVILLE, INDIANA — NUMBER 10

Bell history: Evolution from a pinochle game

Wittenberg aids Bell chances; Squad primed for DePauw

Dannies to plummet tomorrow, 21-7

DePaur voices to feature African, traditional music

Masque assumes cabaret atmosphere, rehearses student-directed one-acters

Wabash, 'Limeys' to debate on Vietnam

Talkers fail to place; compete today at I.S.

GLCA programs to be outlined Fri.



MONON BELL CONCERT

Century Singers, DePauw University — Stanley Irwin, Director

Wabash College Glee Club — Stanley Malinowski, Director

Friday, November 9, 1984
8:00 p.m.
Wabash College Chapel
Free Admission

Freshmen To Guard Campus

by Rock Bowen

The Student Senate established Monday night the rules regarding Freshman guard duty the week previous to the DePauw game. Beginning Wednesday, the thirteenth, Freshman will be required to protect the Monon Bell and campus property from five o'clock in the afternoon till 7:50 classes begin each morning; this will occur through Saturday morning. The Bell will probably be chained to some immovable object in the Mall. Also Freshman are reminded that the traditional Freshman-Sophomore pole fight will take place next Wednesday at four o'clock p.m.

After some debate, the Student Senate officially recognized the Coalition for Student Action (CSA) by a vote of 13-2. This action was so moved after the presentation by a CSA representative of a charter of purpose and intent.

Also of interest, was the granting of funds to two student organizations. The Black-White Coordinating Committee (BWCC) received a $250 working fee. They are planning such activities as a campus good will dance and a concert. The other appropriation went to the Humanities Center Film Strip group who received an additional thirty-seven dollars.

A new addition to the student bureaucracy was instituted by creating



THE BIG "MORON BELL" GAME — BY FRED FISH

"GOOD AFTERNOON EVERYBODY, THIS IS HOWARD COSMELL TALKING TO YOU FROM HIGH ABOVE FIELD SIDE. IT'S ABOUT TIME FOR THE DEPAUW TEAM TO SHOW UP - YES, HERE THEY COME ONTO THE TRACK. NOW THEY TAKE THE FIELD, SOD BY SOD - NOW THEY PUT IT BACK..."

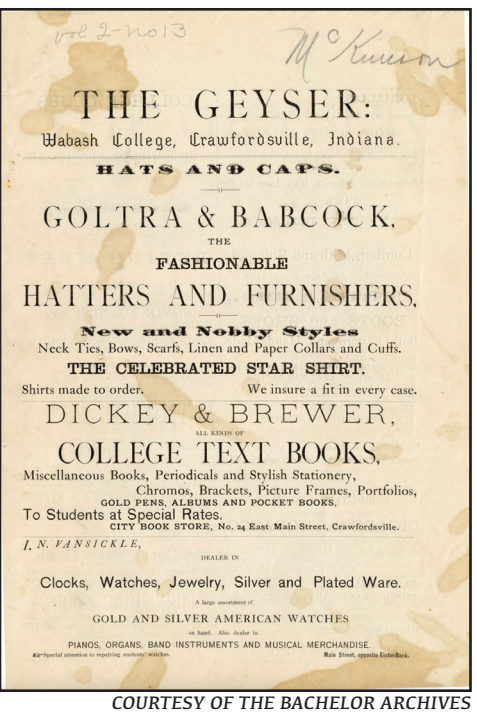
NOW PAY CLOSE ATTENTION AS WE WATCH THE "DEPAUW WOOGIES" DO THEIR FAMOUS MAY POLE EXERCISE IN PRE-GAME WARM-UP!

Press and Power: The influence of student publications at Wabash College

TOBIN SEIPLE '29
FEATURES EDITOR

What would Wabash be without the student press? For many years, Wabash men have had the privilege of publishing their voice on campus. *The Bachelor* was founded in April of 1907. Initial groundwork started during March of 1907, when Wabash Press Club founders M.H. Brubaker, serving as Editor-in-Chief, alongside C.C. Stevens, D.C. Adams and Ed Ziegner emerged from an English Composition II course. Their vision was to establish a consistent student news outlet to complement the Wabash Magazine. While *The Bachelor* has remained a consistent student publication on campus for over one hundred and fifteen years, the early days of the student voice in newspapers at Wabash were unstable.

"These are some of the few surviving, day-to-day documents of College history that were produced by students," said Digital Archives Librarian Matthew Meyer. "Unlike the Wabash Magazine, which was geared toward alumni, the newspapers offer insight into what students thought about faculty or classes or just their day-to-day lives here on campus."


THE GEYSER:
Wabash College, Crawfordsville, Indiana.
HATS AND CAPS.
GOLTRA & BABCOCK,
THE FASHIONABLE
HATTERS AND FURNISHERS,
New and Nobby Styles
Neck Ties, Bows, Scarfs, Linen and Paper Collars and Cuffs.
THE CELEBRATED STAR SHIRT.
Shirts made to order. We insure a fit in every case.
DICKEY & BREWER,
ALL KINDS OF
COLLEGE TEXT BOOKS,
Miscellaneous Books, Periodicals and Stylish Stationery,
Chromos, Brackets, Picture Frames, Portfolios,
GOLD PENS, ALBUMS AND POCKET BOOKS,
To Students at Special Rates.
CITY BOOK STORE, No. 24 East Main Street, Crawfordsville.
I. N. VANSICKLE,
DEALER IN
Clocks, Watches, Jewelry, Silver and Plated Ware.
A large assortment of
GOLD AND SILVER AMERICAN WATCHES
on hand. Also dealer in
PIANOS, ORGANS, BAND INSTRUMENTS AND MUSICAL MERCHANDISE.
Special attention to repairing watches, with me. Main Street, opposite Exchange Bank.

COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES

"The Geyser" was a student newspaper published between 1881 and 1886.

Student press at Wabash began in early 1873 with "The Geyser". The paper was a student-voiced alternative to the College's magazine, and featured many stories of Wabash men, snippets of Crawfordsville history and updates on the city. Interestingly enough, the paper was much more centric to the history of Crawfordsville than the College itself. Many businesses across Indianapolis and Crawfordsville were featured in the paper, including apothecaries, dentists, cigar stores and candy shops. Unlike today's newspaper, "The Geyser" was not a free campus-wide press but a subscription-based paper costing 50 cents every six months or five cents per copy (about $1.40 in today's price). While the Geyser shuttered in 1874, many notable stories were released in the short time. Perhaps the most infamous is a rumor published in the paper by Thomas Riley Marshall '73 (who served as the Vice President of the United States of America), where he accused a campus lecturer, Ida Leggett, of an affair with a student.

"Mrs. Leggett hath shown her cloven foot at last," wrote Marshall in the March 19th edition of "The Geyser." "Though the cause of her departure was kept a secret for several days, it leaked out at last. She was caught tramping on the feet of the boys boarding at her house and was immediately kicked out."

10 days after the piece was published, Marshall and "The Geyser" staff were sued for $20,000 in libel damages. Marshall consulted lawyer and future President Benjamin Harrison on the case, and Harrison took their case and consequently won, freeing Marshall and the rest of the staff from liabilities.

That was not the only controversy during the future Vice President's time as a writer for the paper. He would regularly write his opinions informed by firm democratic commitments on national political issues, much to the dismay of many faculty and students. "The Geyser," which is available online and in the Robert T. Ramsey Wabash Archives, is a time capsule of the College and Crawfordsville history, and showcases aspects of the campus culture at the time.

During the running of "The Geyser," another short-lived newspaper, "The Freshman Clipper," was released by freshmen. While there are uncertainties surrounding the purpose of this particular paper, it was another subscription-based press featuring many stories and advertisements of the time. The paper was much less opinionated and more focused on highlighting campus faculty and events. The physical copy implies that it was distributed across campus, however, it could have been another subscription-based service. The exact audience of the paper remains a history, but there are still nuggets of history,


THE FRESHMAN CLIPPER.

PHOTO BY TOBIN SEIPLE '29

Only two physical coppies of "The Freshman Clipper" exist at Wabash. The newpaper was shortlived and quickly succeeded by "The Raven."

like descriptions of different professors, that can be found in the paper. Currently, only two copies of "The Freshman Clipper" editions exist with only one known issue. While "The Freshman Clipper" was short-lived, it is still a valuable time capsule of history. Following

"The newspapers offer insight into what students thought about faculty or classes or just in their day-to-day lives here on campus."

- Digital Archives Librarian Matthew Meyer

"The Freshman Clipper" and "The Geyser," "The Raven" was another paper issued starting in 1874.

"I think 'The Raven' tried to replace 'The Geyser' and it just didn't happen," said Meyer. "It just gives you an idea of what was going on at the College during that time."

After "The Raven" concluded its run in 1875, there was a six-year drought in the student voice across campus, however, the Lariat revamped student press in 1881. Out of the early newspapers, "The Lariat" was the longest running paper, and editions were released bi-weekly until 1885. Like the other early papers, "The Lariat" covered student editorials, literary creative writing pieces, updates on clubs and campus activities, information on Crawfordsville, updates on alumni and early sports like baseball and advertisements for local businesses and businesses located in Indianapolis. The press was also a subscription-based newspaper, costing around $1.25 per year.

These four papers paved the way for the student voice at Wabash College. While "The Raven" and "The Lariat" are still being digitized, all four papers are available at the Robert T. Ramsey Archival Center. The stories featured in these papers, ranging from political opinions to news about on-campus pranks to peeks into the traditions and controversies of the times, are available to Wabash students and faculty and important pieces of history.

"It gives you a great idea of what was going on at the College at the time," said Meyer. "In a lot of these you can see editorials written by students...You get a lot of local news...You get to see real mundane things where students recall just little things that they did. In a way, the papers help us because they give us a greater idea of what the time was like."

Peebles' prophecy: 'The Tribe of Dan'

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

There are few venues where a parody of Old Testament prophecy delivered by a professor against his school's arch-nemesis could draw raucous applause and admiration for decades. Of those few, the Monon Bell Chapel at Wabash just happens to be one.

A few years ago, while I was researching Monon Bell traditions for *The Bachelor,* I heard about a speech that then-Professor of Religion Hall Peebles H'63 delivered in Pioneer Chapel the Thursday before the Bell game. Peebles — an expert in the Bible's Old Testament and so powerful of an orator that students nicknamed him "Yahweh," the Hebrew name for God — spoke against the "Tribe of Dan" and apparently had the whole school in tears of laughter. This year, I set out to find the spoof's text and uncover more about the occasion.

Beginning in the 1970s and continuing until near the present day, faculty members were recruited to speak at the Monon Bell pep rally in the Chapel. Many fixtures of campus in the last 50 years took the stage, including Professor of Speech Joe O'Rourke, whose famous "Depauw to Hell — get the Bell!" line was one of a number of great turns of phrase employed by the faculty members. But Peebles' "Tribe of Dan" oration was especially popular. John Kerezy '77 wrote a book on Wabash's athletic history from 1977 to 1982, and though he wasn't in the Chapel that day, he has long been familiar with the speech.

"It got out almost immediately how great Hall Peeble's speech was," said Kerezy. "What was fascinating about that speech was that Stan Parrish, the football coach at the time, just absolutely loved it. He asked Peebles for a copy of it, and he actually put it on the wall at his office. Even years after he left Wabash, wherever he went to coach, he kept that on his wall because he just loved it so much."

Kerezy is fairly certain that the parody dates to the 1981 season, Parrish's second to last with Wabash. Though the Little Giants went a phenomenal 42–3–1 under Parrish — who went on to win a National Championship with Michigan, where he was Tom Brady's quarterbacks coach, and a Super Bowl with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers — Wabash actually lost that year's game 14–21.

Besides a sharp intellect and good sense of humor, Peebles may have had other sources of inspiration for the "Tribe of Dan."

"He could have been referencing thefts of the bell that occurred in 1978 and 1979,"



COURTESY OF COMMUNICTIONS AND MARKETING

Professor of Religion Hall Peebles H'63 gives an iconic speech on 'The Tribe of Dan.'

said Digital Archives Librarian Matthew Meyer. "The 1979 theft is interesting because it occurred in August when the school year began, and the Bell wasn't returned until November. It also caused damage to the floor and the Bell's stand, but the Bell itself was unharmed. We have a copy of the receipt listing the damage that was given to DePauw in our collection."

Whether he was inspired by the Little Giants' prowess on the gridiron, the Dannies bungling heist, a supreme knowledge of the Old Testament or some combination of all of those, what's certain is Peebles' "Tribe of Dan" went down in history. And it's not hard to see why.

An exerpt from this iconic speech is printed to the right.

"For three transgressions of the Dannies and for four, I will not revoke the punishment," says Wallace of the Wabash.

Because they have coveted their neighbors' Bell, they shall never possess the Bell, and it shall remain in stronger hands than theirs all the days of their lives, and they shall hear its sounds ringing in their ears, and they shall lust after it, but they shall be forever frustrated.

Because they have defaced their neighbors' campus, they shall fall before Stan Parrish and his mighty men, and they shall be powerless before the run, before the pass, and before the field goal, and they shall see many points on the scoreboard, but none shall be theirs, and they shall hear many cheers, but none shall praise them.

Because they have broken their neighbors' windows, their own conceit will be broken. And because they have stolen their neighbors' banner, their tiger's tail will be cut in pieces. And because they have dared to oppose the sons of Wabash in open combat, they shall be cut off out of the land of the living, and their name shall perish from the face of the earth.

But with the sons of Wabash it is not so. The sons of Wabash will possess the goals of the Dannies, and the mighty men of Parrish will trample the faces of the Dannies in the mud, and the hosts of Wabash will call their team blessed. And even even the Dannies will remember that giants trod once again upon the earth that day.

And the sons of Wabash will possess the women of the Dannies, and will bear them triumphantly away from Greencastle to a fair land to the north, a land flowing with beer, yea with much fine beer and with other pleasures that gladden the hearts of men, and there they shall dwell securely and in happiness all the days of their lives. And the sons of Wabash shall leave the shadow of their own vines, and their own fig trees, only once a year, as they travel triumphantly to and from Phoenix City, and as they pass a brown spot on the Indiana earth, they will say, "that once was the Dannies."

HALL PEEBLES H'63
FORMER PROFESSOR OF RELIGION

‘The Catch:’ 25 years later

Continued from page 1

“I can remember Coach Creighton coming down with a steely look of determination, saying, ‘You’ve gotta believe we can do this. This is our time. Let’s go,’” said Jake Knott ’03 in a 2021 article recalling the game. “We knew what we were going to do. There was a sense of, ‘We’ve been working for this.’”

Despite DePauw’s premature celebrations, Head Coach Chris Creighton brought the players together, gave them some encouragement and drew up one final play. This moment was the fuel the players needed to reset and prepare to give it their all for the final time in the game. Those in the stands also felt the spirit of perseverance and broke the quiet atmosphere through chanting once again. With only 14 seconds left before the clock hit double zeros, the players were ready to move quickly and use every second they had.

“The whole sideline was chanting, ‘One, two, three, we believe. One, two, three, we believe,’ over and over again,” then-kicker and current assistant coach Olmy Olmstead ’04 said.

The first step was taken by Eddie Garza ‘05, who received the kick from DePauw and ran it seven yards. The next was made by Kurt Casper ‘02, who gained nine more. The Little Giants found themselves around midfield. The two plays had cost most of the time and only 2.7 seconds were remaining in this historic Monon Bell Game. After calling a time out, the Little Giants knew that they had only one option.

The play was simple: two wide receivers, Casper and Ryan Short ’03, would run to the endzone and catch the pass from the quarterback Jake Knott ’03. Casper would be there to catch the ball but Short would be there to tip the ball should the pass not make it far enough. When Knott received the snap, he was immediately pressured by DePauw. Seeing the incoming lineman, he took off around the outside. After taking a few steps to his right, Knott saw Short approaching the endzone and spun the ball down the field toward him. As the ball left his hand and travelled toward its spot in Wabash history, Casper yelled to his teammate and told him to tip the ball. Short tipped the ball into the hands of Casper and secured the Little Giants the game winning touchdown. Everything went perfectly according to plan, and Wabash fought to achieve a brilliant final moment to celebrate their first Monon Bell victory in half a decade. The players rushed the field and the stands erupted as fans poured into the endzone to celebrate with the players.

“With 100 guys stacked on top of you, it was incredibly emotional,” said Olmstead. “I remember laying at the bottom of that pile thinking, ‘Geez, Louise, this is something that very few players get to experience in their entire lives.’”

Emeritus Associate Professor of History Rick Warner had decided to attend his first Bell game that day in his third fall at Wabash. The play became an instant classic on campus. Warner recalls encouraging Short, who he had in class, to recreate the play with some other students. Since then, Warner has attended every single Bell game in the last 24 years.

“The world just exploded, it was such a surprise victory. You can’t unsee it, honestly.” said Warner. “One thing I do know is that we’ll be there again this year. The fans will be there. We’ll be loud and proud.”

Sometimes, the improbable, and even the seemingly impossible, happens right before your eyes. That was true 20 years ago, and it’s just as true now. The next Monon Bell miracle could be right around the corner…or 100 miles down the road.





Operation Frijoles

MANN VATS ’30
STAFF WRITER

Gather round, gentlemen, for I shall tell you a tale of deception, courage and an unusually large bell.

In the autumn of 1965, when the Monon Bell had long been held in the lands of Greencastle, a rather ambitious plan was taking shape in the minds of a few Wabash men. Their prize was no ordinary treasure. It was a 350-pound bell, the symbol of one of college football’s oldest rivalries, and one that had remained in the hands of their rivals for far too long.



COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES

Wabash men pose with the Monon Bell after the successful 1965 heist involving Jim Shanks ’67 and Raymond Santos ’69.

But retrieving such a prize would take more than a midnight visit to enemy territory. It would require a convincing disguise, a little ingenuity and an elaborate story. And so began a plan that would eventually become known as Operation Frijoles.

To understand how this all came about, we must travel back to 1965. The Monon Bell itself has been the game’s trophy since 1932, and DePauw had held the trophy for nearly ten years, with the exception of a brief period in 1959. Following its return, DePauw had kept the Bell hidden, making another visit rather difficult for anyone hoping to retrieve it.

Enter Jim Shanks, a Wabash sophomore from the Class of 1967, who came up with a rather unconventional solution.

One afternoon in early November, Shanks walked into the office of DePauw President William H. Kerstetter, accompanied by Raymond Santos ‘69, posing as his Cuban-born driver. Shanks introduced himself as a representative of the United States Information Service in Mexico City, claiming he was there to encourage Mexican students to attend DePauw.

The proposition was received enthusiastically. Kerstetter even agreed to offer two full-tuition scholarships to prospective Mexican students.

Having secured the president’s interest, Shanks requested permission to photograph various places around campus, including, naturally, the Monon Bell. The dean, the only person who knew where the trophy was kept, was understandably hesitant. As he reportedly remarked, “I don’t know whether I should show this to you or not. The last time I showed it to someone, they stole it.”

Despite the warning, Shanks was eventually shown the Bell, kept on the second floor of a Quonset hut near the football field. With the help of the athletic director, a photograph was arranged, with a few DePauw female students joining them. Santos took the picture, and Shanks walked away with something far more valuable than a photograph: the Bell’s location.

That evening, Shanks and three companions returned to campus in the same car. Their presence attracted the attention of authorities, who instructed them to leave town. While they were occupied, another group of Wabash men entered the maintenance building, retrieved the 350-pound trophy, and loaded it into a car bound for Crawfordsville. According to the Fall 1998 issue of Wabash Magazine, the entire operation took just fifteen minutes.

By morning, Greencastle had discovered the Bell was missing. It soon appeared at a nighttime rally in front of the Wabash Chapel, where Shanks was celebrated as something of a campus hero. The Wabash administration, however, maintained its innocence. Nearly a week passed before the College officially acknowledged having the trophy.

With the annual football game approaching, Dean Norman Moore returned the Bell to DePauw the day before the contest. On Saturday, Wabash defeated DePauw 16-6, officially bringing the Bell back to Crawfordsville after ten years.

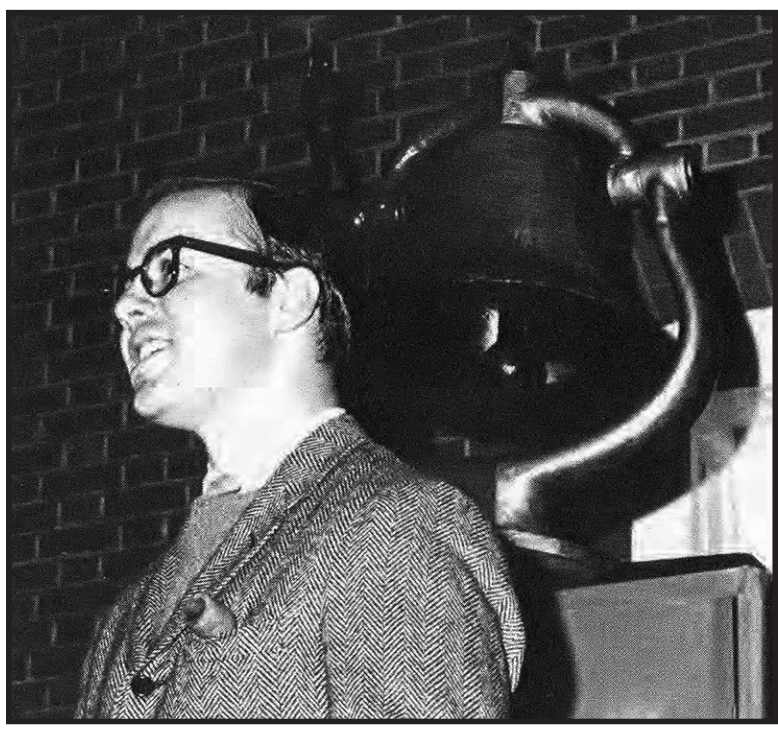
The celebrations were fittingly outrageous. Wabash fans stormed the field wearing sombreros and ponchos, tossing taco shells and carrying posters congratulating President Kerstetter on his two scholarship offers and, rather unfortunately, his missing Bell. Operation Frijoles had come full circle.

But the story didn’t end there. In 1991, Scott Simpson ’95 first heard about the heist during his freshman year. Fascinated by Shanks, who had become synonymous with the Monon Bell despite never playing a down of football, Simpson began investigating the operation. His search through the alumni directory revealed that Shanks had passed away. Years later, he returned to the story, located the original *Bachelor* account, and tracked down one of Shanks’ accomplices, Karl Fritch. Conversations with Fritch and other alumni who witnessed the events eventually led to a documentary project about Shanks and the heist.

As Simpson discovered, there was considerably more to the story than the familiar version passed down over the years.

Nearly six decades later, Operation Frijoles remains one of the most entertaining chapters in the history of the Monon Bell rivalry. It is a reminder that the rivalry has never been confined to the football field. Some victories are won on Saturday afternoons. Others begin with a convincing story about Mexican scholarships, a photograph and a trip to the second floor of a Quonset hut.

The Bell may not be in Crawfordsville today, but Operation Frijoles remains proof that Wabash men have never been short of imagination when it comes to bringing it home.



COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR ARCHIVES

Jim Hanks ’67 helped orchestrate the heist that has since been named “Operation Frijoles.”

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

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Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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A Bell Game for the history books



Jim Peeples

Director of Athletics and Recreation

Reply to this opinion at peeplesj@wabash.edu

November 25th, 1922 was the last time in the 132-year history of the Monon Bell Classic that the game was played at a neutral site. 104 years ago, the two teams, students, alumni and fans of this great rivalry experienced the game at a neutral site. That game was historical.

Some more interesting history about the 1922 game. The game was played at Irwin Field in Indianapolis. This game happened 10 years before the Monon Bell was even part of this rivalry. The Bell became part of the classic in 1932. The most important part of the 1922 game was Wabash won the game 30–0.

The last interesting piece of the history lesson is this. In the first year the Bell was introduced in 1932, the game ended in a tie. Neither team was awarded the Bell. The game ended in a 0-0 tie because a blizzard dumped over a foot of snow on Greencastle and crews did their best to clear the field.

I share the history because this Saturday in Muncie, Indiana at Ball State University all the participants, students, alumni and fans will be a part of another historic day in the history of the Monon Bell Classic. Something like this happened 104 years ago. I feel pretty confident saying it may be another 100 years before the next neutral site game is played in this rivalry.

People who are a part of this game on Saturday will tell their family, friends and co-workers about being involved in only the second neutral site game in the history of the classic. I also believe thousands who don't attend will say they were there. Because that is how these things happen in life.

I know many who are unhappy about having to move the game to Muncie. There is a small part of me that understands how you could feel that way. I have always been a person who looks for the positive in every situation. This game provides us with the opportunity to find many positives.

For the team, our guys will get to play a game in really nice Division I Stadium. Most Division III student-athletes don't ever get that opportunity. What a tremendous student-athlete experience our team will get to have on Saturday.

For our students, with many thanks to Vic Lindsay for his hard work and President Feller's commitment to providing our students with a ticket for the game and quality transportation there and back, you will all get to be a part of history. Beyond that, what a tremendous memory of your Wabash experience you are being provided. For our men in Greek life, this is something you will be sharing with your brothers. My guess is that 10 years from now, you will be sharing memories and stories about this day. For our men who are independents, you will be making memories with the men in your living unit, so you will also share the stories of this day. A life lesson I will share with all of you: Experiences are what you choose to make of them. Life is based on your own attitude. If you look for all the good things that Saturday can be, you will make and have great memories. On the other side of that coin, if you choose to be negative, well, I don't need to say anything else.

We need everyone to bring positive energy to Muncie on Saturday. We need that positive energy for 60 minutes. The student section for the Hampden-Sydney game was awesome. Your energy helped our Little Giants overcome the heat and humidity in the fourth quarter that day. You helped us be the stronger team at the end of the game and secure that victory. We will need that energy to return the Monon Bell back to Crawfordsville and our campus at Wabash College.

One last piece of history to share for everyone, as pointed out in last week's Bachelor article, the last time a team lost four consecutive games was 1975. In 1977, the Wabash football team played for the National Championship in the Stagg Bowl. The lessons learned by that 1975 team laid the foundation for the historical year the 1977 team experienced. I am positive much of that was based on the attitude those men shared and how they handled adversity and the challenges of the 1975 season. If we can all remain positive on Saturday and fix our attitudes on the positives this historical game provides the whole campus, I believe something truly special will happen on Saturday.

104 years ago, Wabash won the last neutral site game. Saturday, be a part of history as we win the second neutral site game at Ball State!!

DING! DING!

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

TRUUEEEEE

*Lo-Five to Depau*w. Ding. Ding.*

"SIR, A SECOND AFFAIR HAS HIT"

Lo-Five to Nvidia's Jensen Huang. Getting caught cheating on your wife (twice) and tanking your own company's stock is bad. Doing that with a Chinese spy? Danny behavior.

MOVING TARGETS

Hi-Five to the newly-striped members of the Sphinx Club! You'll be gloriously adorned in scarlet and white as you each selflessly eat taser shots from the state troopers when we storm the field Saturday.

JUST ONE MORE I SWEAR

Lo-Five to all the Wallies spending countless hours on Fortnite trying to get the Pirate Token. If you spent this amount of time hitting chest instead of opening chests, you'd have massive pecs.

"IS THERE A BREEZE?"

Hi-Five to all the Wallies rocking their Bell cuts. Even with chunks of hair missing you still look better than the fellas down south.

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Wabash College Bachelor

Dueling predictions: 132nd Monon Bell Classic

A team with no weaknesses

'Ringing the Bell all the way home'

CHASE MONG
THE DEPAUW NEWS & SPORTS EDITOR

Only a few things bring me pure joy: puppies, weekends and DePauw winning the Monon Bell another year. Every year when there isn't a global pandemic, the Tigers and the Little Giants square off in the annual Monon Bell Classic. This year, the game will be played in Muncie, Indiana, on a neutral site as renovations continue on Blackstock Stadium. As tradition, here is our prediction for what is about to go down this Saturday at 1:07 p.m.

DePauw holds a strong 8-1 record and a 7-1 conference record, with its only loss coming in a 37-27 defeat to WashU, ranked No. 6 according to the AFCA Division III Coaches Poll. The Tigers' first and only ranked victory came in week nine, defeating conference opponent No. 12 John Caroll 35-7. The Little Giants' record looks relatively weak, with a 5-4 overall record and 4-4 in conference. The Little Giants have suffered losses to middle-of-the-pack NCAC teams, including Ohio Wesleyan 24-23 and Denison 35-28, as well as ranked losses to No. 12 John Caroll 24-17 and No. 7 WashU 27-17. Despite the Little Giants' poor record, each of their losses has been by fewer than 10 points, and the Little Giants have averaged 21 points in those defeats. In other words, the Tigers should not go into the game blindly expecting an easy victory.

Despite the Tigers' loss to WashU at the beginning of the season, the team has seemingly done a complete 180° offensively. During the season opener against Rose-Hulman, the Tigers were under a lot of pressure against the Fighting Engineers, going into halftime down 7-16. With a second-half victory surge, the offense seemingly found their footing after a touchdown pass, run, punt return and field goal, scoring a total of 24 points in the second half. Their reliance on being a "second-half" team would come back to haunt them after their loss to WashU the following week. After quarterback Scott Ballentine '28 was benched for Jack Kazmierczak '27 in Week 3, the team began to hit its stride, earning dominant victories against Kenyon 31-3, Oberlin 68-7, Denison 62-14 and Wittenberg 31-0. This season, Kazmierczak had 1,476 passing yards, 17 touchdowns to two interceptions and a 68.21% completion rate. At the receiving end of Kazmierczak's passing game are Luke Dockerty '30 with five touchdowns and 585 receiving yards, and Carter Foran '29 with six touchdowns and 489 receiving yards. The Tigers' rushing game is also something defensive coordinators need to keep an eye on. Carson Johnson '27 leads the rushing game with eight touchdowns and 820 yards, averaging six yards per attempt. Defensively, the team has also seemed to have found its footing after Week 3, only allowing an average of 10 points per game.

As for the team that shall not be named, they tend not to do well against teams that are able to establish the run. In their last loss against Ohio Wesleyan, the defense allowed 157 rushing yards, 4.8 yards per carry, and a rushing touchdown. The pass defense may also be an issue, allowing 237 yards and four touchdowns in the same game. Their latest victory against Kenyon came down to the fact that the Owls could not establish a consistent run game, recording only eight rushing yards. Key players to look out for the Little Giants are quarterback Brand Campbell '27, who has thrown for four touchdowns, six interceptions and 1,203 yards; running back Cole Dickerson '28, who has rushed for 940 yards, 13 touchdowns, and averages 4.6 yards per carry; and wide receivers Luke Adams '28 and Nick Witte '28, who have combined to receive 1,096 yards and three touchdowns.

For DePauw, the key to victory will be establishing the run game early while limiting the opponent's rushing attack. In the four games where the Little Giants have lost, three have been the result of their opponent rushing for more than 140 yards. Establishing a few good yards on first down allows Kazmierczak to air the ball out to his receivers and move the chains down the field. The Tigers should also be wary of Dickerson and his rushing attack, which seems to be who the offense relies on the most when they can't get first downs.

What's our prediction? Both teams will duke it out early in the first half, but the Tigers will ultimately be ringing the bell all the way home.

**Wabash: 17
Depauw: 35**

Record isn't everything

The Monon Bell will return to Wabash

CARTER McCALL '29
SPORTS EDITOR

On paper, DePauw is the favorite. The Tigers have rolled through the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) again and they've won the last four Bell games, the last two by more than 20 points. But the Bell game has never cared much about records, and this year the Little Giants have the edge in the places that matter most in November.

Start with the record itself, because 5-4 is misleading. Wabash fell at Denison 24-23, at John Carroll 24-17 and to Washington University 27-17. That's a one-point loss and two close games against the top of the league. Those weren't blowouts. They were games that came down to a play or two. This is a team that has spent all season playing four-quarter football against good opponents. It won't be rattled if Saturday is close in the fourth quarter.

Remember how this season started. Wabash opened 4-0 and outscored Hampden-Sydney, Wittenberg, Oberlin and Wooster by a combined 128-34. That team was dominant on both sides of the ball, and it hasn't gone anywhere. The October losses were close ones, and the Little Giants looked like themselves again against Kenyon. With a full week of focus on one opponent, the September version of Wabash shows up in Muncie.

The defense is the biggest reason to believe. That unit shut out Wittenberg 31-0, held Oberlin and Wooster to seven points each and kept Kenyon off the board for three quarters in Saturday's 27-7 win. Even in the losses, no opponent scored more than 27 points. DePauw is used to scoring at will against NCAC defenses. It won't be that easy on Saturday.

The style of this matchup also favors Wabash. The Little Giants are built to run the football and control the clock. Back in September against Hampden-Sydney, they fell behind 14-0, then held the ball for more than 35 minutes and wore down a tired defense with 29 straight points. DePauw's offense is at its best when it gets the ball often. A Wabash team that keeps it on the sideline for long stretches takes away the Tigers' biggest weapon without having to stop it on every snap.

Then there's the site. This year's game was supposed to be played in Greencastle before construction moved it to Ball State's Scheumann Stadium, the first neutral-site Bell game in 104 years. DePauw loses a home game. Wabash loses nothing. For a rivalry that has turned on crowd noise and home-field energy for decades, an even playing field matters.

Motivation counts for something too. Wabash's seniors have never won the Bell. They've heard about Bell weeks in Crawfordsville, the Bell ringing across campus and the celebration that follows a win. Saturday is their last chance to experience it for themselves. DePauw has nothing to prove in this rivalry right now. Wabash has everything to prove, and teams with that kind of hunger tend to make the big plays late.

Head coach Jake Gilbert feels it as much as anyone. A 1998 Wabash graduate, he went 9-2 in his first season and won the ForeverLawn Bowl, but he lost the Bell. He's had a full year to prepare for this one, and his team has been building toward it since the end of last season. The Kenyon win snapped a rough October and sent the Little Giants into Bell week with momentum at exactly the right time.

Finally, streaks end. Four straight wins is a rare run in this rivalry, and history says these things don't last forever. This series has swung back and forth for more than a century, and it's due to swing again.

Here's how I see it playing out. DePauw strikes first, because DePauw always does, but the Wabash defense settles in from there and the first half turns into a field-position battle. The Little Giants control the ball on the ground in the second and third quarters and take their first lead late in the third. DePauw's passing game, which threw for 375 yards against Denison, finally breaks loose for a long scoring drive, and the Tigers tie it at 20 with about four minutes left.

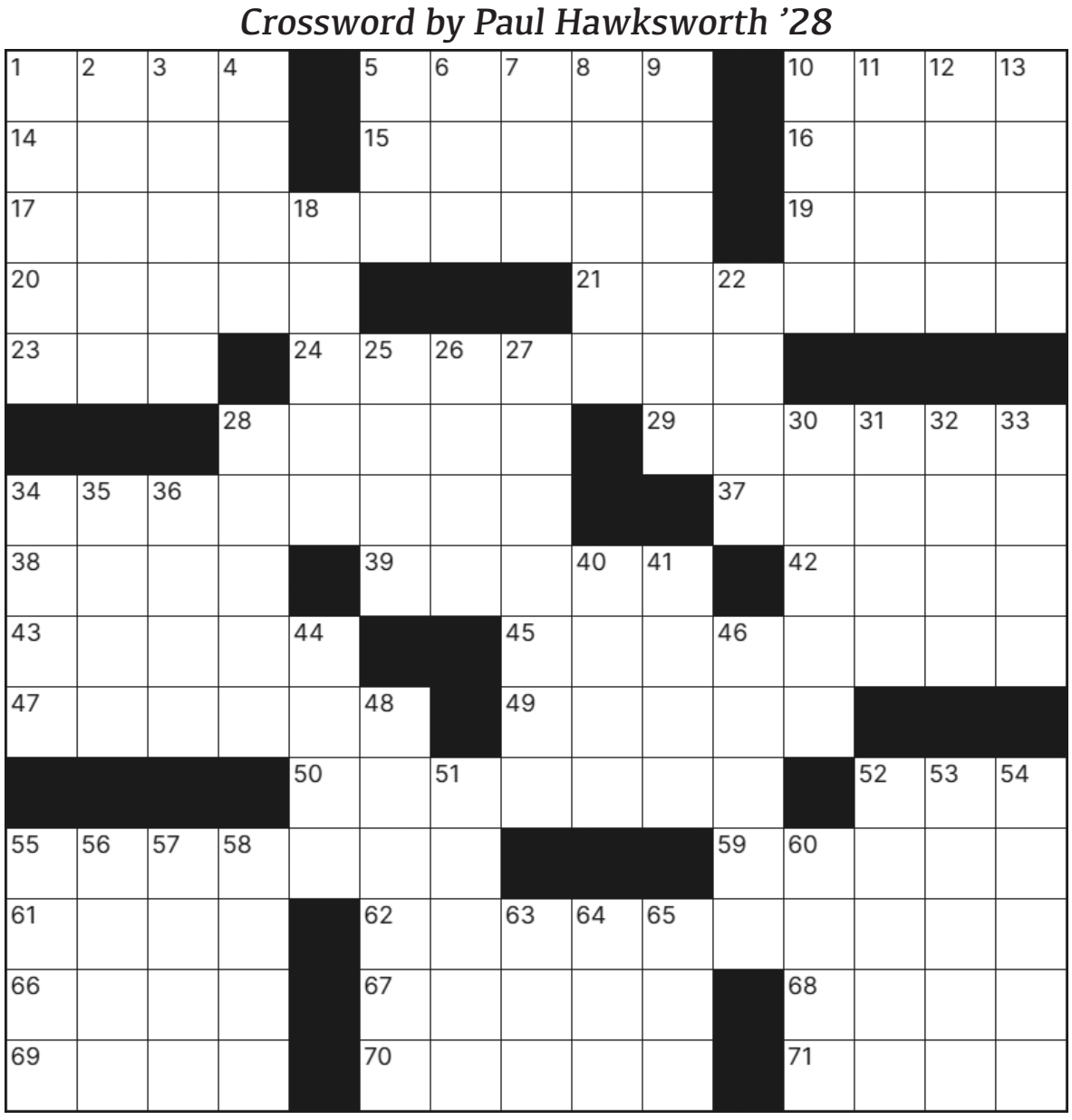
Then Wabash puts together a long, grinding drive on the ground, draining the clock and setting up a field goal with under a minute to go. The defense makes one last stop near midfield.

Wabash still leads the all-time series 63-59-9, and 44-43-6 in games played for the Bell. After Saturday, both leads grow by one.

**Wabash: 23
Depauw: 20**

‘DING DING!’

Crossword by Paul Hawksworth ’28



Across

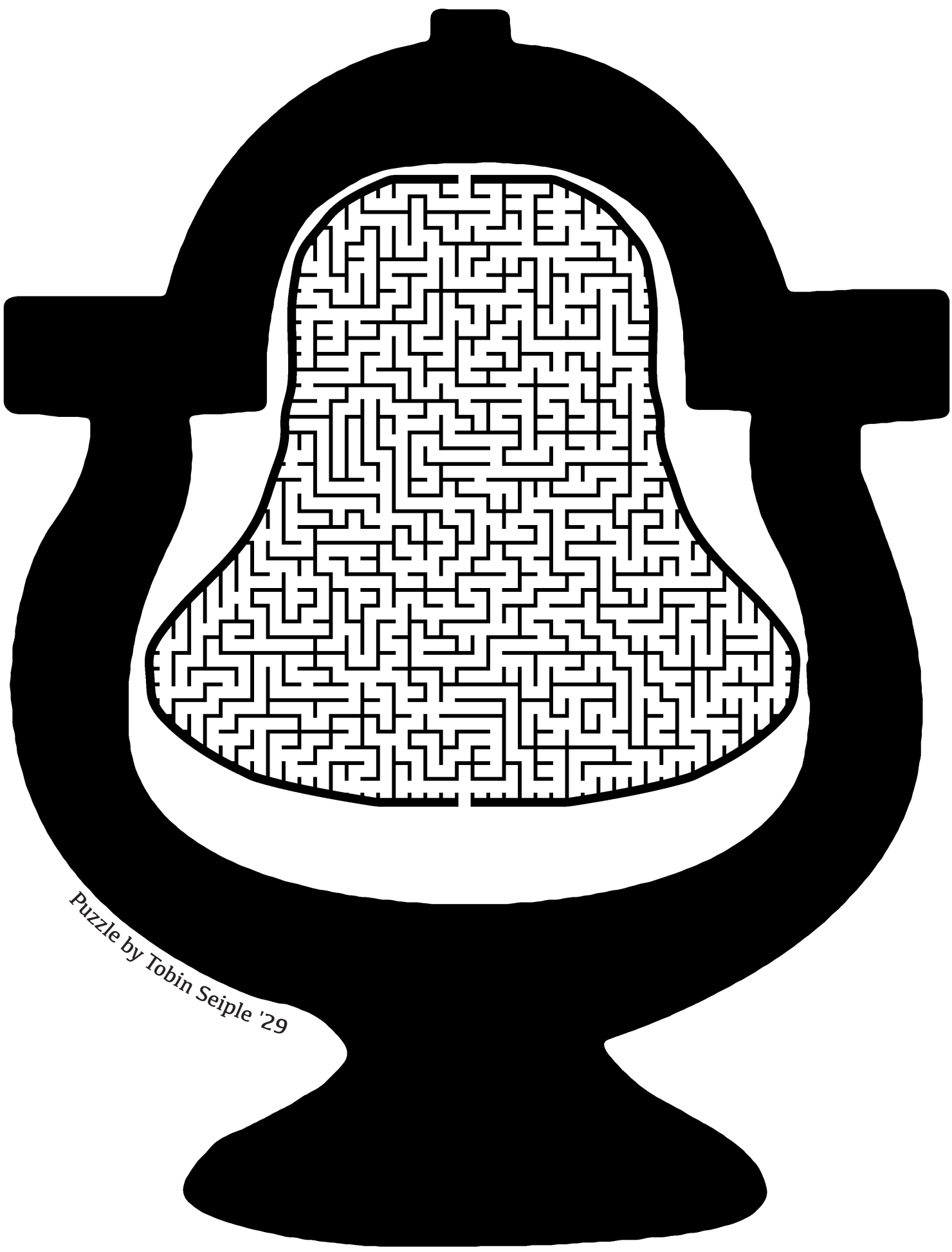
1. Cowboys QB who became a broadcaster
5. Big name in water filters
10. Cartoon anvil vendor
14. Unsettling sign
15. Typical number of slices in a pizza
16. Clark’s love in “Superman”
17. Headline seen on many an old Bell game *Bachelor* issues
19. Mom’s sister
20. White house?
21. Chocolate-coated marshmal low sandwich
23. “Montero” rapper Lil ___ X
24. Whiskey variant
28. A chip found in a walking taco, perhaps
29. Vandalize
34. “No-Bell Prize” operation
37. Atop, as a hierarchy
38. El Pollo ___ (restaurant chain)
39. Utters, as nonsense
42. “The Divine Comedy” for one
43. Love, to Giuseppe Verdi
45. 2001 Monon Bell Classic-winning play
47. Bears of China
49. Mascara ruiners
50. Stage name of Robyn Fenty
52. Crypto art, abbr.
55. Ohio River Valley native
59. Guy of “Diners, Drive-Ins and Dives”
61. Animal rights org.
62. Number of times Wabash has won the Monon Bell Classic (as of print)
66. Tool used on wrinkled clothes
67. What a nation of 55- Across is
68. “It’s never ___” (Jeff Buckley lyrics)
69. Iditarod finish line city
70. Man of Manchuria
71. Substances banned by MLB

Down

1. ABC host Roberts
2. 37-Across’s opposite
3. Most people eat three per day
4. Suspicious of
5. Hive dweller
6. Dangerous current
7. Tennis superstar Swiatek
8. Skim (through)
9. “The Handmaid’s Tale” au thor Margaret
10. M*A*S*H star Alda
11. Insurrection by a military, perhaps
12. fun-sized
13. East, in Mexico
18. Country music guitar
22. Fit to draft, to the Army
25. Olive and sesame, for exam ple
26. Rio Grande sch.
27. Stone used to decipher hiero glyphics
28. Scandinavian inlet
30. Lab infestation?
31. Visit with the dr.
32. Stylish
33. apop
34. Tent feature
35. Tomato variety
36. Revered figure
40. Scheduling inquiry
41. Son of John Lennon
44. Make, as income
46. Crochet, for one
48. Short slumber
51. Estate recipients
52. “You’ve got some ___!”
53. Liberated
54. Features of many wedding cakes
55. Ride in new wheels, say
56. Purple Heart recipient
57. Molecule component
58. Wax’s counterpart
60. Famous flapjack chain
63. Noon, to a Roman
64. Not yet scheduled, abbr.
65. Osaka currency

Scan for solutions!

The Monon Maze



Puzzle by Tobin Seiple '29



PHOTO BY ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28

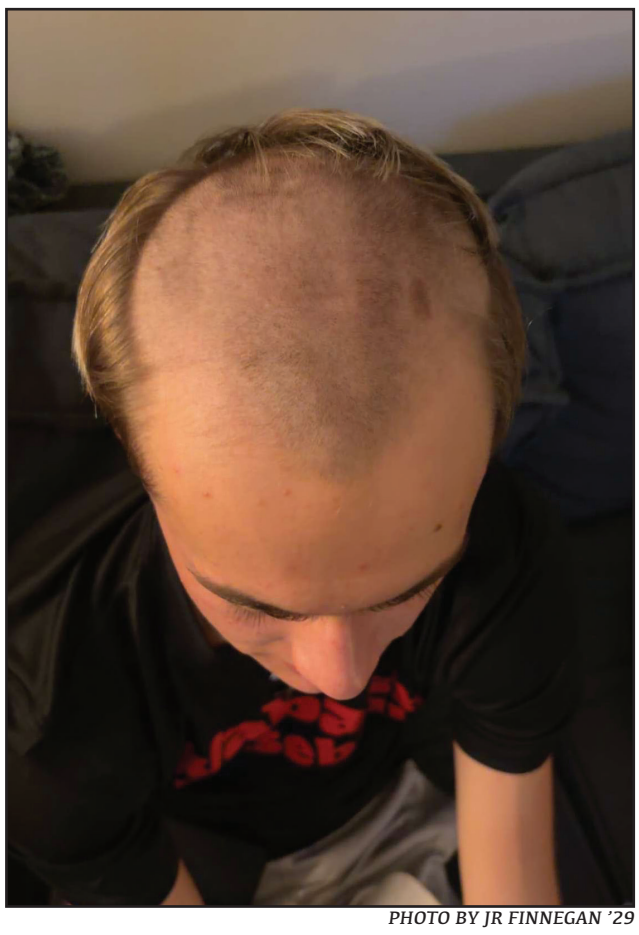


PHOTO BY JR FINNEGAN '29



PHOTO BY ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28

Chopped chops: The best of the Bell cuts

Bell cuts continue as a tradition to celebrate Wabash in preparation of the Monon Bell Classic



PHOTO BY ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28



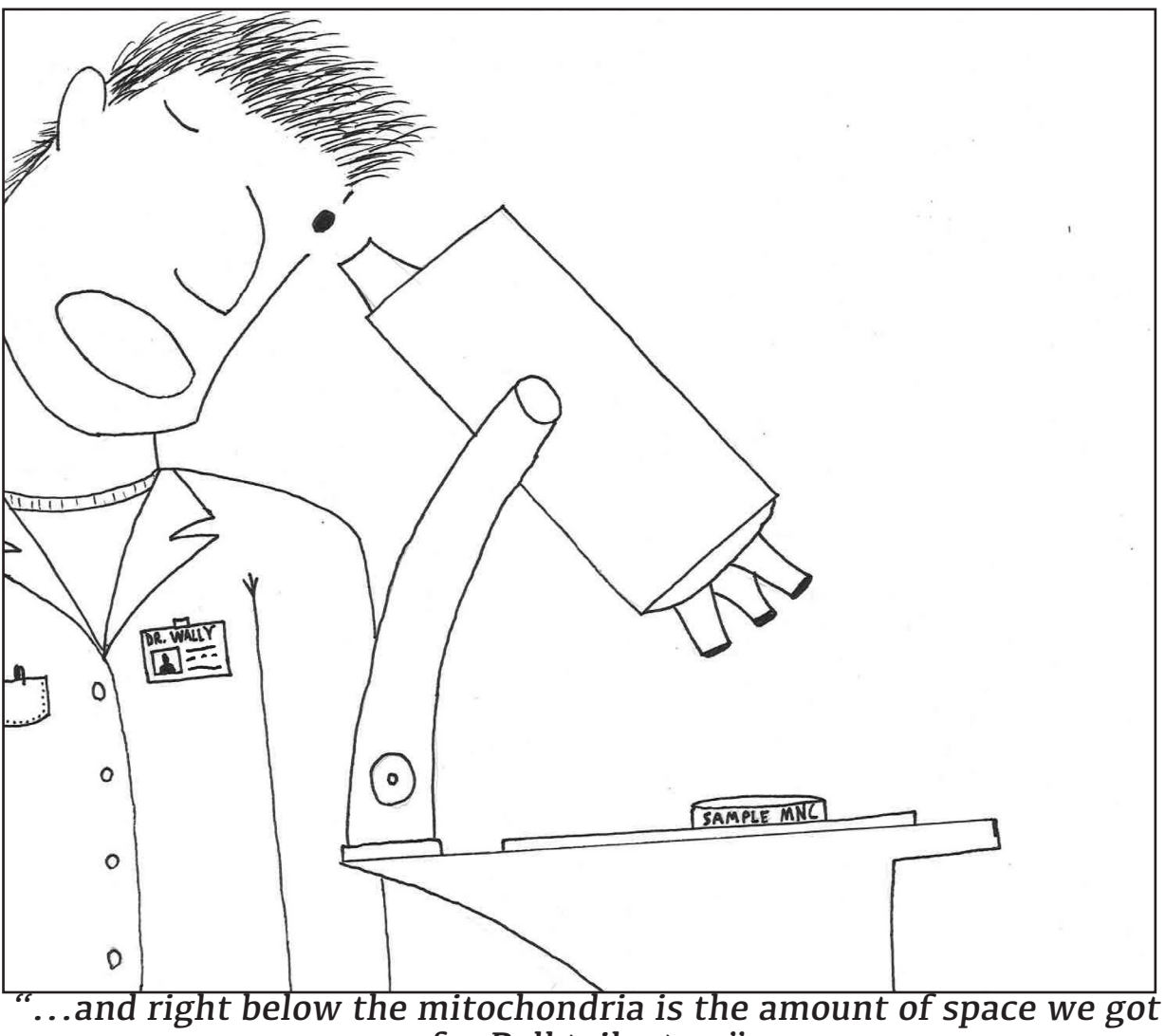
PHOTO BY PAUL HAWKSWORTH '28



PHOTO BY ANTONIO GRANDINETTI '28







"...and right below the mitochondria is the amount of space we got for Bell tailgates."

'An imposter among us'

Comic by Drake Green '28

'Where?'

Comic by Noah Mintie '29

40 years of Bell games

Jim Amidon '87 recalls his favorite memories from four decades of Monon Bell games

JIM AMIDON '87
GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

There are 15 seconds to go before halftime and seventh-ranked Wabash is hammering DePauw 28-10 in the 2015 Monon Bell Classic. The Little Giants are backed up inside their 30-yard-line and on third down, it's take-a-knee time and the teams will head to the locker room. I'm shooting pictures 50 yards from the line of scrimmage but cheat closer to the sideline to snap a long photo of the scoreboard as we head to the break. But DePauw is confused on defense, and running back Mason Zurek '16 takes the handoff, notices the missed assignment, and races up the sideline.

I'm thinking to myself, "This is THE photo that will tell the story of the game" - Zurek barreling his 215-pound body with no DePauw player in the photo and the scoreboard reflecting another blowout win for Wabash in the Monon Bell Classic. Click, click, click, click, click. My camera reeled off 20-some images of the 55-yard run before my lights went out. When I woke up, the team doctors were checking on me - my face bloody, glasses broken, and lenses and camera bodies strewn across the ground. I had gotten a bit too close to the sideline for the photo and an official chasing Zurek as he bolted up field slammed straight into me. My huge camera lens smashed into my face and my head bounced off the turf. I was embarrassed to have gotten in the way of the official and I toldthe doctors repeatedly that I was fine when, in fact, I was horribly concussed and my mouth was bleeding from the camera banging in my face. Zurek's run set up a field goal and Wabash went into the locker room leading 31-10 and the Tigers' fans left in droves.

That game remains my favorite of the 43 Monon Bell Games I've seen. Like the six games before it, Wabash came in heavily favored and confident. But DePauw was 8-1 and ranked 25th and thought they could pull the upset. The Little Giants owned the game from the start, scoring on its first two possessions and winning 45-17 for a seventh straight win in the rivalry series. While I remember little of the second half or the drive home, Zurek finished with a Wabash record 278 yards on 37 bruising carries in perhaps the best game ever for a running back. (Until the next week when Zurek ran 39 times for 326 yards - another Wabash record - and four touchdowns in a 35-14 playoff win over Albion in a blizzard.)

While the 2015 Bell Game tops my list, there are plenty of others that stand out. Here's a snapshot:

1985 – DePauw was headed to the playoffs with an 8-1 record, while Wabash was 6-2-1. Wabash lost at Dayton 51-6 and DePauw had beaten Dayton 35-31. But Wabash's Bill Kaiser '87 rushed an NCAA record 58 times for 211 yards (including an NCAA record 23 straight carries) and Joe Bevelhimer '86 kicked five field goals, including school-record 49- and 50-yarders, and Wabash won 28-8 to knock DPU out of the playoffs.

1994 – ESPN-2 sent its cameras to Wabash for the "Great College Rivalry" series. The Bell Game kicked at 10 a.m. and three minutes, later ESPN's "Game Day" was interrupted with highlights from Crawfordsville: in the opening 30 seconds, there had been a pre-game fight and back-to-back kickoff returns for touchdowns. The tiniest guy on the field (135-pound George Lino '96) had a 94-yard kickoff return and 84-yard rushing touchdown and Wabash won 28-24.



PHOTO BY JIM AMIDON '87

Wes Chamblee '10 takes a punt back for a touchdown in the 2011 Monon Bell Game in front of a roaring Little Giant crowd.



PHOTO BY JIM AMIDON '87

Chris Ings runs for a touchdown in -10 degree windchill in the 1995 Bell Game. Ings willed the Little Giants to a win in this game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM AMIDON '87

George Lino '96 runs back a 96 yard kick return touchdown during the 1994 Monon Bell Game. Lino finished the game with 276 all-purpose yards.

1995 – An early-season blizzard covered Greencastle and miserable conditions made it impossible for either team to move the ball. Wabash quarterback Chris Ings '96 scored eight of the nine points in a 7-2 Wabash win. He scored Wabash's touchdown on a 10-yard run and added DePauw's two points when he was tackled for a safety.

2002 – The Chris Creighton era started for real in 2001 when Wabash won with a last-second bomb. But it was in 2002 that Wabash ran the table in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), winning on a field goal in overtime to beat Wittenberg 46-43 in Springfield. With that huge win, the rest of the regular season was anti-climactic, including the Bell Game. Jake Knott '03 threw four touchdown passes to All-American tight end Ryan Short '03 and ran for another TD and it was 35-0 at the half. Wabash would go on a tear, taking 12-of-14 Monon Bell Games through 2015.

2005 – Wabash capped an unbeaten regular season with a 17-14 win over DePauw, which came into the game 7-1. It was a slug fest. Wabash's high-flying offense, led by quarterback Russell Harbaugh '06, churned out just 257 yards of offense to DePauw's 251. It's on my list of favorites because of Harbaugh's leadership and the gritty way that team played with very few all-stars. Ranked #1 in the North Region with a 10-0 record, the Little Giants beat Albion 38-20 in the first round of the playoffs before falling to Capital 14-11 in a controversial finish.

2010 – The Little Giants steamrolled the 21st-ranked, 9-0 Tigers, winning 47-0, and holding DePauw to seven first downs and 95 total yards, while intercepting two Tiger passes and recovering another two fumbles. Derrick Yoder '11 ran for 171 yards and a touchdown, while Tyler Burke '12 and Chase Belton '12 combined to throw for 206 yards and four touchdowns. It rained start to finish, but no Wabash fan left the stadium until it was dark.

2011 – As was custom during the seven-game Bell winning streak, Wabash jumped out to a 31-0 lead. The few DePauw fans that actually showed up at their own stadium left after Pat Clegg '13 recovered a fumble in the endzone five minutes before halftime. Wabash fans wore white sweatshirts that read "Occupy DePauw," and the Little Giants did just that in a 45-7 victory despite completing only two passes in the game. The defense was awesome, holding DPU to 150 yards while forcing five turnovers. Wes Chamblee's punt return for a TD is one of my top Monon Bell memories.

The Cage Man: Chick Clements H '77

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

For 40 years, if you were a student-athlete at Wabash, you knew Chick Clements and he knew you. Operating from the equipment cage in the fieldhouse basement, Clements was a Swiss Army Knife equipment manager who doubled as a father figure to countless Wabash men in search of guidance. Though he passed in 2024, Clements' contributions to Wabash are timeless.

A Crawfordsville native, Clements briefly attended Butler University on an athletic scholarship before serving in the Korean War. After he left the service, Clements joined the Wabash athletics department in 1966. He retired in 2003 after 37 years at the College, but even in retirement it wasn't unusual to see Chick lifting, playing basketball or talking with students.

Clements was famous and beloved by students for his to the point, salt of the earth wisdom. Whether they were struggling with personal relationships, in the classroom or on the field, Clements was a listening ear.

"He became really a surrogate father here on campus for so many Wabash College athletes because they could just go down, and if something wasn't going well in class, they could complain to Chick about it," said Athletic Communication Director Brent Harris '03. "And then Chick would usually give them some good, fatherly — but stern — advice."

His gift to know students at a personal level was matched by few on campus, as was his ability to keep guys humble when they were getting a little too high on themselves.

"I was a backup quarterback to Dave Broecker '83, who was this All-American," said Senior Major Gifts and Special Projects Officer Steve Hoffman '85. "I saw a Broecker go to Chick, give him his old shoes and say, 'Hey, can I get some different ones?' And he gave him some nice white shoes. So I thought, 'Oh, that's kind of cool. I guess I can do that.' And so I tried the same thing. 'Hey, can I get new shoes?' And he looked at me and said, 'Why?' And I didn't have a good answer. 'Those work fine. Get out of here.' I was a little full of myself, and he cut me down to where I needed to be."

So respected was Clements that in 1998, five years before he retired, Wabash inducted him into its Athletics Hall of Fame. Though his entire job revolved around athletics, physical activity also took up much of Clements' free time. Between weightlifting, jogging, biking and fishing, he was almost always moving. Clements' was also an early participant in Wabash's Noontime Basketball Association (NBA) pickup games. In semi-competitive games at lunch, faculty, staff and students battled on the hardwood. Clements, ever the competitor — and hard screener — played into his seventies.

"I remember in one of those games later in his career there was a loose ball," said Hoffman. "I was coming beside him, and there was a ball that bounced up in the air that he went to get. Some younger guy grabbed it and went the other way. And I remember Chick saying to me, 'Man, I just can't jump anymore.' And I stop and go, 'Chick, you're 70.' But that's just who he was."

At a college, there's many places students can go for learning and wisdom. Professors, deans and coaches galore; students pore over ancient and bestselling texts; credentials are everywhere. But there are other ways to get educated, and Clements proved that better than perhaps anyone else during his decades on campus. He wasn't flowery or flashy, but he got through to Wabash men, and that was his superpower.

"This world needs as many Chick Clementses as it can get," said Hoffman. "Not looking for notoriety, just doing their job well and caring about it."

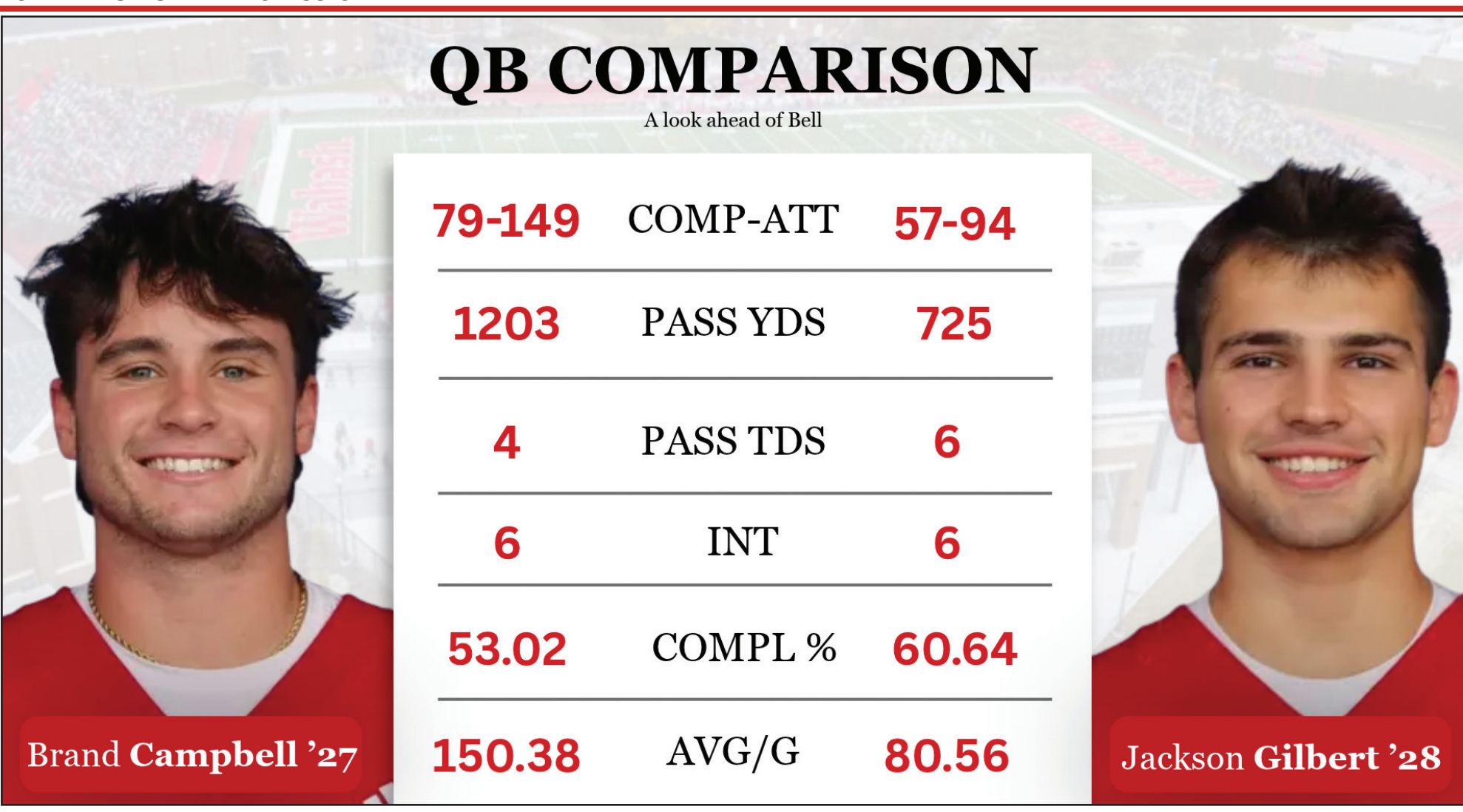
"This world needs as many Chick Clementses as it can get. Not looking for notoriety, just doing their job well and caring about it."

-Steve Hoffman '85



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMS AND MARKETING

Chick Clementz H '77 gets all of the helmets set up before a game.



It has been a back and forth season for the Little Giants through the air. A couple of the biggest questions going into the 132nd Monon Bell game are who will start, and how much will each signal-caller will play?

This week in sports

MARK BERGER '28
STAFF WRITER

Football:

Wabash football finished on a high note in their final home game of the 2026 season, beating Kenyon College 27–7. While the Owls dominated time of possession, it was Wabash who made better use of their time. They scored 10 points in the first half behind a one yard Jackson Gilbert '28 rushing touchdown and a field goal. Cole Dickerson '28 extended the lead to 17 when he rushed for a 20 yard touchdown in Wabash's second drive of the second half. The Little Giants put the nail in the coffin with a 13 yard rushing touchdown by Chase Shurn '29. The team outgained the Owls 302–204, and were led in the rushing attack by Dickerson with 85 yards on 22 attempts. Brand Campbell '27 commanded the Little Giants through the air with 160 yards and an interception. Wabash moves to 5-4 on the season as they prepare for their biggest test of the year against Depauw University on November 14 in the 132nd Monon Bell Classic.

Basketball:

The Wabash basketball team fell short to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 82-90 during their regular season opener on November 7. The Little Giants began the game on a 14–0 run, but the Fightin' Engineers fought back as the teams traded the lead in the final few minutes of the first half. Rose-Hulman pulled away in the final minutes of Saturday's game making use of second chance points to close out the game. Three Wabash players broke double digits in scoring. Deric Cannady '29 led the team in scoring with 19 points. In an absolute thriller against Anderson University, the Little Giants came out on top thanks to a buzzer beater three from Cannady for the first win of the season. After getting out to a slow start before going into half separated by one point leading to a competitive back and forth in the second. In Head Coach Kyle Brumett's 200th win, Wabash was led in scoring by Manowitz and Isaac Rivas '29 each with 12 points for the 59–58 victory. The Little Giants will return to Chadwick off the momentum of their home opener win to face Hanover College in Chadwick Court on November 13.

Wrestling:

The National Wrestling Coaches Association No. 17-ranked Wabash wrestling team began the season with a 25–12 victory over eighth ranked Baldwin Wallace University, and also placed sixth in the Adrian College Invitational on November 7. Wabash won seven out of ten matchups during their dual meet with Baldwin Wallace, with key wins by Branson Weaver '29, Zachary Huckaby '28 and Spencer Watson '28. Wabash started out with two matchup wins and a six point lead then never looked back as they upset the Yellow Jackets. Meanwhile they also picked up two wins at the Adrian College Invitational. Rex Moore '30 won the 133 pound division and Xavior Palacios '30 won the 197 pound division. The Little Giants also had 13 other top eight finishes on their path to a sixth place finish.

Swimming:

The Wabash College swimming and diving team went 2–1 on a two-day road trip through Kentucky, beating Transylvania and Franklin before falling to host Centre.

The weekend opened Friday night in Lexington, where the Little Giants won 12 of 13 events in a 183–55 victory over Transylvania. Aidan Gubbins '29 swept the distance freestyles, winning the 1,000 in 10:39.20 and the 500 in 5:13.36. Ryan West '28 took the 400 individual medley (4:19.92) and the 100 breaststroke (1:02.31). Ozzy Jankowski '30 won the 200 freestyle (1:44.37) and the 100 backstroke (54.94), leading a Wabash sweep of the top three spots in the 200 free. On the boards, Michael Cruzado '27 won the 1-meter dive with 172.05 points.

Saturday's double dual at Centre in Danville was tighter. Wabash beat Franklin 186–113 but fell to the Colonels 161–139 despite winning eight events.

West again led the way. He won the 200 backstroke in 1:55.96, added a win in the 200 IM in 2:01.53 and placed second in the 100 backstroke. Jankowski won the 100 butterfly in 50.62. Quinn Sweeney '27 took the 200 freestyle in 1:46.58, and Lew Sams '29 edged Franklin's Will Chambley to win the 100 breaststroke in 1:00.13.

The Little Giants bookended the meet with relay wins. West, Sams, Jankowski and Charlie Renie '30 won the 200 medley relay in 1:36.37, and Jankowski, William Renie '27, Charlie Renie and Sweeney closed the day with a 3:12.73 win in the 400 freestyle relay.

Wabash returns to the water Nov. 20, when it hosts the three-day Gail Pebworth Invitational at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatic Center.

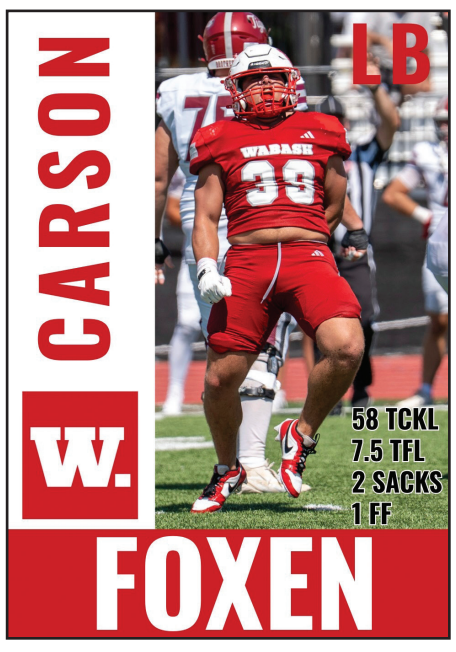


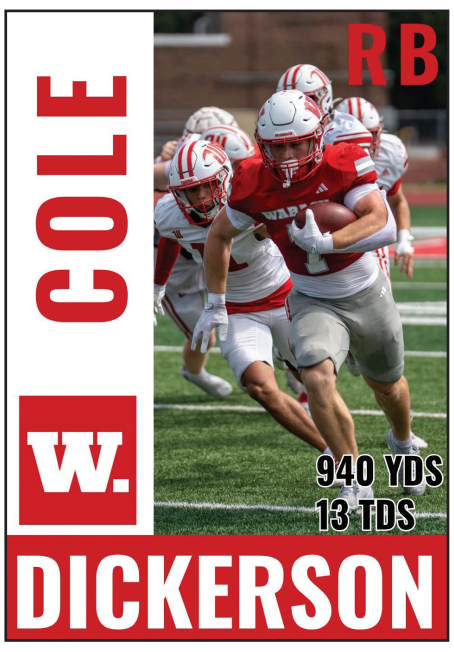
PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

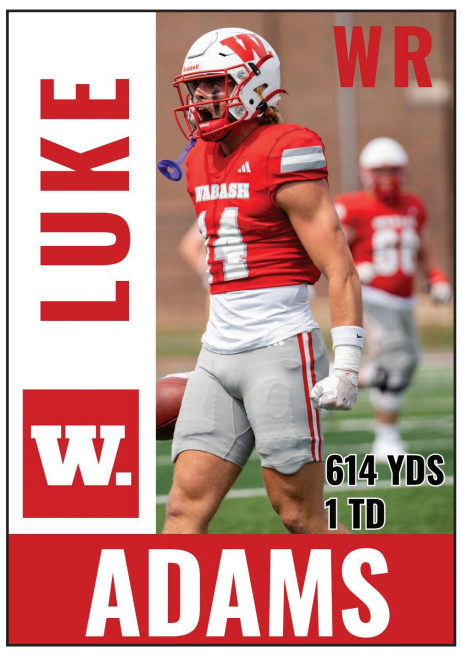
Deric Cannady '29 hits a three-pointer buzzer-beater to win 59-58 against Anderson University on November 11.

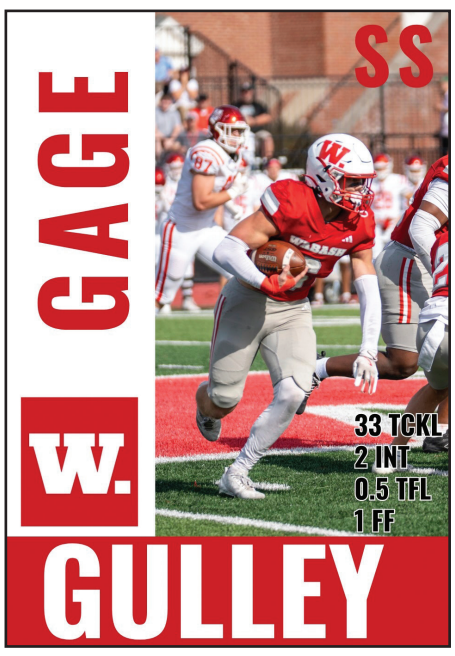
Potential Game Changers











GRAPHICS BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Continued from page 1

The clearest sign of the decline is on the ground. In its first four games, Wabash ran for 194 yards per game, including 252 against Wittenberg and 296 against Wooster. In the last four, that number has been cut in half to 95 yards per game. Against WashU, the Little Giants carried 45 times for just 74 net yards, 1.6 per attempt. At Ohio Wesleyan, they managed 71.

"We've been banged up on the offensive line," said head coach Jake Gilbert '98. "But the bigger issue is that we played better teams and those teams had more time to scout our new offense and play us accordingly."

Cole Dickerson '28 has been the constant. He leads the team with 898 yards and 12 touchdowns on 182 carries, nearly 4.9 yards per attempt. The rest of the backfield has averaged far less, with no other Wabash rusher totaling over 156 yards. If Dickerson is bottled up, the Little Giants have rarely found a second option on the ground.

That has put more weight on the passing game, where Wabash has used two quarterbacks. Brand Campbell '27 has completed 79 of 149 passes for 1,203 yards with four touchdowns and six interceptions. Jackson Gilbert '28 has gone 57 of 94 for 725 yards, six touchdowns and five interceptions. Combined, they have produced 220.5 passing yards per game, but also 10 interceptions, double the five DePauw's quarterbacks have thrown.

Luke Adams '28 is the top target with 41 catches for 527 yards. Nick Witte '28 is the big-play threat, averaging 23.3 yards on 18 receptions for 419 yards, including a 58-yard touchdown from Campbell during Wabash's fourth-quarter rally at Ohio Wesleyan. Keith Jackson '29 adds 18 catches for 281 yards.

The Ohio Wesleyan game captured Wabash's season in one afternoon. The Little Giants outgained the Bishops 408–394, picked up 24 first downs to OWU's 23 and converted 9 of 17 third downs. They also committed four turnovers to none for Ohio Wesleyan and fell behind 35–7 before scoring three straight fourth-quarter touchdowns. Wabash is minus-four in turnover margin on the year, with 15 giveaways and 11 takeaways.

There is a lot Wabash does well. The Little Giants convert 49.6 percent of their third downs (60 of 121), and they hold the ball an average of 32:04 per game. Their defense has been solid all year, even through the losing streak. Wabash allows 79 rushing yards per game and 2.7 yards per carry, along with 254.8 total yards per game and 18 points per game. Opponents have converted just 32.7 percent of their third downs.

Linebackers Carson Foxen '28 (51 tackles) and William Harris '28 (46) lead that unit. Camden Singer '28 has a team-high nine tackles for loss, Dakota Johnson '28 leads with five sacks, and Gage Gulley '28 has two of the team's five interceptions. The main weakness has been in the red zone. Opponents have reached it only 19 times all season but scored touchdowns on 15 of those trips. On the other side, Wabash has turned 39 red-zone trips into just 22 touchdowns, and kicker Tyler Church '28 is 8 of 14 on field goals.

"Defensively we have to maintain confidence and continue to improve," said Harris. "The biggest thing for us is that we have not been taking the ball away on a level that we should be, so it's something that we will continue to emphasize in practice."

Put those numbers next to DePauw's, and Wabash holds a few real edges. The Little Giants' run defense allows 2.7 yards per carry, slightly better than DePauw's 2.8. Their 49.6 percent third-down rate tops the Tigers' 41.2 percent, and their 32:04 average time of possession beats DePauw's 30:35. Those are the stats that win rivalry games in November: stop the run, stay on the field and keep the other offense on the sideline.

DePauw, meanwhile, has done almost everything well. Since a 37–27 loss at WashU in week two, the Tigers have beaten Ohio Wesleyan 56–21, Kenyon 31–3, Oberlin 68–7, Denison 62–14, Wittenberg 31–0 and John Carroll 35–7. That is an average winning margin of 38.5 points over six games, and the defense has allowed just 52 points in that span.

On the season, DePauw is scoring 42.6 points per game and allowing 14.0. Through seven games, the Tigers averaged 463.9 yards per game and 7.4 yards per play while holding opponents to 257.4 yards and 4.0 yards per play.

The offense is balanced and efficient. DePauw runs for 210 yards per game at 6.3 yards per carry, and throws for 253.9 yards per game at 8.6 yards per attempt. Jack Kazmierczak has been outstanding, completing 90 of 127 passes (70.9 percent) for 1,267 yards, 14 touchdowns and just one interception. Scott Ballentine, whose 328 passing yards in last year's Bell game were the most by a DePauw quarterback in the game since 2009, has added 646 yards and five touchdowns.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BALL STATE ATHLETICS

Carson Johnson leads the ground game with 708 yards and seven touchdowns on 119 carries, and he is a threat as a receiver too, with 13 catches for 240 yards. Logan Shoffner has 393 yards at 7.3 per carry, and AJ Jobe has turned only 11 carries into 260 yards. Carter Foran (32 catches, 455 yards, five touchdowns) and Luke Dockery (30, 443, four) give the Tigers two reliable receivers. DePauw converts 41.2 percent of its third downs and has scored 26 touchdowns in 38 red-zone trips.

The defense may be even better. Opponents are converting only 25 percent of their third downs against DePauw, and they have reached the red zone just 17 times all year. Through seven games, the Tigers held opponents to 92.3 rushing yards per game and 2.8 yards per carry. They have 20 sacks, led by Nehemiah Dau's 4.5, and linebacker Robert Pasinato leads the team in both tackles (41) and tackles for loss (7.5). Chris Green has seven tackles for loss, and Harry Pratt and Jackson Cain have two interceptions each.

"We have played great up front to keep that rushing average under 3 yards,» said Gilbert. "Depauw has run the ball well every year so they will be a challenge. They graduated a great back but have a very experienced back and offensive line returning. We'll need to fit our gaps correctly and win one on one blocks across the Defensive Line."

Most importantly, DePauw takes the ball away. The Tigers have forced 18 turnovers, 10 fumbles and eight interceptions, while giving it away only nine times. That plus-nine margin is 13 better than Wabash's. Against John Carroll, DePauw was outgained 378–346 and still won by 28, sealed by a pick-six with 1:30 left.

The common opponents tell a split story. Against the best team on either schedule, the two were identical: both lost to WashU by 10. Both also shut out Wittenberg 31–0. Elsewhere, DePauw's margins have been bigger. Wabash beat Oberlin by 27, while DePauw won by 61. Wabash lost to Denison by one, while DePauw won by 48. Wabash lost at John Carroll by seven, while DePauw beat the Blue Streaks by 28. Wabash lost at Ohio Wesleyan by seven, while DePauw beat the Bishops by 35.

Bigger margins against the middle of the league do not decide Bell games, though. The one time DePauw faced an elite opponent, it lost. And in its latest win, John Carroll outgained the Tigers 378–346. DePauw has dominated the scoreboard, but it has not dominated every snap, and a defense like Wabash's is built to make an opponent earn every yard.

Wabash's path to the Bell is clear, and most of it is in its own hands. It starts with turnovers. The Little Gaint's biggest problem this season has not been talent but ball security. Take away the four giveaways at Ohio Wesleyan, and a Wabash team that outgained the Bishops could easily have won. A clean game against DePauw's takeaway-hungry defense changes everything.

Second is the matchup at the line of scrimmage. Wabash's run defense, allowing 2.7 yards per carry, is the one unit on either side that compares with DePauw's. If the Little Giants can make the Tigers one-dimensional and force Kazmierczak into third-and-long, they have the third-down defense to get off the field. If Johnson and Shoffner average six yards a carry, there is little anyone can do.

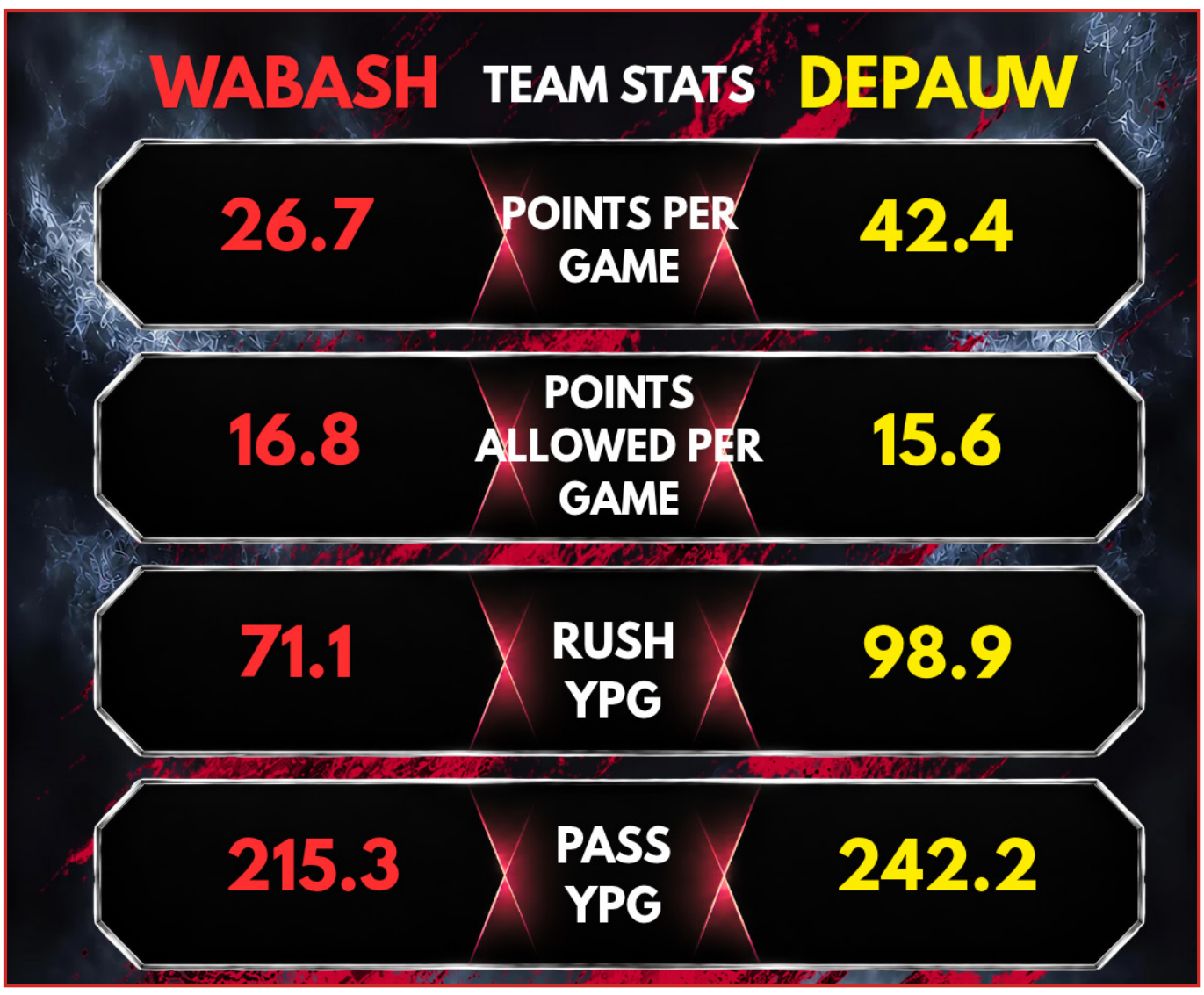
Third is time of possession. Wabash's best path is a slow game: long drives, third-down conversions and fewer possessions for an offense that averages 7.4 yards per play. That approach depends on reviving a run game that has averaged 95 yards a game in October, against a defense that has given up three rushing touchdowns all season.

Finally, Wabash has to finish drives. Settling for field goals, or missing them, will not be enough against a team that has scored at least 33 points in five straight Bell games.

DePauw will be the favorite, and the Tigers have earned that by winning four straight Bell games. But favorites have walked out of this rivalry empty-handed many times, and this Wabash team carries the profile of a classic upset: a top-tier run defense, a ball-control offense that wins on third down and a roster that has played close games all season. The Little Giants showed in the fourth quarter at Ohio Wesleyan, with 21 straight points, that they will keep fighting. On a neutral field, with a full week to sharpen the ground game and clean up the turnovers, Wabash has every reason to believe this is the year the Bell comes back to Crawfordsville.



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