Toxicology report shows student died of accidental alcohol, cocaine overdose

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Kellie Fullilove had a .50 blood alcohol content and cocaine in her system at the time of her death, according to toxicology reports obtained by the Miami Herald.

Fullilove was enrolled in the Nicole Wertheim College of Nursing & Health Sciences and earned her associate of arts and science degree from Florida Gulf Coast University. The nursing student, who was found dead November 15 after attending an off-campus event hosted by Phi Gamma Delta, had been texting one of the fraternity brothers about purchasing the drug, according to the Miami Herald.

“If you like going skiing your going to love fiji lmao,” read a text message using a euphemism for the drug that was sent to Fullilove from the phone of fraternity brother Sean Velazquez. “We practically supply it.” The Miami Herald reports that Velazquez’s defense attorney denies that the messages were “authorized or sanctioned” by the student.

Fullilove attended the FIJI Formal with Velazquez on Nov. 14, the night before her death. The Fort Lauderdale Police Department’s investigation into Fullilove’s death concluded without any charges being filed. At press time, Student Media’s request for the police report had not been returned.

“The chapter has received a copy of the police report. Phi Gamma Delta does not condone illegal drug use or possession, underdrging other illegal behavior by members or guests,” Shayun Shams, president of the University’s Phi Gamma chapter, said to Student Media. “Our thoughts and prayers continue to be with Mr. Fullilove’s family.”

The fraternity, also known as FIJI, was placed on interim suspension following Fullilove’s death. The now-closed police investigation, according to a statement by University Communications, Relations sent to Student Media.

“While Phi Gamma Delta (FIJI) was on interim suspension, the University conducted an investigation. Based on that investigation, the fraternity was charged with violating the campus life alcohol policy by providing a bottle of champage to some FIJI members attending the off-campus formal,” the statement said. “On January 25, 2016, FIJI was found responsible and placed on probation until December 31, 2016, social probation until August 21, 2016.”

The fraternity is required to complete a risk management workshop and is not allowed to organize any social events until after Aug. 22, 2016, according to the statement. The University is also reviewing the police report to determine if there is cause for Student Conduct hearings.

Cathy Akens, dean of students, would not comment on the Student Conduct investigations leading up to the suspension of the fraternity outside of the statement from the University’s Interfraternity Council. Student Media has made attempts to contact the president of the Interfraternity Council, a member, and Associate Director of Campus Life Christiane Medrano, who oversees the Interfraternity Council. At press time, neither request was returned.

Student Media will update this story as more information becomes available.

Administration addresses Nature Preserve concerns

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Wednesday, March 2, President Mark Rosenberg issued a statement via email to order clarification concerns about FIU’s Nature Preserve, the need for more athletic facilities and build for the future.

The redistribution of land that would occur with a Nature Preserve is in efforts to address students’ needs and maintain the University’s environmental stewardship, according to the email.

“We value the preserve as a permanent feature of our unique learning environment,” the email reads. “As a university community we are committed to research and development as well as stewardship that is good for our community and protects our environment. This project is consistent with that commitment.”

Despite the University’s plans, preparations to propose a resolution will be presented at the faculty senate meeting on March 8. The final decision, however, will be made by the Board of Trustees at its meeting on March 11.

According to Kenneth Jessell, senior vice president for Financial Affairs, FIU is the only school in Conference USA that does not have a football practice field.

“Our student athletes need to be afforded the opportunity to be as competitive as they can possibly be…They need to have the same facilities that the other top programs in the country provide to them to be competitive and they deserve it,” said Jessell, who also serves as the University’s chief financial officer.

For the past five years, FIU officials have been wanting to build additional intramural practice fields for their students’ athletes. However, the necessary resources were scarce.

Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2015, a proposal was presented to the Board of Trustees, who approved construction of the two fields on Southwest 17th Street, west of the stadium, for a total of $8.9 million.

However, many concerns with the initial site, such as loss of mature trees, relocation of the road and safety issues due to close proximity to the street, brought the need to consider different alternatives.

The northern part of the Nature Preserve came up as an alternative to build the fields with proximity to the gymnasium, locker-room and restroom facilities.

According to Jessell, the two fields to be added will be located to the right beside each other. One will be made with synthetic turf and the other with natural turf. Athletics will pay for half of the cost, the other half is being paid by a $500,000 contribution from Student Government.

The contribution will still be provided even though SGC-MMC Senate’s resolution declaring their opposition to building on the Preserve.

The resolution was passed Monday, Feb. 29, following a unanimous vote from the Senate.

“There are ways that we can make this a win-win situation, we know that the Preserve is a valuable resource for our students and faculty, but we are trying to balance it out to benefit all students,” said Cathy Akens, dean of students, who would not comment on the Student Conduct investigations leading up to the suspension of the fraternity outside of the statement from the University’s Interfraternity Council.

Student Media has made attempts to contact the president of the Interfraternity Council, a member, and Associate Director of Campus Life Christiane Medrano, who oversees the Interfraternity Council. At press time, neither request was returned.

Student Media will update this story as more information becomes available.

Statement released about misconduct allegations

ERICA SANTIAGO
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In an effort to fulfill its responsibility to ensure that classrooms, athletic fields and campus are free from any form of harassment and a safe space for the community, the University issued a statement via email regarding recent news stories alleging misconduct involving a student-athlete and an employee, Friday March 4.

According to the statement, the University takes these as well as any other allegations seriously and addresses them, while ensuring fairness and due process to all involved.

External Relations released this statement three days after allegations of sexual misconduct made by Destini Feagin against women’s basketball Head Coach Marlin Chin began public.

“Our students and our community should be aware of the key facts regarding recent news stories about alleged misconduct involving a student-athlete and an employee,” read the email.

The email continued to state that it was after the student’s suspension from the team that “serious allegations” were made against an FIU employee.

“Based on the information gathered so far, both women’s basketball coach Marlin Chin has been suspended, pending the outcome of the investigation.”

Chinn claimed the senior guard was absent from a game Saturday, Feb. 27, due to a violation of team policy.

Feagin told the Miami Herald that she had committed a violation when she used a teammate’s OneCard to buy food. Feagin’s mother, Joi Nicholson, paid off the $350 debt the following Monday.

According to the Miami Herald, Nicholson and Feagin believe that Chinn suspended Feagin, the team’s captain, from four games as punishment for resisting his sexual advances.

Student Media’s request for comment was not yet returned. Student Media will update this story as more information becomes available.

Additional reporting by Cayla Bush
NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Grizzly bears rebounding in Yellowstone

A decade after federal wildlife officials reversed and failed to remove protections for grizzly bears that live in and near Yellowstone National Park, they are trying again, this time declaring that the deeply angry German state of Saxony from Germany and the EU. It’s a just perhaps only a German would understand. Saxony’s capital is Dresden, the birthplace and continued heart of anti-refugee populism and violence in a nation that in the past year has taken in a million refugees. Dresden, and small towns near it, regularly make national newscasts for anti-refugee actions. In Berlin, and Munich and other urban areas where refugees have found greater acceptance, the news from Saxony these days is often described as an embarrassment to all Germans.

Homeless college student shows true grit in her pursuit of a home, degree

On a frigid winter morning, Latvia Crockett-Holder, 23, emerges from her tent beneath a crumbling overpass in her stocking feet. In the dim viaduct, where the streetlights are out and water drips from melting icicles like stalactites in a cavern, Crockett-Holder pulls two sheets of baby wipes from a box to wash her face. She squirts toothpaste from a small tube directly into her mouth, brushes and spits into the street. Then Crockett-Holder laces up her boots, tucks a book bag over her shoulder and heads off to the No. 148 bus a block away. She has a 10:45 a.m. economics class at MacCormac College in the Loop. Crockett-Holder is studying criminal justice and dreams of a career in law enforcement.

University responds to student protests for the Nature Preserve

University administration’s goal is to disseminate information about us, this is about us, this is about us, this is about us, this is about us. The senior agricultural economics major is fighting for the Nature Preserve presents savings of approximately $1.3 million. He added that these savings would be put into improving the Preserve, which could possibly be a larger capital cost than the savings. "People like to see what they have done, that they have saved, and that they have made a difference," Jessell said. "Please look to see what you have done, and be happy about what you have done before you sign a petition." Jessell said. "There are a lot of misconceptions about the project for the nature preserve and I want students to find out the real facts.

Those in opposition of the plans to change the Nature Preserve presents savings of approximately $1.3 million. He added that these savings would be put into improving the Preserve, which could possibly be a larger capital cost than the savings. "People like to see what they have done, that they have saved, and that they have made a difference," Jessell said. "Please look to see what you have done, and be happy about what you have done before you sign a petition." Jessell said. "There are a lot of misconceptions about the project for the nature preserve and I want students to find out the real facts.

FIUPD holds first swearing-in ceremony

The FIU Police Department is enforcing a new mindset in their roles as law enforcement and are beginning new traditions. Friday, Feb. 26, the FIU police department held its first official swearing-in ceremony. Nine officers gathered to watch 14 officers and one K9 take an oath to protect the FIU community in the FIU Football Stadium Club.

Alexander Casas, Chief of Police, initiated the ceremony with a few jokes and took a serious turn when the oaths and expectations were said. Casas said the new police officers will serve as “guardians of our community.” He paused to point out, “Notice I said guardians, not warriors.” Casas said that the change of the word was to express the correct frame of mind of the officers and to give a more accurate term to describe the job. As well as emphasize their focus on protecting the community as their primary role in law enforcement.

The ceremony was created because of the surprisingly large number of new police officers joining the department in less than a year. Men and women have been sworn in from different professional backgrounds both in and out of the field. Casas also mentioned the importance of family and how they “need [them] to help us stay human” when the job takes its toll on the new officers.

“[We are] authors of our history and together we will create our legacy,” said Casas, addressing both the loved ones and the officers. “The police department has had an estimated six officers leave this year, according to Officer David Navas, and has welcomed a U.S. Navy veteran, a teacher and a state attorney as they begin their new careers as well as transferring officers.

“We have an officer called Eddy Haba, who keeps coming back to FIU because on two previous occasions he’s taken leaves of absence to consult and train police officers in Haiti,” said Chief Casas. Each time Haba returns he has to be sworn in again. This was his third time being sworn into FIUPD. The police department also said their swearing-ins are usually at a much smaller scale but they want to begin this bigger and more formal event at least once a year - no matter the turn out.

“It’s pretty important to [the officers]. It’s pretty important to their families,” Casas said. “And it’s a very important step in growing the FIU police community to start bonding and get to know their new officers.”

Another new tradition will be that each new dog of the K9 unit will be sworn in as well after their training. “They’re a member of our department and we treat them as a member of our department,” Casas said.

“Part of what makes law enforcement what it is are the traditions that we have,” said Casas. “And those traditions serve to remind officers that this is bigger than any individual here. That’s why these things are so important. It starts to get them to understand [that] this is about us, this is about community. This is not about me.”

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“This is an editorially independent newspaper and one copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents.

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NEWS

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

FIU Student Media will be updating this article as more information becomes available.

University responds to student protests for the Nature Preserve

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The FIU Police Department is enforcing a new mindset in their roles as law enforcement and are beginning new traditions.

According to Jessell, building on the Nature Preserve presents savings of approximately $1.3 million. He added that these savings would be put into improving the Preserve, which could possibly be a larger capital cost than the savings. “People like to see what they have done, that they have saved, and that they have made a difference,” Jessell said. “Please look to see what you have done, and be happy about what you have done before you sign a petition.” Jessell said. “There are a lot of misconceptions about the project for the nature preserve and I want students to find out the real facts.”

Those in opposition of the plans to change the Nature Preserve presents savings of approximately $1.3 million. He added that these savings would be put into improving the Preserve, which could possibly be a larger capital cost than the savings. “People like to see what they have done, that they have saved, and that they have made a difference,” Jessell said. “Please look to see what you have done, and be happy about what you have done before you sign a petition.” Jessell said. “There are a lot of misconceptions about the project for the nature preserve and I want students to find out the real facts.”
Social media – a negative network

**PANTHER HEALTH**

We are the social media generation. Everywhere you look, people are scrolling through their phones, posting selfies on Instagram or tweeting the latest Internet meme of the year. Social media and smartphones have changed our personal and social lives, giving us the means to broadcast our thoughts and lives to the world. However, the influence of social media on girls is of particular importance because of their vulnerability and because they’re the heaviest users of social networking.

As TIME Magazine wrote, 92 percent of American children have an online presence before the age of two, with parents posting images of their children online, otherwise known as “sharenting.” As children grow up, social media teaches them to be narcissistic and perpetuates their exhibitionist ways. The boom in today’s selfie culture further gives rise to a competitive spirit as well as the trend of sexualization. Many students today can’t think about a life without social media as it has become so engrained in our everyday lives.

Nicole Jo Sales, the author of the book, “American Girls: Social Media and the Secret Lives of Teenagers,” spent two and a half years researching and studying how social media and dating apps are putting pressure on American teenagers. Girls, specifically, claimed that social media is bad, but without it they wouldn’t have a life.

That life though, is full of unsolicited harassment, bullying and pornography. The idea of needing to portray themselves as “hot” or popular has become a factor in their lives.

Social media’s popularity content has led many people to seek validation of themselves based on the number of “likes” they receive. Our online culture is promoting negative self-esteem and instant judgment.

Some common activities that have replaced intimacy are sexting and sharing “nudes.” Sexting is the act of sending sexually revealing photos of themselves or sexually explicit messages to another individual or group.

A nationwide survey conducted by the National Campaign to Support Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy found that 20 percent of teens participated in sexting. Boys lean more towards sending explicit or suggestive messages, but girls are more pressured to send inappropriate photos of themselves due to a new notion of sexual liberation through being provocative.

With today’s technology, the Internet is a fertile ground for explicit content to go viral which leads to girls suffering from not only personal trauma, but humiliation and even judicial ramifications.

Online pornography also plays a role in girls sexualizing themselves. Studies have reported that American children are exposed to online porn as young as the age of six.

According to the Attorney General’s Commission on Pornography, 93 percent of boys and 62 percent of girls view pornography before the age of 18. As the saying goes, “monkey see, monkey do,” meaning what people watch influences how they behave and act and how they think about sexuality and sex.

For female Panthers, it’s great to feel sexy, look sexy and be considered sexy every once in awhile as we’re all grown women, but all this sexualization and social media can distract us from the importance of our academic success and well-being.

There is nothing wrong with acknowledging and enjoying sexuality, but trouble arises when it leads to shaming, victimizing and portraying the female body as an object. The American Psychological Association reported evidence of the negative effects of such treatment, including the reduction of a girl’s ability to concentrate, leading to impaired performance.

Social media also has its positive factors as it can be used to maintain friendships, be playful with one another or to make others laugh. Rather than using it for pressuring and sexualizing others, female Panthers, as well as all other students of the FIU community should make an effort to curtail the negativity social networking can cause.

**The Academy’s attempt to address a lack of diversity**

After abundant controversy and uproar over the Oscars, people worldwide tuned in to see the anticipated Academy Awards. The boycotts, which condemned The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for lack of diversity, stirred the pot to say the least as it opened people’s hearts and minds to many difficult discussions.

This year’s Academy Awards though, seemed to address only one angle of diversity.

Initially, I found Chris Rock’s performance to be engaging, sarcastic and eye-opening. I must definitely had a laugh and achieved a new sense of awareness for issues that have been and continue to be at stake today.

As the show continued, I found Rock’s comedy and commentary to increasingly contradict the issue about diversity.

I contend that diversity delves beyond the realms of race and color. We must equally address issues across all spectrums. This includes the LGBTQ community and those with disabilities as well. Where are their opportunities and undivided recognitions in the film industry?

The prejudices and ill will associated with race and color need to cease—specifically the lack of compassion and recognition for other human beings.

The film industry and The Academy has most definitely taken a fall; However, I believe The Academy has the ability to make significant changes for the better. Diversity shouldn’t be solely oriented towards race and the film industry should not be either.

On the Scene is a commentary on the hottest pop culture topics. For further commentary, contact the writer at gabrielle.garcia@fiusm.com.

**AMERICANS**

**SEND US YOUR LETTERS**

Have something on your mind? Send your thoughts (400 words maximum) to opinion@fiusm.com or drop by our offices at either GC 210 or WUC 124. With your letter, be sure to include your name, major, year, and copy of your student ID. The Beacon will only run one letter a month from any individual.

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**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Editorials are the unified voice of the editorial board, which is composed of the editor in chief, management, and the editors of each of the five sections. The Beacon welcomes any letters regarding or in response to its editorials. Send them to opinion@fiusm.com.
Powerlifting, weightlifting and motivation

Wednesday, Feb. 22, FIU WRC hosted its first Powerlifting Competition. The winner was Jonathan Marrero who achieved the title ’Strongest Panther.’ Marrero is a South Florida native and FIU senior majoring in business administration. Powerlifting is a fascinating form of weight lifting. The movements are considered natural for your body and incorporates more than your primary muscle.

For example, when bench pressing we all believe it only engages our pectoral primary muscle. Without proper form we will not engage the muscle for maximum benefit and our body is also subject to major injury.

Marrero’s fitness lifestyle began at John A. Ferguson High School as a team player on the football team. The team did various types of speed workouts and some crossfit style exercises to build stamina and speed. In the year 2009 and 2010 their team won the title of being the fastest team in the district.

After a blow out injury away from the fitness world due to severe knee injury, Marrero was unhappy with his lifestyle. Due to his unfortunate injuries, he knew he was no longer able to play football or run track and field. Nonetheless, he wanted to renew his healthy and fit lifestyle.

After sometime away from the fitness world, Marrero realized that ’real’ food instead of supplements. He also changed his carbohydrates and ate as many raw foods as possible, i.e. fruits and vegetables.

Marrero started to follow the specific routines of the bodybuilders who had been in powerlifting competitions for a long period of time. He asked for help from FIU alumni, Dustin Elliot who is also a power lifter. Elliot helped Marrero with specific techniques that included breathing repetitions. Believe it or not, while lifting weights, your breathing cycle is extremely important.

After a blow out knee, one collapsed lung and a handful of other injuries, Marrero did not give up. “What is all this hard work in education and degree worth, if I do not live a long and healthy life to enjoy it?,” Marrero said.

So many times we find ourselves with petty excuses for not going to the gym or working out. We are all studying to become educated individuals, but if we do not live a healthy life, we will not enjoy our success.

Motivation Monday is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietetic Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic, email life@fiusm.com
Hoy Polloy excited about new music

The last time we spoke with The Hoy Polloy, the group of four spoke enthusiastically on how they were formed and how they identified themselves in an age of having to fit within a genre.

Since then, the eccentric musical group released their third album, “Ferret Winter,” and just finished wrapping up their upcoming album, “Parrot Airways.”

Now, the band is extremely excited to share their latest creation and not shy about tackling on a new album and challenges they faced on the way.

“The influences were different, but the process always and forever happens the same way. One of the four of us reaches out to one of the remaining three with something involving notes. And like magic, the songs that ever last, write themselves,” they said.

Although the new album came naturally and passionately, blockades still stood in the way of completion.

“It was becoming clear that Panther was not best utilized behind the drum set where three years of self-training did not compare to the 12 he had on guitar,” the band explained. “...so we acquired drummer extraordinaire Mike Romero and Panther flourished as rhythm guitarist.”

Adding another individual to a musical group, even if its for recording purposes, always causes complications.

“Adding an extra soul into this has been the most difficult. To cultivate another personality within the ‘band’s’ identity along with the stress of everyday interference is a great challenge.”

Even with obstacles, it is evident that The Hoy Polloy are ecstatic to have completed Parrot Airways.

“We all feel very proud to see our newest baby ready for fruition. We have set high expectations for ourselves since day one; a very competitive mentality to pursue further past our presumed limitations.”

The album was recorded at The Hit Factory Criteria Miami, situated in Northern Miami. The band spoke out about their experience at a new recording location and how they actually stumbled onto such an opportunity.

“This experience tops them all. You can’t make it past the gates if you don’t have the guts and oh man, breathing in that historic air instills a level of confidence inside you that shatters any fear,” the band said.

“In reflection, this entire process became possible because of our newest family member, Sam Allison [producer and engineer]. If we were to be compared to the beloved sailor Popeye,” the band joked, “then Sam is our can of spinach.”

With a brand new record completed, the band has an impressive feat under their belts so early in 2016. It comes as no surprise that their goals for 2016 are nothing but huge.

“Our main objective, now that recording Parrot Airways is complete, is to push our music past [the] cities’ boundaries. To the road we go.”

Lead vocalist and bass player, K. Sos perform for a live audience at Kill Your Idol on Miami Beach.

Readers can give The Hoy Polloy a listen at thehoypolloy.com and read up on updates from the band themselves by following them on Twitter and Instagram: thehoypolloy.

Ungodly Reviews is a column covering albums, artist and concerts. For suggestions and comments contact Nadine at nadine.rodriguez@fiusm.com
Destini Feagin and the culture of college athletics

Destini Feagin

The alleged sexual harassment by first year Head Coach of the women’s basketball team Marvin Chinn speaks to the system of indentured servitude that is college athletics.

Attacked in a veil of education is an oppressive system that feasest on the defenseless and emboldens the powerful. Senior forward Destini Feagin may have been a victim of not only sexual assault, but of the culture of college athletics. At the top, we have the coach, all powerful and in total control. Beneath him are the players, succumbing to the will of the all-powerful, a construct the builders of this country fought tooth and nail to change.

The players are at the mercy of someone else’s morality and assuming the allegations of sexual harassment are true, Feagin was under the control of a man who lacked any.

Chinn was allegedly pursuing a sexual relationship with Feagin. Feagin was quoted in the Miami Herald describing how Chinn would talk to her.

“Commenting on my looks, my body, frame, my breasts, my behind. The way I smile. He would go into detail what his sexual thoughts were.” Feagin went on to say how alone and cornered she felt by the situation.

“I felt powerless. I felt like I couldn’t tell anybody because he would use basketball against me. And he knew how much I wanted to play…”

College athletics strike again. The labor has none of the power and is at the whim of someone who does. A coach is allegedly sexually harassing a player on road trips and in practice and the result is that the player feels like they cannot speak up. The players are trapped by this construction of college athletics, that if they did speak up they would take away what was precious to them.

But here, America is giving programming like the NCAA National Championship game and March Madness record ratings. The rights to broadcast the March Madness tournament sold for 10 billion dollars, the GEP of Haiti was under 9 billion in 2015.

America is feeding this machine of fake amateurism as some of its employees are not only not paid, but sexually harassed by their bosses. Feagin was suspended prior to her filing a complaint against Chinn because she borrowed a teammates Panther bucks card to buy food because hers was depleted, a NCAA violation.

So the institution in place to protect student-athletes is not only employed a man who is accused of sexual harassment of a student athlete but has more money than a small country and still won’t help their athletes eat when they are hungry without suspending them because they are tarnishing the purity of college athletics.

Last week, 16 Tennessee coaches were at a press conference amid their own sexual harassment scandal and instead of questioning their culture of unfairness, misogyny and tyranny they stood pat and refused to look in a mirror. They stuck to their guns like the good foot soldiers they are and continued to give power to the machine.

Why wouldn’t they? The coaches are the ones who benefit most from it. Alabama’s head coach Nick Saban has his mansion paid for by the university in addition to his seven million dollar salary.

Michigan head coach Jim Harbaugh has a private jet paid for by Michigan in addition to his seven million dollar salary. Saban and the pros because suddenly the power paradigm shifted to the players and he became a punchline in Chicago.

Harbaugh? He could not get along with his players or management and had to go to a system where people couldn’t disagree with him because he was the one in control.

The men’s basketball team was handled on Thursday, March 3, night in a 77-60 victory by the University of Alabama at Birmingham Blazers. The Panthers were able to make big runs in each half to keep the lead within reach, but a stout UAB team took advantage of FIU’s mediocre shooting and 22 turnovers to claim their first win in Florida in three years.

The Blazers (25-5, 15-2 in C-USA) entered the game already the regular season conference champions. After winning the C-USA championship last year, the Blazers put together a fantastic regular season in which they compiled a 14-game winning streak.

FIU entered the contest coming off of 71-63 win over Florida Atlantic University, but still feeling the sting of losing seven of their last nine games.

In a rare move, Head Coach Anthony Evans elected to start sophomore guard Eric Nottage in place of freshman Kimar Williams. Nottage finished the game with just three points and a rebound in 25 minutes of action.

The Panthers made the Blazers work for their points in the beginning of the first half. FIU shot 50 percent from the field while holding the Blazers to 41.4 percent shooting.

UAB was able to attempt 14 more first half shots than the Panthers, however, thanks to second chance opportunities and FIU’s nine turnovers in the first ten minutes.

FIU’s early high turnover rate foreshadowed a disastrous night of maintaining possession; the Panthers 22 total turnovers led to 26 UAB points going the other way.

In the first few minutes of the game, junior guard Donte McGill flashed some of the skill that made him FIU’s midseason MVP as he made his first three shots. He kept FIU close as they trailed UAB 19-17 with 10:59 left in the first half.

The Blazers took over from there, outscoring FIU 22-9 through the remainder of the half. At the intermission, the FIU was down 41-28. Senior Daviyon Draper helped the Panthers close the lead in the beginning of the second half. He scored five straight points and closed the lead to 46-41 with 13:47 left in the game.

The Blazers were able to pull away, however, as the Panthers shot 38.7 percent from the field. At the final buzzer, the Blazers defeated FIU 77-60.

For UAB, the victory was Head Coach Jerod Haase’s first career road win in the Sunshine State. Haase was 0-4 versus Florida Atlantic University and FIU on the road prior to his team’s 77-60 rout of the Panthers on Thursday night.

The Panthers will play their last leg of the regular season on Saturday, March 5, at FIU Arena when they hosted Middle Tennessee State University at 6 p.m.
University athletics gains another victim

CULTURE, PAGE 6

charge.

Bully the players into taking no pay. Bully the players into being silent about sexual harassment because they feel they can’t speak up against the dictator.

Chinn has been suspended by the University while they investigate the matter, it is unclear if Chinn is on paid investigate the matter, it is

The reigning Conference USA champion Panthers proved that they were much better than their record showed, taking three of four games from the Pirates of Seton Hall and improving their record to 4-5. If this were a normal three-game weekend series FIU would’ve gotten the sweep, but unfortunately for the Panthers the series had an extra game that Seton Hall won 2-1 in an extremely competitive pitcher’s duel.

Regardless, an FIU team that still has a lot to figure out made a statement that they don’t plan on taking a step back after winning the C-USA Tournament in 2015. Each of their three wins were very decisive, as they outscored the Pirates 23-5 in the weekend portion of the series.

I wrote last week that FIU’s pitching staff was going to be their strength moving forward and that prediction has looked better seemingly every time the Panthers have taken the field as of late.

Led by sophomore lefthander Dominick LoBrutto out of the bullpen and ace starting pitcher Andres Nunez, FIU pitchers held the Pirates to just four earned runs in the four-game series. That’s phenomenal no matter what level you’re playing at or who your opponent is.

Head Coach Turtle Thomas stated after the home opener that it was much too early to decide that his starting rotation would be for the rest of the season and every single one of his pitchers are throwing so well that it’s making his decision that much harder.

However, any coach around the country would be the first to tell you that this type of pitching performance delaying a decision on the rotation is a great problem to have.

As far as the Panthers’ offense is concerned, my colleague Louis Agradel said it best during the offseason when he compared the FIU lineup to a sandwich with no meat.

Essentially all of the top power hitters that propelled this lineup to the C-USA championship last year are no longer on the roster, and the effect has been obvious.

FIU has hit only four home runs this season, all of which came from just two players (2 home runs apiece from Nick Day and Kenny Meierstrom).

While FIU struggles to hit for power, something this lineup has shown a tremendous ability to do is get on base consistently.

Whether it’s been via a single, which accounts for 75 percent of the Panthers’ 96 hits this season, or a walk/hit by pitch (total of 35), the Panthers’ new look lineup has shown a lot of discipline at the plate.

It’s still very early in the season and the Panthers still have a losing record. But with their next ten games being played at home, a lights-out pitching staff and a lineup that always finds a way on base, there’s reason for optimism despite being swept by the SEC to start 2016.

Jake’s Takes is a biweekly column about FIU baseball, For commentary and suggestions email Jacob Spiwak at jacob.spiwak@fiusm.com.

JACOB SPIWAK

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JAKE’S TAKES

FIU OVERCOMES EARLY STRUGGLES THANKS TO PITCHING STAFF

FIU FOOTBALL SPRING TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE

March 7

March 9

March 10

March 22

March 24

March 25

March 29

March 31

TIME

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

6 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Honoring the legacy of Jeffrey Schmalz

Jeffrey Schmalz started out as a copyboy for The New York Times, but it was long before his determination got him the position of copy editor at the age of 20.

While we can observe that Schmalz had many successes, his coming up in the news industry wasn’t easy. Schmalz’s identity as a gay journalist conflicted with his work interest. In order to pursue his career afloat, he had to hide.

Schmalz only came out to people who were his allies, and this preserving his true identity which had to destroy his career.

On Dec. 21, 1990, Schmalz collapsed in the newsmroom of The New York Times and was rushed to the hospital. This was the moment he was diagnosed with AIDS.

From that day forward his life had changed forever. He felt it was his responsibility to report what was happening in the LGBTQ+ community — not only for his sake, but for theirs.

Although, it wasn’t an easy choice for him.

Schmalz, during his presentation at BBC, described how Schmalz struggled with straddling the line between right and wrong. 

“Part of him was totally devoted to The New York Times’ values and rules and the Times has of reporting without fear or failure. But being sick with AIDS — reporting on AIDS, he felt a tremendous pressure from activists…there was a tremendous sense of him having a tug of war internally with what he was supposed to do, and how he was supposed to function — as a neutral journalist, as an advocate or try to do some combination of both.”

Though Schmalz was torn by this dilemma, he made a change in his reporting by personally disclosing his story to those he interviewed. He gave them a sense of hope by showing them that he could function and pursue what he was passionate about and that they could as well. His articles had a human element to them, bringing the narratives he interviewed. He played a radio snippet of Jeffrey Schmalz in his final years, looking back on his life.

“Here’s your life. This is it. If you died tomorrow, would you be happy? I’m extremely happy in a certain way. I know that sounds ridiculous. Here I am, dying, yet my life, in a lot of ways, has never been happier; has never been more directive.”

Schmalz said. “I feel more content. I feel like this is where I should’ve been all along and I’m sorry that it took a fatal disease to do it — but, better late than never.”

The free audio documentary can be found on www.dyingwordsproject.com.

Student Life brings Panther Pride to campus

Representatives for Student Life eagerly awaited for someone to pass over the student ID when they entered the center.

“We want to encourage Panther pride,” said Diana Arcentales, the Student Life Coordinator for FIU at I-75. It was Panther Pride Week and they wanted anyone to be able to pass over a free snack or a specially-designed T-shirt to commemorate the event.

“An event like this is where I should’ve been all along and I’m sorry that it took a fatal disease to do it — but, better late than never.”

The free audio documentary can be found on www.dyingwordsproject.com.

“We’ve heard plenty of times that the snacks that we offer are often the first thing students will eat that day,” said Arcentales. “We offer a bit of relief for the students [who] don’t get a chance to stop with school or work or whatever they have going on in their lives.”

Next month’s event will occur April 25-28 from 4:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on the third floor of the center. Student Life will be bringing in two, perhaps three massage therapists who will treat students in desperate need of a stress reduction.

This will be done in order to ease students through quite possibly the most stressful week of the entire semester — finals week.

“We just want for the students to know that we’re here for them,” said Arcentales.