Cuban-Americans in Congress reclaim battle on Cuba

FRANCO ORDONZ
 McClatchy Washington Bureau

Florida Sen. Marco Rubio’s presidential flame-out was a big blow to Cuban-Americans who want to reverse the U.S. rapprochement with Cuba. But his Cuban-American colleagues in Congress promise they’ll carry on the fight against President Barack Obama’s maneuvering around the U.S. embargo with Cuba.

Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart acknowledged that Rubio, the most prominent critic of the White House Cuba policy, quitting the race had hurt hopes that, if elected president, he could reverse the unilateral steps already made.

But Diaz-Balart said he and his congressional colleagues had never stopped working to ensure that the public understood the reality of life in Cuba.

“Rubio is going to be missed because of his talent, because he’s been extremely effective,” he said. “But we’ve been winning these battles pre-Rubio. We’ll continue to win them post-Rubio.”

South Florida Republicans such as Diaz-Balart and Rep. Donna Ros-Lehtinen have long maintained their uncompromising positions against Cuba, but questions remain whether they and other Cuban-American politicians have the political capital to stop Obama and his aggressive push to end more than a half-century of hostility with the island nation.

Rubio’s loss in the Florida primary and the lack of outcry over Obama’s policies reflect changes in how much of the population, including in Florida, sees the Cuba issue.

“She still have their constituencies,” Michael Shifter, president of the Inter-American Dialogue research center in Washington, said of the South Florida politicians. “Their voices are there, but they don’t have the following that they once had. Now they’re alone.”

The once dependable hard-line community has softened on Cuba.

Polling by Florida International University’s Cuban Research Institute has followed that evolution from 1991, when 87 percent supported the embargo, to 2014, when 52 percent favored lifting it.

Shifter noted that only a small crowd gathered in protest in Miami’s Little Havana neighborhood, the heart of anti-Castro sentiment, after Obama and Cuban leader Raul Castro announced the start of bilateral relations on Dec. 17, 2014.

Since then, the administration has relaxed travel restrictions, eliminated limits on remittances and allowed American companies to sell to Cuba on certain products. U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes reiterated Wednesday that the administration aimed to make the relationship of relations with Cuba “irreversible.”

William LeoGrande, a Latin America specialist at American University’s School of Public Affairs, argues that Diaz-Balart and Ros-Lehtinen can no longer count on as many Republican colleagues as they hope.

The guys chose their female competitors and vice versa. I was chosen for rock-paper-scissors because I was avoiding eye contact and even then I won. They know now not to underestimate us. It was a lesson in teamwork for all of us. And it was fun to learn new things about the opposite sex.”

Throughout the evening, more students showed up to partake in the event.

Rashad Perry-Patterson, a junior in political science and law, reflected upon the aftermath of the event. As Vice-President of the organization, he told Student Media that he and the M.A.L.E.S. executive board were content with the results of the evening.

“This is a prime example of the type of atmosphere we can have when we set aside ‘gender wars,’ and just come together as one community. There was tension in the air, but good tension, because both teams respected the other side, to the inner emotion of wanting to win was shown,” said Perry-Patterson. “Men and women can be in the same space, learn together and grow together, even events that are not considered ‘educational’ but social.

“I didn’t know all of the girls well but they were really cheering me on when I went up for my challenge. I wasn’t confident in my rock-paper-scissors abilities but my fellow teammate told me the strategy and I executed it. We were actually all really supportive of each other,” said Joseph.

“The only reason we should ever split ourselves according to genders, should be to play games,” said Parry-Patterson.

He said, “However in our everyday experience, it will only take a combining effort from all men and women to progress and achieve. Encouraging the ‘gender wars’ mentality within our community, outside of this event, will have a negative impact on how we view each other, respect each other and maybe even work with each other in the future. I view myself as someone who supports women, in addition to someone who would like to see more cohesive interactions like the one we experienced at Battle of the Sexes.”
NATION & WORLD

BRIEFS

‘We must hold people accountable’ for sexual harassment, UC president says

With sexual harassment controversies roiling multiple campuses in the University of California system, UC President Janet Napolitano on Friday announced new measures designed to prevent future incidents and ensure that punishments, when necessary, are uniform statewide. In an open letter addressed to the UC community, Napolitano said that a newly formed peer review committee would evaluate the proposed punishments for “senior leaders” who violate the system’s policies regarding sexual harassment and sexual violence. The committee will have 10 days to approve, reject or modify the sanctions that were met its way for review, Napolitano explained in a separate letter to UC chancellors.

California seeks more minority college grads

In 15 years, California expects to be about 1.1 million college graduates short of the number needed to fill jobs that require at least a bachelor’s degree. Already, the state’s most populous state is a minority-majority state, one in which racial and ethnic minorities comprise more than half the population. And blacks, Hispanics and American Indians not only are less likely to go to college, but their graduation rates are also lower than that of whites. California is a bellwether for a nation that is becoming more diverse, whose economy is demanding a more educated workforce, and whose state colleges and universities are increasingly pressured to deliver it, which means making sure minorities, especially African-Americans, finish school and get degrees.

Free Speech conviction upheld

MICHAEL DOYLE
McClatchy Washington Bureau
N-S-T Staff

The nation’s highest military appeals court has upheld the court-martial conviction of an Missouri man whose racist- sounding diatribe against President Barack Obama raised tough free speech questions.

The former soldier, who at one point claimed to have witnessed missile attacks in Kosovo, Klux Klan, forced a closely divided U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces to clarify the law governing speech by members of the military.

Soldiers, in sum, face more restrictions than civilians.

“The right of free speech in the armed services is not unlimited and must be brought in line with the paramount consideration of providing an effective fighting force for the defense of our country,” Judge Kevin A. Olson noted.

In a 3-2 decision released Friday, the military appeals court rejected defense arguments that the First Amendment protected Eric L. Rapert, of Sikeston, in southeastern Missouri, when he railed against Obama on the night of the 2012 election.

In ruling against Rapert, the court also distinguished the Uniform Code of Military Justice from federal law, whose ambiguities prompted the Supreme Court in 2015 to dismiss the conviction of a Pennsylvania man who posted hate-filled sounding statements on his Facebook page. The military court found that the military justice code already required a determination of Rapert’s state of mind, something a U.S. Supreme Court said was lacking in the Pennsylvania case, where the defendant and his postings were fictitious.

“The military’s requirement that the government prove that an accused’s statement was wrongful because it was not made in good faith, or for an innocent or legitimate purpose, prevents the criminalization of otherwise protected conduct,” Olson wrote.

Rapert was an Army enlisted man with the rank of specialist who was serving in Hawaii at the time of the 2012 presidential campaign. On election night, he voiced increasing dismay about Obama winning re-election.

“Specialist Rapert was confounded by the fact his home state could vote for someone other than Romney, given how important gun rights are to Missourians and the favorable rating Missouri’s laws received from the National Rifle Association,” defense attorney Katherine L. DePaul wrote.

Witnesses later said Rapert had voiced anger that “that (n-word) won this election” and then made what sounded like threats.

“I might have to go back home ... and break out the KKK robe that was handed down to me by my grandfather and go put one order up and make it my last order to kill the president,” Rapert declared, one witness testified.

Rapert subsequently told the Secret Service that his statements were “completely meant as harmless jokes,” and the appeals court noted that “ultimately, the inquiry uncovered no evidence that [Rapert] or his family had any connection to the Ku Klux Klan.”

In the Supreme Court’s 2015 decision in the case out of Missouri, defendant Anthony Elonis had likewise argued that his violent-sounding Facebook postings were fictitious, like rap music lyrics. He prevailed in an 8-1 decision, with Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. writing that “the state’s mind of reasonable doubt” that “wrongdoing must be conscious to be criminal.”

The military appeals court has upheld, the Uniform Code of Military Justice’s designation of soldiers as “a threat” includes an element that the “communication was wrongful.”

Interpreting this, Olson said Rapert’s trial judge, in assessing the element of wrongfulness,” was “properly evaluating” the defendant’s state of mind. This avoided the “infamities” in the federal law, but...
The Bachelor sets unrealistic standards

The hit reality television show “The Bachelor,” which made its debut March 25, 2002, has captured the attention of millions across the nation. Following a successful first season, several spin-offs have been created including “The Bachelorette,” “Bachelor Pad” and “Bachelor in Paradise.”

After watching quite a few seasons of “The Bachelor,” the more convinced I am that the “reality” show perpetuates unrealistic standards of beauty and relationships to not only viewers, but also to the contestants themselves.

“The Bachelor,” hosted by Chris Harrison, focuses on one eligible bachelor and his journey to find “love.” Typically, a pool of 25 women is selected to partake in this process, which is probably the reason the show has garnered controversy over the years.

Throughout the season, the bachelor ventures on a series of group, one on one and eventually hometown dates with the remaining women. In addition to the series of dates, the bachelor eliminates candidates typically during the infamous “rose ceremony” which gathers all the contestants together.

Much of these eliminations, however, occur outside of the rose ceremony. Among the overwhelming fact that there are around 25 women participating in this process, the eliminatoric nature of the show initially starts the pot. This is where my critique begins.

From the very first episode, the women and the bachelor are almost always made up and well dressed. This suggests that both women and men must always appear their absolute best at all times in order to meet, engage and sustain a relationship with their significant other.

In terms of the dating process, contestants go extravagant dates with the bachelor in exotic locations, attend cocktail parties and are essentially competing for a potential husband in the midst. All are dynamics, which do not in any way reflect what an average couple may experience. Essentially the contestants experience a heightened reality dictated by the bachelor himself and the producers.

Some cities have decided to treat these boards as if they were skateboards while others, like Florida, decided to put age regulations in place and require a helmet in order to use them. If these regulations aren’t followed the culprit could be fined up to $250.

FIU also passed regulations on the hoverboards, prohibiting students from charging them on campus and having them in the dorms.

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When I received my hoverboard for Christmas, it took me two days to trust the charging them on campus and having them in the dorms.

When I finally got comfortable with the board, it was the new trend, even though these boards are ranged from $400 to $800 dollars, easily.

These boards became the most wanted toy this past Christmas and people started taking over the streets with these “lazy machines.”

On top of being an expensive toy, it’s also a very dangerous one. Thousands of videos have been recorded of people falling off of hoverboards, ending in a visit to the closest emergency room.

This board, manipulated by the weight put in the heels or toes, goes as fast as 12 miles per hour. A fall from it can lead to severe injury.

The trick is simple: Get off the board by taking a step back, not forward because that’s how you lose your balance and fall. When cheaply made hoverboards started catching fire, exploding while being charged or even while being used, these balance boards made it into national news.

The public was advised not to let them charging overnight since houses were catching on fire while families were asleep. Even though this scared people big time and videos of hoverboards exploding surfaced like crazy on the Internet, this didn’t keep the public from buying them. It did spark controversies about safety though, going as far to have them banned from being carried on airplanes.

With this “hover-boom,” regulations had to be made in order to keep on under control.

Regulations killed the hoverboard trend

A few months back, hoverboards were all over FIU’s campus. With or without loud speakers, zebra print or regular plain paint, hoverboards could be seen rolling to and from class, crossing the streets or being ridden in the elevators.

The new trend, however, occurred outside of the rose ceremony. Among the overwhelming fact that there are around 25 women participating in this process, the eliminatoric nature of the show initially starts the pot. This is where my critique begins.

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LIFE!

DROP THE BASS

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Contact Us

LIFE!

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Offer, Monday, March 21 in the GC Pit.

DJ Leon spins the best of the Drum and Bass genre as students learn what WRGP has to offer, Monday, March 21 in the GC Pit.

Getting through the day on little to no sleep

LAURA LEA GOLDBERG
greatnot.com
This Sty

As a certified holistic chef, it’s humbling to admit that one major aspect of health continues to elude me: sleep. I’ve battled insomnia for the last 10 years, trying every Western, Eastern, prescription, OTC and home remedy imaginable. Some work for spats of time, but ultimately, I’ve accepted that my sleep is consistently inconsistent.

I’ve also become fed up with the innumerable articles, books and expert opinions about the importance of sleep. The people who benefit from this barrage of literature are those who can sleep well but just don’t make or have the time. For us insomniacs, it’s all just salt in the wound. Trust me, no one understands the importance of sleep better than an insomniac.

That’s why I’ve decided to approach my sleep struggles with a new tactic. Instead of spending precious energy on fixing my sleep during the night, I’ve turned my attention to the best ways to manage my sleeplessness in the morning.

Through research and ample personal experience, I’ve gathered countless tips for optimizing productivity and happiness when I’m suffering from exhaustion. I certainly don’t advocate skipping your zzzs if you can help it, but I’ve also learned that poor sleep doesn’t need to ruin your life.

Following these suggestions won’t make your fatigue disappear completely, but it can seriously combat the damage and help you get through your day.

1. VETO COFFEE

Don’t shoot the messenger. Coffee has the tendency to jack up our stress hormones, which exacerbates the less-than-ideal condition of exhaustion. Plus, coffee can suppress appetite, encouraging you to rely on its “fake” form of energy instead of real nourishment from food.

If you’re die-hard about having it, drink a small cup paired with a healthy fat or protein. Adding a little almond or coconut milk can also mitigate some of the jittery effects.

2. MAKE THIS REFRESHING CONCOCTION INSTEAD

OK, this is technically something to do the night before, but I swear by it. In the evening, steep 2 cups of hot water with your favorite herbal tea, add the juice from one half of a lemon, and 1 to 2 drops stevia (optional). Refrigerate overnight, and this cooling, hydrating beverage will invigorate you in the a.m.

Caffeine isn’t the only way to be energized. Check out the uplifting benefits of some of my favorite herbal teas:

- Ginger’s “zing” factor wakes up your senses.
- Licorice has been shown to replenish the adrenals, which can increase energy.
- Rosehip and gingko can also have a rejuvenating effect.

3. BLAST YOUR FAVORITE UPEAT MUSIC

When you wake up, switch your phone off the airplane mode setting (that you should be using while you sleep!) and hit play on your favorite Spotify jam. When you’re feeling crummy, hearing a song you love can instantly boost your mood and put a reluctant smile on your face. It’s like getting tickled, but in your ears.

4. TAKE A SHOWER AND FINISH WITH 30 SECONDS OF COLD WATER

If you can bear it, a short stint in your shower will get your blood flowing and increase your alertness. Bonus: Cold showers have also been shown to improve your tolerance to stress and boost circulation. And really, you can do anything for 30 seconds!

5. EAT WITHIN AN HOUR OF WAKING UP

When you’re wiped out, your body is automatically in a state of stress, pumping out cortisol and adrenaline to make up for a natural lack of energy. Waiting too long to eat is going to force those hormones to work even harder, and this is a one-way ticket to carb cravings, foul moods, and energy crashes all day long.

6. MAKE A BLOOD SUGAR- FRIENDLY PLATE

If you nail these guidelines when choosing your breakfast, you’ll have sustained energy to power your sleepy self through the morning.

- Keep sugar content moderate to low, even the natural kind from fruit and honey.
- Add healthy fats from foods such as avocados, coconut, or grass-fed butter.
- Include protein from pastured eggs, organic nut butter, grass-fed lean meats, or quality protein powders.

Some ideas:

- 2 pastured eggs fried in grass-fed butter with a side of leftover veggies
- Smoothie with avocado, frozen banana, handful of spinach, splash of vanilla extract, 2 to 3 drops stevia, 1/3 cup almond milk and a cup of water
- Apple sprinkled with cinnamon and dipped in almond butter
- 3 table spoons chia seeds mixed with 1 cup light coconut milk, 1 teaspoon honey and set overnight. Top with berries in the morning.

7. FAKE IT ’TIL YOU MAKE IT

I know it can seem like an impossible task to put on makeup when you can barely stop yawning long enough to brush your teeth, but it’s worth it! Blow dry your hair, put on a blazer, spritz your favorite scent — whatever makes you feel fly. When I take the time to put myself together, looking the part (even if you don’t feel like it) can help bolster flagging spirits.

Protesters impatient with Dr. Luke

Keshia Knight Pulliam, known for her role on “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air,” is going through one of the worst moments in her life.

The worst part about it is that it’s public to everyone with access to the internet, but perhaps that’s a good thing.

About 35 fans gathered at Sony Headquarters Friday, March 11 and delivered a petition demanding Sony drop music producer Lukasz Gottwald, known professionally as Dr. Luke. 35 fans sounds like a small group of people, especially if they go to a major label and demand to drop a successful music producer because of his gross sexual misconduct with artists.

However, the petition presented to Sony had accumulated over 411,000 signatures. If Sony thought that this issue could be ignored, that time has passed. It’s grown far too large to be ignored.

The tumultuous relationship between Dr. Luke and Ke$ha, born Kesha Sebert, started when she signed a six-album deal to his Sosan Records imprint, Kemosabe Records, in 2005.

Later that year, she went to a party hosted by Paris Hilton and claimed she was given “sober pills” by Dr. Luke after a night of drinking and woke up nude at his home.

In 2010, “TIK TOK” was released and embarked on a nine-week reign on the music charts. Numerous artists have spoken out in anger against Dr. Luke after he won the February 18 hearing. The judge’s ruling was that if Ke$ha wanted to leave her contract with Dr. Luke she’d have to release three more albums.

Artists such as Lady Gaga, Ariana Grande, Halsey, Lily Allen, Lorde, Bethany Cosentino of Best Coasts, Will, Demi Lovato, HA$M, Snoop Dogg and many more have offered their condolences. Some have even cited similar behavior when working with Dr. Luke in the past.

Kelly Clarkson, winner of the first season of American Idol, has contended to how demeaning he is in the studio and that he is not a good person, further fueling the flames.

Notes About Notes is a column focusing on music news and live events. For commentary or suggestions, email life@fiusm.com.

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Ytamo album makes the case for 2016 being a year of optimistic music

SOREN ANDERSEN  The Seattle Times  TNS Staff

Amid all the pill popping, coke snorting, dope smoking and booze guzzling that goes on in “Creative Control,” it’s the technology that’s the drug giving the main character his highest highs.

And, not surprisingly, the pernicious combination of all those intoxicants leads to some very low lows. It’s a pair of super-high-tech, virtual-reality spectacles that upend the life of David, a speedy New York ad executive played by the picture’s director/co-writer, Benjamin Dickinson (Micah Bloomberg shares screenplay credit).

The listener gets a vibe of nature as a place that sounds like deep house, dancehall than plunderphonics music and classical piano battle against the sounds of nature, car alarms and printers failing into a harmonious byproduct of the natural and seasonal, Japanese opera singer as water drops played by toy instruments and little bleeps and bloops glitch together against maracas for a harmonious view of domesticity with a pet, like the official soundtrack to “Nintendogs + Cats.”

It’s insane that something this vaguely chiptunes related can sound so mature, but it shows the extent that Ytamo has used these sounds to fabricate optimism into elegance, not joyous maitre d’hôtel laughter.

On “You Me,” we find Ytamo singing, welcoming us into the comfort of her constructed universe by her ethereal, sing songy repetition of “hajimemashite,” which is a phrase to welcome newcomers in Japanese.

My favorite track is “100 Birds.” It uses one of the most universal symbols of the natural world as a place that perhaps isn’t so chaotic after all, birds replicating their flight and pitter patter of webbed talons through an electric wind chime and a playful drumming that sounds like patty cake.

It’s the perfect soundtrack to watch 100 birds fly overhead on Mt. Fuji perhaps.

On the final track, “Sensational Area,” Ytamo asks us to unite, to watch 100 birds fly overhead, that sounds like patty cake.

‘Creative Control’ a twisted tale of technological excess

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PANTHERS BOUNCE BACK AFTER FOUR STRAIGHT LOSSES

SANTIAGO ARCHIERI
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Pittsburgh Panthers defeated Florida International on Saturday, March 19, 4-1, ending FIU's five-game losing streak. The Panthers went on to sweep the weekend series against the Panthers and improve their record to 18-14 for the season. The Panthers are now 4-2 in Conference USA and 6-2 in the month of March.

The Panthers defeated FIU on Saturday afternoon in a series of come-from-behind victories. FIU, on the other hand, was defeated in the season's first conference road victory of the season. The Panthers took over the top of the next inning, when with two outs, when the Panthers chose to get a large portion of their hitting done. Willy Fara came into relieve Michael Agis to start the bottom of the inning. While Coach Thomas doesn't seem too concerned, the Panthers might have a lot of losing headed their way if they can't clutch up in key moments.

Heat open to Chris Bosh's return this season

JASON LIESER
The Palm Beach Post

With Chris Bosh still pushing to get himself back on the court by the end of the season, the Miami Heat have no expectation of whether or not they'll get him back this season. Bosh has been out with an apparent blood clot since the All-Star break and issued a statement two weeks ago making clear he intends to return. There was a report from Yahoo! Sports that the team would like him to sit out the rest of the season for health's sake, but president Pat Riley shot that down on Monday, saying the team's annual Family Festival.

"We're supportive of Chris and what he's going through and we're just going to wait and see what the future holds," Riley said. "Right now, that's the way it is. There really isn't any comment. I have great empathy for the man. I know how much he wants to play. We'll see how that goes."

I've been very stressed specifically for his stance on Bosh trying to play this season, Riley said. "Open-minded, absolutely open-minded. That's our position." Bosh was the only player who did not attend the event, which raised more than $610,000 for the Jackson Memorial Foundation and SafeSpace. Udonis Haslem helped children apply temporary tattoos, Dwyanne Wade danced on stage with rapper Vanilla Ice and the rest of the players mingled with the crowd for selfies throughout the afternoon. Bosh has been around the team the past few weeks and has been sitting on the bench, though he has not spoken to the media or made any public statement other than the aforementioned one.

"I have been working out, training with the team, watching films of the games, walking through plays, and have attended home games despite not being visible to the public," he said March 10. "I remain positive that I will be able to return this season."

While Bosh was at Saturday's 122-101 victory over Cleveland, he has been mostly preoccupied with his home life. His wife, Adrienne, gave birth to twin boys last week. He was also the team's best player before going down. Besides being one of the most versatile defenders in the NBA at his position, he was averaging 19.1 points and 7.4 rebounds per game while shooting 46.7 percent from the field.
SAND VOLLEYBALL

Panther Profile

Boulanger looks to help lead Panthers to national title

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The women’s beach volleyball team has increased its win total each season since its startup in 2013. Beginning with only five wins in its first season, the team has improved each year, reaching 20 last season. The Panthers are a model of a rising program.

Junior, Marina Boulanger, has had a similar trend throughout her years competing for the program. Before FIU, Boulanger attended Dos Pueblos High School in Goleta, California, where she played volleyball all four years. She was also part of the USA U19 National Team.

During her freshman campaign for the Panthers in 2014, Boulanger posted a record of 9-8, just above .500. She also competed at the No. 1 spot in the AVCA National Championships in Mobile, Alabama. In 2015, her record (19-8) improved drastically, increasing her win total by 10, while finishing with the same amount of losses.

Due to many of the seniors that developed to be the heart of the team, Boulanger only competed in the No. 3, 4 and 5 positions. However, in the 2015 AVCA National Championships, then senior, Darija Saturic and Boulanger defeated Florida State University’s No. 3 duo.

“My sophomore year, I took everything that I learned from my freshman year and tried to really implement it into my game, that’s probably why my game has doubled in wins,” said Boulanger, “this year I plan to do the same thing, just use all the skills that I’ve learned the past years.”

She played her best when paired with graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, with a 9-1 record. “We are very loud and have very big hearts for the game.”

Championships in Mobile, Alabama. In 2015, her record (19-8) improved drastically, increasing her win total by 10, while finishing with hearts for the game,” said Boulanger. “I think that togethe we care so much that we love for the game just really gave us that will to win and succeed in our careers.”

Due to the Panther’s deep roster, Boulanger has only been called to participate in three matches this season, all coming in the FIU Fort Lauderdale Beach Invitational. Paired with junior, Anabela Saturic, she has gone 1-1. Together they dismantled the University of New Orleans 2-0, but dropped a tightly contested, three-set match to Louisiana State University 21-19, 18-21 and 13-15.

Against Jacksonville University and paired with graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, Boulanger swept the competition 2-0 with a dominant win. Although the sample size, three games, has been small at the start of this season, she features to be a vital aspect of the team moving forward.

The Panthers are currently ranked No. 10 in the AVCA Collegiate Beach Poll, but have fallen the past two weeks.

Boulanger knows that the road to the top will not be easy, but a process that will require patience. “(My goals are) being first in the East coast, getting to Nationals, everything is a step process, and then winning Nationals,” said Boulanger.

“Personally, being the best player that I can be, helping my teammates and winning my games.”

Boulanger, along with the Panthers, will be in action this weekend, Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26, as she looks to improve her record at the Stetson Invitational.

Panthers break record with 10 game win streak

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The No. 57-ranked FIU women’s tennis team broke a school record and faced tough competition over the past week at the FIU Tennis Courts.

The Panthers (13-2) extended their win streak to 10 games and posted a record of 9-1 in their record. The team defeated Butler University and UTep to break the record for most consecutive wins. The streak was snapped when Columbia University defeated the Panthers, 4-3 on March 15.

“I’m proud of my girls,” said coach assistant Jacki Alawi after a Thursday, March 17, win over Yale University. “They have shown more character this season and are more willing to fight for wins.”

As of March 17, the Panthers are 2-2 when losing the doubles point in matches. The Panthers remain undefeated on the season when they win the doubles point. “Doubles are never the end of the match,” said junior Nina Nagode after the Tuesday, March 22, game against Columbia. “Sure, it makes the singles matches easier, but it’s not the end of the match. Anything can happen in singles matches.”

The Panthers made quick work of Butler Tuesday, March 8. The Panthers claimed the doubles point to start the match up 1-0. Then, the Panthers won every singles match in straight sets to top the struggling Bulldogs, 7-0. The win against Butler was the Panthers’ sixth straight win of the season.

“We’re all on the same page,” said redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro after the match. “We’ve improved on our doubles play this season and we’re all focused on our main goal, winning the conference tournament and making the NCAA tournament.”

To break the school record of most consecutive wins, the Panthers had to go through conference-rival UTep Friday, March 11. The Panthers blanked the Miners, 4-0, on their way to their 10th-straight win, a new school record. The win was the seventh straight of the season for the Panthers.

“Breaking the school record doesn’t feel like anything,” said head Coach Katarina Petrovic after the match against the Miners. “I’ve been waiting for this to happen since last year. This is the best team I’ve ever coached and we have the right people around this team to make it as successful as we’ve been this season.”

After shutting out the Miners, the Panthers faced their toughest opponent to date, the No. 41-ranked Columbia Lions. The Panthers lost the doubles point when senior Carlotta Orlando and Lazaro lost to Yanika Vaidiya and Adi Miltstein, 7-5.

The duo of freshman Maryna Vekslar and Nagode defeated seniors, Alyssa Solovyev and Viktoria Vaidya, 6-2, 6-1, and Kaithin Brozovich got FIU’s second point. The senior defeated Trivan Cheng, 6-0, 6-3, and improved to 14-8 on the season. Nagode chipped in with her win against Asatryan in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3.

But Columbia came back strong after being down 3-1 versus the Panthers. Vaidya (No. 52) defeated Vekslar in straight sets and sophomore Nerma Culak lost in three sets to Kevikian, which tied the match at three. Orlando fell to Makarome in her third and final set, giving the Panthers their first loss since their home opener on Jan. 29.

“It’s not frustrating that we lost,” said Nagode after the match. “Our main problem is that we stopped believing in ourselves, that’s the frustrating part. The little things killed us.”

Two days after the loss to Columbia, the Panthers rebounded versus Yale University.

The match came down to the final match again, but Columbia would fall out a straight-set victory versus Courtney Amos to win the match for the Panthers.

The Panthers won four singles matches to top Yale, 4-3. The Bulldogs won the doubles point and carried a 1-0 lead heading into singles play.

Lazaro, who moved down to the No. 3 spot in the lineup, won her match in straight sets versus Ree Lee Li to tie the match at one. Orlando, who moved down to the No. 4 in the lineup, won her match in straight-sets versus Sherry Li.

Yale climbed back to take the lead, 3-2, when Brozovich and Vekslar lost their matches in straight sets.

But Nagode and Culak would win their respective matches to give FIU the comeback victory over the Lions, who were FIU’s twelfth of the season.

On Friday, March 18, the Panthers had a default victory, 7-0, over UAB Miners. The win improved the Panthers’ record to 13-2.

The Panthers will next play Brown University at the FIU Tennis Courts for their final home game of the season. First serve is set for noon Sunday, March 27.

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Miami Herald
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Ryan Tannehill was the picture of health Monday afternoon. The NFL’s most-sacked quarterback the past four years spent weeks after the 2015 season recovering and rehabilitating from his latest round of beatings. He’s no longer urinating blood as he was after one particularly savage beating, the bruises he wore throughout the season have mostly faded. But when the Miami Dolphins quarterback says he’s “happy” and “excited,” it’s not just because he’s back and just to hate that reassurance, that confidence in me, it’s huge. It gives me a lot more confidence in the things I can do and how I can carry myself. I’ve been through a lot of adversity, you have to play well to keep your spot. But just to have his confidence going in that he’s going to have my back, it means a lot.”

Fixing Tannehill is Job 1 for Gase. It is as much as anything the reason Gase was hired despite being only 37 years old and having never been an NFL head coach before.

And the new coach, being a quick study, recognized immediately that rehabilitating Tannehill was not just about making him physically sound again. It was also about making him confident again, making him feel valued as a franchise player again.

Gase wanted Tannehill to know that he, perhaps for the first time in years, is irrevocably tied to his head coach.

Tannehill didn’t feel that way when he heard that former coach Joe Philbin wanted to select Derek Carr in the first round of the 2014 draft a move that would have ended Tannehill’s days in Miami.

Tannehill couldn’t have felt certain of his status when Philbin gave him private assurances about being the starter early in 2014 but refused for a couple of days to make those same assurances in public.

And Tannehill didn’t feel that way when Philbin hired coaches who refused to give the quarterback the reins to the offense. Under former offensive coordinator Bill Lazor, Tannehill never had the option to audit at the line of scrimmage to any player other than those set by the coach before anyone saw how the defense deployed.

The audible issue handicapped the offense from a football perspective. But the issue was deeper than that because it was an open manifestation of the team’s mistrust of Tannehill.

Think of it. Coaches not knowing how the defense would look on the field thought they knew a better play than Tannehill even after he saw the defense line up right before his eyes.

Things will change under Gase. Although Tannehill won’t get the offensive reins right away, he will get a chance to be more of the offense’s on-field steward rather than just another cog in the machine.

“I’m really looking forward to it,” Tannehill said. “We’ve been in some adverse situations, and to be able to have a head coach and offensive coordinator that give me that freedom to attack teams that way, give me the versatility at the line of scrimmage, it’s exciting for me. It’s something I’m really looking forward to and can’t wait to get started on.”

Battles rage over controversial names on campus

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At universities across the country, centuries-old names that adorn buildings, streets and squares are under siege, from Stanford’s Serra Mall to the University of California, Berkeley’s Barron’s Hall to Yale’s Calhoun College.

Once widely revered in a different era, a priest, anthropologist, vice president and dozens of others whose names are etched on college campuses have become the subject of a historical autopsy. Saints inspired in part by the Black Lives Matter movement, are calling for the removal of symbols honoring people connected to slavery and colonialism.

This month, the renaming movement is gaining momentum at Stanford, where a student campaign is taking aim at Father Junipero Serra.

The 18th-century Spanish missionary’s name is ubiquitous on campus, but his detractors, backed by the student government, argue the newly sainted Serra, whose role in the assimilation and exploitation of Native Americans added controversy to his canonization last year, should not have dorms, halls or streets named after him.

It is “important for the university to recognize that we need to remove and re-appropriate these spaces in the names of indigenous people,” said Leo John Bird, a Stanford junior from the Blackfeet Reservation in Browning, Mont., who has presented the changes.

Students from UC Berkeley, Abernethy, Yale, Princeton, Georgetown and many other campuses who have started similar campaigns — and the results are starting to show.

The movement “has now reached the fulcrum moment where it is going to start rolling downhill and taking everything with it,” said Alfred Brophy, a professor at the University of North Carolina School of Law and an expert in reparations history and law who has been observing the trend.

A Harvard Law committee this month recommended the school ditch an unofficial seal bearing the family crest of Isaac Royale Jr., an early donor who got rich from the slave trade. Abernethy trustees in January voted to drop “Lord Jeff,” the school’s unofficial mascot inspired by Lord Jeffery Amherst, the 18th-century British army officer for whom the town was named, and who suggested that smallpox be used as a weapon against Native Americans.

The shootings at a black church in Charleston, S.C., last June moved Yale’s leaders to consider renaming a residential college named after John C. Calhoun, a statesman and vice president under John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson. In a speech in August, Yale President Peter Salovey said Calhoun, an 1804 Yale graduate, “mounted the most powerful and influential defense of his day for slavery.”

He said he would wait to change the name of Barrows Hall to honor the Black Panther Party revolutionary Fred Shukar, as the Black Student Union demanded last year. But last week the school revealed senior campus officials were conducting a “comprehensive assessment of all of the building names” on campus.

It’s about to undertake a similar review.

The president and provost have announced a new committee led by history Professor Emeritus David Kennedy to set principles for campus names.

Not all of those names are names of people that have unblemished histories,” Provost John Eichemond told the Faculty Senate this month. “So we want to be able to apply the principles, not just to the Sierra name but to other names to determine whether or not they should be changed.”

Not everyone agrees with the rush to rename. Some critics argue that the offending figures, living in the norms of decades or centuries past, are unfairly being held up to modern standards.

Serra wasn’t perfect, but “it seems incredibly harsh to judge him by these exact moral standards that we hold today,” said Stanford student Harry Elliott, who is Catholic.

Renaming buildings won’t fix the problems facing minority students on college campuses, but it is a powerful step nonetheless, said Anthony Williams, a UC Berkeley sociology major from Vacaville.

“How do we make spaces inclusive in a university system that was never meant to include us?” he asked.

Williams, who is African-American, and fellow student UC from Miami who is Filipino-American, created an art installation outside of Barrons Hall to bring attention to the debate _ and to David Prescott Barrows, an anthropologist whose book about the Philippines, published in 1905, referred to its people as “little savages.”

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