State of the University addresses future plans

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FIU will graduate more than 5,500 students in May, for a total of close to 12,800 students this year, according to University President Mark Rosenberg at Monday's State of the University Address.

"It's really been an unbelievable year of celebration and graduation," he said. The Address, held Monday, April 4 in the GC Ballrooms, was a conversation with the community about the developments and challenges that affect the University according to Rosenberg.

Second through fifth grade students from Sweetwater Elementary performed a skit to illustrate the importance of acceptance and diversity. "We have a very good, aggressive, thoughtful, creative partnership with Sweetwater Elementary," Rosenberg said. "There's obviously a moral to this story, particularly now in this political season when lines seem to be drawn in ways that run counter to how we can all work together to rebuild the good society."

Following the skit and the president's acknowledgement of faculty and staff, FIU's measurements according to state standards were discussed, providing context to the reason for the address.

"Every time I see the governor, and it's not that much but I will see him and he will talk to me occasionally, I have to report to him on how we're doing on getting our students jobs," the president said. "If we offer a degree, is there at the end of that degree, a good job for a student, or is that student well prepared to create a job. That's all I talk about with Gov. Scott."

With this context in mind, the University aims to get involved in ending community violence. This involvement, as well as the work of the University to aid low-income students, its research, innovation and job ratings contribute to FIU growing into a recognized and respected institution.

"What I really am excited about is the respect that this University, that you are starting to get. That respect, we've had it for a while, but it's accelerated. It's deepened. It's enhanced," Rosenberg said.

This growing respect, the president explained, grew from recognitions such as the Carnegie R1 rating that was received this academic year, the No. 2 ranking on the Forbes list for top employers in Florida, and recognition from President Barack Obama, the White House and the Department of Education for the work and support of low-income students.

Building local communities, a concern for President Rosenberg addresses the FIU community.

Democrats scramble to replace Marco Rubio in Florida

JAMES ROSEN
MckClatchy Washington Bureau

Rep. Patrick Murphy called on Rep. Alan Grayson on Wednesday to quit Congress over a House ethics investigation into allegations that Grayson had parlayed his post in the House of Representatives into personal financial gain.

The increasingly bitter Senate primary campaign between the Democratic lawmakers from Florida ratcheted into still harsher territory as Grayson countered by demanding that Murphy stop defiling his reputation. Grayson and Murphy are the leading Democratic contenders to replace Sen. Marco Rubio, who quit the Republican White House race last month after losing badly in his state's presidential primary. The Senate primary is Aug. 30.

A day after release of a detailed referral by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the House Ethics Committee, Murphy spoke as if the referral’s allegations against Grayson had been proved.

The committee has voted to keep the investigation alive, Grayson observed. "It's that simple."

Grayson’s Senate campaign fired back.

"Patrick Murphy needs to stop wasting the time of voters and taxpayers with his political smear campaign and start talking about the issues," said David Damon, Grayson’s campaign communications director. "Rep. Grayson wants to expand Social Security and Medicare, ensure that everyone can see a doctor and make a livable wage at $15 an hour. That’s what this race is about."

The referral released Tuesday said "there is substantial reason to believe" the multiple allegations to be a public servant."

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European anti-terror efforts hobbled by lack of trust, shared intelligence

At the beginning of this year, the acting president of the council of the European Union asked the respected International Centre on Counter-Terrorism in The Hague, Netherlands, to figure out, among other things, exactly how many Europeans have gone to Syria to fight in a civil war that’s entering its sixth year. The request, on its face, seemed simple enough. It came from the governing council of the European Union, a collection of the heads of state of the 28 member nations in the EU. Its importance has been made clear by three deadly terrorist attacks in the past 15 months all linked to Syria and the Islamic State. And yet, in the end, only a rough approximation could be done.

Wildlife Service want the big sea cow to retain its current federal classification. “The manatees’ future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over, and the time for downlisting is NOT yet here,” Colleen McGlone, of New Port Richey, Fla., wrote in a March 21 comment posted on the wildlife service’s website.

Thousands plead to keep beloved manatee on ‘endangered’ list

On the final day for public comment on whether to downgrade the West Indian Manatee from “endangered” to “threatened,” the unofficial consensus was overwhelmingly clear.

Over the last three months, virtually all of the 3,700-plus people who’ve weighed in on the matter with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service want the big sea cow to retain its current federal classification. “The manatees’ future is far from certain, which means the work is far from over, and the time for downlisting is NOT yet here,” Colleen McGlone, of New Port Richey, Fla., wrote in a March 21 comment posted on the wildlife service’s website.

Democratic lawmakers have already visited Cuba and Mexico, and plan to visit other countries in Latin America before the Senate votes on the resolution. The White House has not yet responded to the request for a meeting, but has signaled that it is open to dialogue.

Bazzle stunt highlights Facebook’s push into streaming

Viral video maker BuzzFeed got at least 3.1 million people to flip over to Facebook to watch a pair of people in hazmat suits and goggles wrap rubber bands around a watermelon until it exploded. The live stunt Friday placed a major spotlight on Facebook Live, the social media company’s push to get people to stream live footage of anything and everything in their lives.

To encourage early adoption, Facebook has been paying a small number of media companies, including BuzzFeed, to get creative with the streaming, according to news reports this week.

Florida looks to replace Rubio in elections race

In the past year, the number of seats held by Republicans has increased in some states, but decreased in others. This is due to a combination of factors, including population changes and political shifts.

Governor signs LGBT protection orders

LGBT, PAGE 1

Against Grayson, but it is up to the House committee panel to investigate those allegations and determine whether they are true.

Among the allegations are claims that Grayson created a list of names and signed it to a $1 million Tiger Grant.

Grayson also is accused of omitting information from annual financial-disclosure forms, receiving fees from litigation involving the government and keeping ties to companies that hold federal contracts.

Grayson firmly denied the allegations, as had his campaign aides Tuesday when the House Ethics Committee publicized them.

On Wednesday, Murphy denied Grayson’s claims that Murphy’s campaign had paid a prominent law firm, Perkins Coie, to bring the allegations against Grayson to the attention of the Office of Congressional Ethics.

“I can assure you it had nothing to do with this,” Murphy said of a $10,000 payment from his campaign to Perkins Coie.

The Grayson-Murphy primary campaign to replace the Republican Rubio in November’s race has come under scrutiny.

The showdown is being in play. Additional reporting by TNS Staff

Rosenberg addresses future of University

This year, in performance funding...we’ve dropped to fifth place. We are not happy about this, but it’s what we said was going to happen. Other universities are starting to pick up the pace,” Rosenberg said. “For next year, we know right now that we’re going to drop in our graduation rate from roughly 57 percent or 58 percent then to 52 percent. So that means we’ve got to do better.”

In looking forward to the time that we want...the University is on track to meet its 6,000 annual internship goal in line with the FIU Beyond Possible 2020 strategic plan.

Currently, the University has an 80 percent retention rate and a 76 percent placement rate according to the president. In addition, the president announced the plans to build an Alumni Conference Center and hotel on campus.

While the University continues to push for expansion to the Fairgrounds, other expansions have already come to fruition, such as the new site in Washington, D.C., Rosenberg said. “We know we need to, we know we can, and we have improved,” said Rosenberg. “But this is everybody’s responsibility.”
It seems that people don’t just hang out on basketball teams these days, but also hate trains, according to the unlucky person of the week.

Who you are dictates what you’re allowed to get away with. Many aspects play a factor, such as the position you hold in a society or group, how well liked you are, etc. Recently, Nick Young, also known as “Swaggy P,” was secretly recorded confessing to cheating on his fiancée, Iggy Azalea. The video was taken by fellow Lakers teammate D’Angelo Russell. When a grown man is still calling himself “Swaggy P,” it’s not really surprising that he would do something so immature. The surprising thing was that Russell caught most of his life with.

Perhaps it’s the way so many people view Iggy Azalea, as she’s the Hitler of music, that has led to her being portrayed as the victim. Young is also the center of a popular meme that people relate with. That may be helping him reach the heights he is supposed to spend the rest of his life with.

Going by this warped logic, if someone turned in their best friend for being a murderer, the response would likely be a “boo” followed by tomatoes being thrown at them while they walked through the streets, instead of commending them for getting a danger away from the public.

We’re told things like “one likes a t fotale” since preschool, yet teachers and parents ask for this behavior when a vase is broken in the house or something is missing in the classroom.

No one likes a tattle tale unless it’s convenient for them.

Then, the hope is for the tattle tale to sing like Mariah. It feels that when it comes to morals, society flip-flops more than the colors of flashing lights at a rave. This is how it’s always been and will continue to be unless things change with people starting to think as well as judge for themselves.

Thoughts on a page is a commentary on the topics everyone thinks about, but doesn’t discuss. For suggestions or comments, email Damian at damian.gordon@fiusm.com

Our generation is a wired one. We text while we’re at school in touch with friends and family at all times. Through smartphones, computers and gaming consoles, people are permanently plugged into a network of social networking, creating a culture of “connected cocooning.”

However, studies have shown that with the heavy trend of technology usage comes negative effects on sleep quality, stress levels and general mental health. More specifically, heavy use of technology has been shown that young adults are more likely to develop depression or other psychiatric problems.

To combat depression and help people by providing direct support as well as anonymous data about people in crisis, the “Crisis Text Line” was created. This service could become free “Crisis Text Line” to give people access to trained volunteer counselors using text messages and counseling consoles, people are permanently plugged into a network of social networking, creating a culture of “connected cocooning.”

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Fourth annual Miami Slut Walk protests against sexual assault

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The fourth annual Miami Slut Walk took place Friday, April 8.

A group of students, consisting mostly of women, started their walk at the GC Lurens by Einstein Bros. Bagels and made their way around MMC.

Originating in Canada, the Slut Walk movement began as a response to a statement made by a representative of the Toronto Police Department.

The police representative’s public statement blamed sexual assault on the way women dressed – demonstrating the prevailing rape culture mentality in modern society.

Funded by CSO and organized by N.O.W. FIU, this year’s walk continued in its tradition to bring awareness to sexual assault and the culture surround it while also protesting against slut shaming.

“The official goal was to have [students] come out and to be aware of sexual assault and no matter what anybody is wearing or their attitudes toward [sex] doesn’t mean you have the right to assault someone,” said Rayna Milfort, volunteer coordinator for N.O.W. FIU.

The event was met with enthusiasm, as described by the outreach coordinator of N.O.W. at FIU, Yulisa Vega, a freshman majoring in art with a minor in art history.

Slut Walk brought out students who were excited to participate.

“We had a lot of people show up before set up...it was an excited atmosphere,” said Vega.

Vega also explained that there was a comment from a bystander who said Slut Walk was an excuse for girls to walk around like whores.

“There was no situation, I think, in which [supporters] didn’t feel safe,” Vega said.

Slut Walk is a movement that grew to eradicate the idea of rape culture and the use of the term “slut,” brought out a group of students from all races, sexual identity and gender to unite and stand against sexual assault against all.

For more information on Take Back the Night visit the Women’s Center in GC 2200 or visit http://studentaffairs.fius.edu/get-involved/womens-center.

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It’s one thing to enjoy music, but it’s another for it to change your entire life. Fabian Carrera, a senior music and social work major at FIU is living proof of how music can change your entire life. Fabian Carrera said.

Carrera, both because of its marginalization for his disability, and race, Carrera continued to persevere and practice his music, studying music and English diligently in Ecuador, then pursuing higher education in the United States.

“As a disabled individual, there aren’t many opportunities. But deep inside of me, I knew I wanted more. I was denied education, I wasn’t allowed to take public transportation, but I always wanted something more.” Carrera added.

Today, he holds a 3.92 GPA and is working hard in his Master of Social Work program in order to become a clinical therapist with credentials in music therapy.

“In the future, he hopes to help others who are facing chronic disease through music.”

“[Bonilla] was my teacher for 10 years, during which I wrote conscriptions for him,” said Carrera.

The concerto, later to be performed with an entire orchestra, fused Ecuadorian rhythm and folk tradition with the standard three measure concerto format. This, in turn, formed the three Movements. The Allegro employed the “Sanjuanito” rhythm, the Adagio was set to the tune of the “Pasillo” and the Presto represented the “Vineo.”

As an Ecuadorian, the piece proved to be very influential and close to Carrera’s heart.

“Believe in your dreams. While achieving aspirations never comes easy to anyone, Carrera believes it is important to never doubt yourself – especially when others are bound to.

“Believe in your dreams. Be constant and tenacious. Even if there are people telling you you can’t, if you keep believing in yourself - you can achieve all of your goals.” Carrera said.

DRC student ‘excels’ in education and music

Delanie Garcia
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Besides excelling in his education, Carrera is an accomplished musician. His music career in the United States has been marked with performances from New York City and Washington, D.C... On April 3 during his senior recital, Carrera performed “Raiizers,” the first Ecuadorian concert written for guitar and orchestra, accompanied by Masami Miyazaki on the piano. The piece was doubly special for Carrera, both because of its meaning as an homage to the Ecuadorian indigenous lifestyle, and because the composer, Carlos Bonilla Chavez, was close to him.

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“At first, I was blown away. It’s a beautiful nationalistic concerto,” he added.

Though his background of performing music didn’t develop until later, Carrera said he’s dealt with being in the spotlight his whole life.

“When you’re in a wheelchair, you’re on stage at all times. I got used to it pretty quickly,” he said. It is because of this, that he feels in his element on stage.

“In the front of the audience, you have it give it 100 percent, or the entire piece is ruined,” Carrera said.

Carrera’s music career extends beyond the educational landscape as well, having recorded an album in 2003 titled “Guitar Forever.”

While achieving aspirations never comes easy to anyone, Carrera believes it is important to never doubt yourself – especially when others are bound to.

“Believe in your dreams. Be constant and tenacious. Even if there are people telling you you can’t, if you keep believing in yourself - you can achieve all of your goals.” Carrera said.

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Nicolle Albertini on her way to statistics class, April 8.

LGBTQA 3D series provides students with community support, safe space

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The month of April is Pride month for FIU, and Thursday, April 7, marked the final day of the 3D series. It is an event dedicated twice a year to teach students the intersectionality of their identities and brings the students in the LGBT community together to help them learn about themselves.

This series was targeted toward people who struggle to find or accept themselves for who they are while sharing their experiences - not only about the LGBT community, but also about other issues.

During the last event, Director Mario Lara explained further what this gathering was about. This 3D series stands for “Dine, Discuss, and Deliver.” At each event they discussed different topics such as human trafficking, domestic violence, while not excluding abuse among same-sex couples, as well as equality.

More than anything, they discussed how to be proud in who they are as people, despite how much the world shames them in doing so. This event branches off the LGBT initiative and speaks on how our social identities are intertwined with each other. According to Assistant Director of the Council of Student Organizations Marissa Lucchesi, this event allows people to talk about things with others going through similar situations with complete confidentiality.

During Thursday’s three-hour session, they covered topics that they wouldn’t be able to entertain or share with others very easily. Sitting among others who silently harbor comparable hardships, these students are allowed to be open with one another, while meeting new people along the way that share the same struggle; in the midst of this you will find that everyone has a story to tell and that there’s no shame in doing just that.

Fortunately, you don’t have to wait until next year for the upcoming event to arrive to finally be among like-minded people. “There are resources on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends,” said Lucchesi.

She also suggested the alternatives to lighten any hardships. “Put yourself in challenging that have you think critically,”

There are resources on campus that can help... including mentors that are willing to have this conversation with you and your friends

Marissa Lucchesi
Assistant Director
Council of Student Organizations

Lucchesi said. When you’re challenged, there are usually two choices: remain where you are or acknowledge your challenges head on. Stepping out of your comfort zone could also play a part in learning about yourself, if you allow it.

“Educating ourselves is an important step in overcoming this struggle. Learn about yourself [and] what you stand for and the purpose of the community,” said Lara.

Lara also said to “strive to help people understand the importance of your work, while realizing that in helping others, you also soothe the aching in yourself.”

Despite the shortness of this event, much can be taken from it. While striving to be a better individual, this event points out ways that you can be a better advocate for the community, not only as a member of the LGBTQA community, but also as an ally.
Monarchs reign in Miami after three game win against the Panthers

FIU is four runs lower in the Conference USA standings after sweeping the weekend of April 8 by the Old Dominion University Monarchs.

The Monarchs came all the way from their home in Norfolk, Virginia to score three consecutive wins on the Panthers in their home field.

On Friday, Andres Núñez (2-2) was given the ball and an opportunity to make his record a winning one. Things looked good to start with a strikeout of the first batter of the night, but a couple consecutive hits and a pitch left too high. Soon, Núñez and the Panthers were down 4-0.

Núñez would give up another run in the second inning before being pulled out in the bottom of the third after loading the bases. Cody Crouse would come in for relief and although he let up a run on a deep sacrifice fly, would get out of the inning suffering minimal damage.

With all this offense from Old Dominion, the Panthers would have to have something in the form of a response, right? Well, not exactly. Through the first three innings, ODU right hander Sam Soria would allow only one hit. I say “had” because, in the bottom half of this fourth inning, he gave up six runs on five hits to FIU bats in the hands of Kenny Meimerstorf, Irving Lopez, Rey Perez, Oliver Francis and Zack Sinnen.

Sinnen was pulled from the game and replaced by Culver Lamb. Lamb inherited runners on both first and third, and a face off with Zach Files. Files would ground out, but the ground out would score another run, and the Monarchs would only be down 9-7.

The rally wouldn’t end there, though, because in the bottom of the fifth, FIU would score four more runs off of hits from Lopez, Perez and Eddie Silva. ODU would tie things up in the top of the seventh amidst, and possibly because of, heckling from the home fans. 11-11 was the score then. Soria had a chance to give FIU the lead with runners on second and third, but with two outs, he’d strike out swinging and we’d go on to the eighth.

Two failed pickup moves advanced to leadoff hitter from first to second and second to third, eventually being hit in by Old Dominion right fielder Nick Walker and the Monarchs would take a 12-11 lead.

The heckling was getting louder from both sides and there were even pleasantries exchanged between the home plate umpire Tony Maners and FIU’s dugout, who’s had a consistent strike zone on this night.

Maners made multiple errors and a had a lack of production in the later innings that would lead to a heart breaking extra inning loss 12-11 for the Panthers.

Chris Mooreville (4-3) would have similar, if not worse, luck on Saturday night giving up four runs before any of his teammates could step into the batters box.

Luck was on his side though in the bottom of the first, when Nick Day batted in his 15th RBI of the season and Kenny Meimerstorf brought across his team leading 23rd RBI of the season to make the score 4-2 ODU, but that would be the extent of the scoring in the first for both sides.

If FIU scored any more than twice on Saturday, it didn’t occur on the baseball field, because two runs was all they’d post in the game. Two is also how many strikeouts Moraurre would manage.

Panthers finish regular season 11-7

Although the University beach volleyball team hasn’t achieved the same amount of success it’s had the previous two years, it is finding its stride late in the season where it counts.

After being swept two weekends ago in Stetson, many heads were down; however, all that was needed was a little motivation and willingness to build strong character. The Panthers got right back on track the following weekend, winning four out of five matches in Miami. To conclude the regular season, the Panthers participated in the Fiesta on Siesta Key Saturday, April 9.

The Antelopes of Grand Canyon came into the match with a 13-3 record, defeating the College of Charleston and Florida Atlantic University the day before Friday, April 8. However, the Panthers were a whole different animal.

The Panthers nearly swept the Antelopes, getting off to a 4-0 lead, and ultimately winning 4-1. The lethal tandem of graduate student, Tina Toghiyani, and senior, Aren Cupp, got the team on the board first, winning 21-16, 21-17.

At the No. 4 slot, they defeated Grand Canyon’s sophomore, Emilee Jorgensen, and junior, Jordyn Sanchez. At the No. 5 spot for the Panthers, redshirt sophomore Savannah Davis and sophomore Natalia Giron, showed why they won CCSA Beach Pair of the Week honors last week. Together, they handled their competition with ease winning 21-13, 21-17.

The team’s only loss came from the No. 2 duo of graduate student, Martyna Gluchowicz, and junior, Marina Boulanger. In a tightly contested match, they fell 21-13, 18-21, 12-15.

Sophomore, Estefanie Bethancourt, and junior, Anabel Sataric, got pushed to a third set, but eventually won 21-14, 16-21, 15-11.

The Panthers then faced off against TCU. Going into the match, the Horned Frogs were 14-4 and winners of six in a row. Not only did the Panthers snap their win streak, but they ended the weekend with a sweep, finishing the regular season 11-7.
Panthers sweep Fiesta on Siesta Key

BEACH, PAGE 6
Head Coach Rita Buck-Crockett made a slight tweak to the lineups, pairing Boulanger with Sataric and Glachowicz with Bethancourt, which proved to be successful. Both duals were over in matches in two sets.

The rookie duo of freshman Dominique Dodd and junior Katie Hogan got another victory, finishing the afternoon 2-6. They won a closely-contested three-set match 19-21, 21-18, 15-11 at the No. 1 spot.

Opped and Toghiani once again competed together and won convincingly at the No. 4 spot, 21-11, 21-16.

For Toghiani, this win placed her at the top of the FIU beach volleyball record books. She surpassed Maryna Samoday for most individual wins, 63, in program history.

The team will have two weeks off until it’s back in action. FIU will send two pairs to Hawaii to compete in the Outrigger Resort’s Kahua Invitational Tournament, April 22. As they compete there, the rest of the team will head to Georgia to play in the first ever CSCA Conference Tournament.

F1 eliminates new qualifying system, many fans unhappy

RACE, PAGE 6
position.

Instead, as seen in the first two races in Australia and Bahrain, there were cars were going in inspection with five minutes left in the session, leaving both spectators and teams furious at the new system.

For instance, at Bahrain with almost seven minutes left in Qualifying 2, all of the cars were sitting on pit road, waiting for the cars to make a decision of whether or not to make a change to the car.

Because the new system was not doing what it was intended to do, the Grand Prix Drivers Association, the counterpart of the MLB Player’s Union or the NFL Player’s Association, issued a letter to F1’s stakeholders and fans regarding the decision-making of F1’s executive.

“We feel that some recent rule changes – on both the sporting and technical side and including some business directions – are disruptive, do not address the bigger issues our sport is facing and in some cases could jeopardise its future success,” the letter stated.

“T h e r e f o r e ,” it continued, “the drivers have come to the conclusion that the decision-making process in the sport is obsolete and ill-structured and prevents progress from being made.”

Shortly after the GPDA letter was published, Bernie Ecclestone, the chief executive of the Formula One Group, said that the new qualifying system would be given another shot to prove itself.

It didn’t.

As of Monday, April 11, the FIA has overruled the new qualifying system in favor of last year’s qualifying system. The old system had the same time restrictions as the knockout system, but cars would not be eliminated until the end of the session, rather than every 20 seconds.

The qualifying rule changes add to the decisions F1 has made in recent years.

At first, the new 1.6-liter 6-cylinder hybrid engines were criticized for being too quiet. Mercedes, the reigning constructor’s champion, tested out a louder exhaust system in May 2014 with poor results.

The exhaust, shaped like a megaphone, did not increase the noise of the engine and hurt the car’s performance. To this day, Mercedes aims to make the cars louder without compromising performance.

Fans have also criticized Formula One Management for being too strict on their copyright. For instance, FOM has taken down several YouTube videos and video game modifications to protect their copyright.

Also, fans cannot find race replays online because FOM does not allow anyone to reproduce their product. Compared to other racing series, such as the WeatherTech Sports Car Series or the Blancpain GT Series, FOM is stuck in the 1990s because they do not post full races online.

In the future, Ecclestone wants the modern Formula One cars to be around three seconds quicker per lap than current models by increasing downforce to all cars. However, Formula One fans are against Ecclestone’s idea.

The fans believe if the cars get added downforce, then there will be no close racing because the turbulence from the car in front will ruin a car’s handling and make passing nearly impossible.

However, not every decision FOM makes has been questionable. The new tire rules for 2016 has been widely celebrated by fans and teams for adding another level of strategy to a race.

Now, a team is allowed to bring whatever sets of tires they deem necessary for a race weekend, but they must use at least one set of Pirelli-mandated tires.

Therefore, the team must balance their choice of tires with Pirelli’s choice of tires for the race.

So, although Formula One has taken several steps backwards in recent years, the new tire rules and the elimination of the “knockout” qualifying system shows that FOM is willing to listen to its fans.

However, until FOM reduces its copyright holds, they are going to be falling behind other racing series that allow free use of their product.

Inconsistencies ruin potential Panther win

BASEBALL, PAGE 6
and one of the only things he could really enjoy because giving up six runs, five of them earned can’t have felt great.

The fifth and sixth runs came across for Old Dominion in the eighth inning off of a Sinnen RBI single and a throwing error. At this point, Saturday’s contest was already seemingly out of reach for the Panthers, but the Monarchs just kept piling on the runs.

Michael Agis came into the ninth inning to pitch for FIU and ODU scored three runs. Agis also allowed five hits that inning and was lucky that there were only three runs scored. If not for the fact that ODU hit two sacrifices and designated hitter Turner Bishop hadn’t rolled his wrists on his swing and grounded out the ninth could have been a lot uglier.

The bleeding stopped there, but the damage was already done. A strike out, caught foul ball and another strikeout would be the story for FIU’s half of the ninth inning and they’d go down 10-2 and lose the first two games of the series.

On Sunday, the Panthers were playing for pride, if nothing else.

Garrett Cave (2-3) only notched two strikeouts for his stat sheet on Sunday, but that is all he needed to distance himself even more from the rest of the pitching staff as he has the most strikeouts of any pitcher at FIU with 41.

The flashy stats would be of little help to the sophomore and his teammates this weekend. To start off Cave was all over the place, the first run scoring via a wild pitch. Another run would score that inning off of a sacrifice by Connor Myers.

Myers wasn’t done there, though. He’d hit a solo home run in the fifth inning to put his team ahead 3-0. The eighth inning was perhaps the most embarrassing inning of the weekend, when the Panther gave up eight runs and committed two errors.

Old Dominion’s lead was 11-0 by the Panthers scored their first run on a Nick Day RBI single.
**Florida Panthers still have a lot to prove**

**DAVID PIERSON**  
*Los Angeles Times*

This is the best Florida Panthers team in franchise history. The Cats have spent the past six months staking that claim, offering us evidence, tantalizing with the possibility.

Now all they have to do is go prove it.

See, the real hockey is just about to start.

There haven’t been many nights like Saturday’s in this club’s 22 NHL seasons, when a regular-season-ending Fan Appreciation Night doubles as a team appreciation night. Usually it’s the players saying thank you but sorry because the games have ended with no playoffs. Now the real season has just begun, with an 82-game warmup skate about to give way to the Stanley Cup playoffs.

The Cats looked ready for it Saturday in a 5-2 skate-waltz past the Carolina Hurricanes on goals by Teddy Purcell, Jussi Jokinen and Aaron Ekblad all in the first seven minutes, a second-period blast by Jonathan Huberdeau and then a last-second empty-netter by Reilly Smith.

It’s a cruise-ship foghorn sound that fills the arena with every home goal. To Carolina it must have sounded like a locomotive’s warning as it’s about to run you over.

“I figured we’d play well at home,” said Gerard Gallant, who should be a frontrunner for coach of the year honors. “But first you want for nobody to get hurt and make sure you’re ready for the playoffs.”

The Cats almost won twice Saturday but did not.

This team is better than the 2012 squad that lasted the playoffs and won its division. It is better than the exciting 2000 team led by NHL goal-scoring leader Pavel Bure, the last Panthers team before this one to win more games than it lost. And, yes, it is better than the Cinderella Rat-Cats who somehow skated into the Stanley Cup Finals in ever-distant 1996.

That’s by my eye. But the evidence is more than empirical.

These Cats set the franchise record for most victories and were the first to top 100 standings points.

Said Gallant, savoring the number: “103 points. If I’d have told you that in training camp I think you would have laughed.”

His team also set club records with a 12-game overall winning streak, a seven-game home streak, a six-game road streak and four all-star representatives.

And this was the first Florida team, so deep, so lethal, to sport five 50-point scorers — led by Jaromir Jagr, whose team-leading 66 goals were not yet born when its second-leading scorer (Jagr, 27) first entered the league. Has any team, ever, been able to say such a crazy thing?

This is big, this greatest-team-in-franchise-history stuff. Look around.

The Dolphins likely will forever be haunted by and in futile pursuit of the perfect ghost of 1972. Can any future Heat championship surpass the national attention and buzz of the back-to-backs led by LeBron James and the Big 3? There certainly is no assurance the previous Marlin or Hurricane football ever will win it all again.

These Panthers are right there, though. They have the talent to go wrong that crown that always has been embodied and claimed by the flying rats of ’96.

One of the club’s marketing themes for this postseason is: History telling itself.

The hashtag is a bit vague but somehow accurate.

Because if this team is to make history as the first this franchise has ever put on the ice, the proving is about to begin.