

2-3-2016

The Beacon, February 3, 2016

Florida International University

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Florida International University, "The Beacon, February 3, 2016" (2016). *The Panther Press (formerly The Beacon)*. 864.
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SPC unveils surprise celebrity guest

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FIU's Student Programming Council covered the GC Pit in orange and black, Monday, Feb. 1 between 3 p.m. and 4 p.m. at their SPC Has a Secret event.

Handing out cupcakes and sandwiches, SPC Director Natalie Sarracino promised to reveal a secret announcement.

"We've been advertising this as a secret for about two weeks now," said Sarracino, a junior journalism major.

Just before the scheduled reveal, however, a fire alarm was triggered in GC, requiring that the building evacuate for about 20 minutes.

Upon reconvening inside, SPC revealed their next guest in the SPC Speaker series, Selenis Leyva, during the SPC Has a Secret event Monday, Feb. 1.

Leyva is a Cuban-American actress who plays Gloria Mendoza in the Netflix original series "Orange is the New Black."

"Except for the Eboard, nobody else knew about this," said Erin Swink, a freshman nursing major and SPC member. "It was really exciting, even for us."

The event is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. in the GC Ballrooms. Doors will open to attendants at 5:30 p.m.

Sarracino, a junior journalism major, said Leyva will cover a number of topics during her talk, including her experience on "Orange is the New Black."

"She'll be talking about immigration because her parents are of Cuban



JAVIER SANLLEY/THE BEACON

(From left to right) Andrea De La Cruz, Troy Anderson, Amanda Hernandez and Kandys Temes of SPC give out free food during SPC's surprise event.

and Dominican descent, and she has a transgender sibling, so she'll be advocating for LGBT issues."

Having recently started watching the show, Swink was pleased to hear the news.

"I really like [Orange is the New Black], so that's how I knew who she

was. I thought it would be somebody less known, but it turned out to be really cool," Swink said.

Afterward, Leyva will hold a Q-and-A where she answers questions posed over Twitter with the hashtag #SPCITNB.

"We chose to collaborate with the Cuban Research Institute, the Cuban-

American Student Organization and International Student Scholar Services - so a lot of international clubs who, hopefully, the members can relate to her story," said Sarracino.

Admission will be free for students who present their OneCard and \$5 for guests at the door.

Black Student Union welcomes Marc Lamont Hill

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February marks the beginning of Black History Month and campus organizations are planning out events to celebrate. This week the Black Student Union will have guest speaker, Marc Lamont Hill, visit the university to kick off Black History Month.

BSU expressed excitement for his visit, seeing as he will help to engage the community in their events this month.

Rashaad Perry-Patterson is a junior majoring in political science as part of FIU's School of Law Program and is the education and enrichment coordinator for the Black Student Union. He is one of the co-chairs for BSU's Black History Month festivities.

Esi Fynn-Obeng in her fourth year at FIU and is a double major in communication arts and sociology. Fynn-Obeng serves as the education and traditions coordinator for the Black History Month committee.

Marc Lamont Hill is a social

activist who has been on different media platforms speaking out against racial injustices. Hill is also a professor, author and journalist who has written books on the prison industrial system, reported and commented on the ideologies of republican and

democratic candidates and has provided commentary on the retention rates of schools and universities.

Perry-Patterson says "Because [Hill] is black, we're excited that we can show that we have someone that dynamic

in our community who can reach out to other students and other races."

Fynn-Obeng adds, "So much is going on in our community and he has been very vocal about these issues."

Fynn-Obeng also mentions that Hill is a great example for the message they want to convey this Black History Month because "The theme being 'I am' and 'I am social change', ties into what we are hoping that he's going to get people ready for Black History Month."

BSU will have several forums and events for community interaction throughout the month of February. Fynn-Obeng expressed that one of the main reasons Hill's presentation is something to look forward to is the hope that he will inspire the community to participate in the entirety of Black History Month. "When people hear him speak and see his presentation they'll get excited for Black History Month and get excited for the black community on campus" she said.

Perry-Patterson adds that Hill will "kick [events] off on

the awareness and education level, to better understand why we're doing what we're doing for Black History Month".

"Hopefully he doesn't just influence the FIU community" Fynn-Obeng says, "but everyone in the community around us as well".

The police department is also invited to the event as an emphasis put on the Black Lives Matter movement, which will be addressed in the presentation. According to Perry-Patterson and Fynn-Obeng, this is to show that the students, the community and the officers are not at a battle with each other, but that they stand together. Perry-Patterson says he hopes for the community to understand and agree with the fact that "when we respond, we respond together" in the search for justice. BSU is holding the event featuring Hill as the keynote speaker Wednesday, Feb. 3, in the GC Ballrooms at 8 p.m.



NADINE MATAS/THE BEACON

Rashaad Perry-Patterson (left) and Esi Fynn-Obeng (right) hold flyers for upcoming BSU events.

NATION & WORLD BRIEFS

Obama seeks \$4.1 billion to expand programming classes

President Barack Obama will ask Congress for \$4.1 billion to expand computer programming classes in every public school, the White House said Saturday.

The proposal, backed by technology firms including Apple, Google and Microsoft, will be included in Obama's fiscal 2017 budget, to be released Feb. 9. Teaching basic coding to more grade-school children is necessary to expand the U.S. economy, Obama said.

"In the new economy, computer science isn't an optional skill it's a basic skill," Obama said Saturday in his weekly television and radio

address. "I've got a plan to help make sure all our kids get an opportunity to learn computer science."

The president's proposal would provide \$4 billion to states and \$100 million to school districts over three years that could be used to train teachers, expand course offerings and improve programs that encourage girls and minorities to pursue technology careers.

The White House said technology companies had pledged to increase their investments in computer science education as part of the initiative.

Prosecutors reach deal with Missouri professor charged with assault

Columbia prosecutors have reached a deal with University of Missouri-Columbia assistant professor Melissa Click, in which she will avoid prosecution for a misdemeanor assault charge stemming from a November run-in with student journalists.

Click's part of the deal requires her to complete 20 hours of community service work and not break the law for one year.

"Based on the facts of this case, I believe this disposition to be appropriate," Columbia City Prosecutor Stephen Richey said in a news release.

The deal, he added, is in line with how his office has handled similar

cases. He said it "adequately serves the interest of justice by ensuring the defendant will not engage in similar conduct."

Click gained national attention last year after she was captured on video blocking student journalists and calling for "muscle" to keep the journalists from taking photos and videos of a campus demonstration.

The video prompted a strong backlash from members of the public, school officials and legislators, some of whom called for Click to be fired.

This week, interim Mizzou Chancellor Hank Foley resisted calls to fire Click. He said he would wait for due process to play out.

Medical school expansions major trend in Florida

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The expansion of medical schools in South Florida has seen a rapid trend in development and Florida International University remains one of the most competitive institutions.

The University, alongside Florida Atlantic University, has increased the amount of residency programs in its intuition. Recently, Nova Southeastern University has announced that Dr. Johannes W. Vieweg, the director of the University of Florida's Prostate Disease Center, will act as a founding dean to its second medical school. While the University of Miami revealed last Thursday that the family of Stuart A. Miller, chair of UM's Board of Trustees, donated \$50 million towards the development of an advanced medical building for its medical school.

The University of Miami maintained the first medical school in Florida based on a "traditional medical doctor program", followed by Nova Southeastern, which developed on osteopathic medicine. In 2009, medical school development in South Florida greatly expanded, with the development of FIU's Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine, which was followed by Florida Atlantic University's school of medicine in 2011. By 2018, South Florida will have five medical schools after the construction of NSU's MD program.

The dean of UM's medical school, Pascal J. Goldschmidt, stated "This is good for the area, it's difficult to be the

only medical school. It's important to have a mass effect of people who are very well educated and who are engaged in research activity and medical care."

These expansions have arrived just in time as recent predictions state that by 2025, Florida will be short 7,000 physicians.

FIU alone hosts 480 medical students at the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine and continues to expand. The medical school also employs over 8,300 employees and contributes to estimated \$1 billion to the state economy. In 2015, the University in partnership with Nicklaus Children's Hospital, Cleveland Clinic, and Broward Health North opened a new residency training program at West Kendall Baptist Hospital.

Dr. John Rock, Dean of FIU's medical school stated "We're actively increasing the residencies, because obviously, we want our students to stay here in South Florida and train."

Rock insists that many students that complete their residencies at FIU will remain in South Florida. He also said that those that complete their residencies outside of FIU, but originate from South Florida, usually return. Of these students, Hispanic students tend to return at a higher percentage due to their "strong ties to the region".

"They want to be home with their families and the rich culture of South Florida," Rock said.

Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is community-focused. Medical students join faculty and students in the nursing school to address the needs of low-income residents through home visits and unique medical

to neighborhood linkages, including a mammogram equipped van that can perform screenings in the community.

Through the Green Family Neighborhood HELP, the University's medical students, spend a large portion of their academic years in diverse teams, alongside social work, nursing and public health students, that together directly monitor the health of 1-2 households in surrounding communities.

Many of these residents cannot afford the necessary tests provided by the University students. Also, mobility within the community allows medical care accessibility to community members that face traveling disadvantages.

The collaboration between students and faculty facilitates and supports the University's goal to community activism and improvement.

Unlike any program hosted in the US, students will spend their four years monitoring their paired households. The teams will work with these households and their healthcare providers to construct and implement care plans. Students will be paired with families that are uninsured and underinsured, with the hopes that this experience will develop compassionate physicians that are also aware of the cultural identities and economic struggles that may characterize their future patients.

"We're really embedded in the community, improving the quality of life of men and women here. That's a social mission for us," Rock stated.

Additional reporting from TNS Staff.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by student and services fees that are appropriated by student government.



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Cody the Camel fights against HIV

PANTHER HEALTH



MAYTINEE
KRAMER

People make a lot of decisions about their sexuality during college, many of which include abstaining from sexual intercourse or becoming sexually active. For Panthers, maintaining sexual health should be just as important as doing well in school or looking after one's general health; but many times, this isn't the case. It's easy to get lost in the heat of the moment. Though with proper knowledge and education, students can prevent "accidents" from occurring.

The World Health Organization defines sexual health as the state of physical, emotional, mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. Sexual health includes a positive and respectable approach to sexuality and safe, pleasurable sexual experiences. However, sex still remains a subject that people shy away from talking about.

According to a new report published by the

American Academy of Pediatrics, only one-third of sexually active young adults test for HIV. HIV might be rare, with only around 10,000 teens and young adults getting diagnosed each year, but HIV testing should be considered essential and a normal part of life. According to the Center for Disease Control, cases of chlamydia, gonorrhea and syphilis have increased in recent years and it's mostly young women who are affected.

It's understandable that it might be embarrassing for some people to get tested or feel that there is a lack of privacy, but a lack of sex education may be the reason why most students underestimate their risk for infection.

One FIU student, a junior who wished to remain anonymous, stated that "[I]t is important to know if you have it [HIV] or don't because you will be able to save yourself...and I value my life."

Cody the Camel, which is the mascot of FIU's sexual health campaign, is here to help educate students on sexual health, alcohol abuse and HIV. On campus, students can find helpful

resources at the Student Health Center which offers workshops and programs from sexual health to preventative and self-care issues. The university also offers HIV testing via the Healthy Living Program located at the Student Health Center in room 180 and the FIU Bridge in Academic Health Center 5, room 104, on Wednesdays.

University students are encouraged to engage in healthy lifestyle practices and become advocates of their own health decisions. Getting tested sets up the stage for safe sex and disease prevention habits. Without testing and diagnosis, students won't be able to get treatment that may improve their own health and also lower the risk of transmission to others. An increase of open awareness of sexual health can play a role in helping students be more willing to get help or be tested.

Panther Health is a commentary on college health and nutrition. Maytinee Kramer is a staff writer for FIU student media. For more commentary, please contact Maytinee at opinion@fiusm.com.

THE BEACON | Editorial

Emotional support animals; not just pets

In certain cases of psychological trauma and illness, there is a necessity for constant emotional support. For some students, this form of treatment comes in the form of emotional support animals. These animals are vital to their owners' well-being.

Generally, pets are prohibited in FIU residence halls. Because of the sanctioning of emotional support animals, accommodations and exceptions are made for those who are approved for one.

Approximately 15 students living on-campus at FIU require the assistance of an emotional support or service animal according to Andrew Naylor, associate director of housing.

The most crucial aspect in verifying a student's need for an emotional support animal is through documentation of an emotional disability with the Disability Resource Center.

"We make sure that it is a legit therapy or mental health situation," said Naylor.

Yet, there are those who cheat this newly formed system for the mere novelty of having a pet while away at college, revealing the massive flaws in the authentication process.

Many websites claim to be reputable source for online emotional support animal approval, allowing anyone to obtain what seems to be the documentation necessary to approve a service animal, regardless of the applicant's actual need for one.

Just as a seeing-eye dog is more than a pet for a blind person, an emotional support animal is more than a pet for a person dealing with psychological or emotional trauma.

One of the main differences is training. Emotional support animals trained to react to emotional distress such as anxiety attacks or depressive slumps to help their owners through the experience, and perhaps retrieve help in extreme cases.

What those who employ illegitimate means to acquire an emotional support animal may not realize, however, is the potential they create for harm.

If it is found that any program is being taken advantage of, it could result in its being discontinued.

Although they might gain for themselves an all-access pass for their pet, abusers of the new system could be taking from someone else a legitimate mechanism for controlling anxiety or depression.

For a more familiar equivalent, perhaps one might consider this action to those who, despite not needing one, use a family member's handicap decal on their cars for a better parking space.

This editorial board is of the opinion that mental health should be treated just as seriously as physical health, and that those who interfere with either should consider it a privilege that they don't need the services they abuse.

Elections in Haiti stopped indefinitely

POLITICOBUZZ



FABIENNE
FLEURANTIN

My family emigrated from Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Unfortunately, that fact still remains true today. This country that has been ravaged by corruption and greed finally had an opportunity of conducting a democratic election on Jan. 24, but a day before it was to be decided who would become the next presidential successor, the election was postponed indefinitely.

Jude Celestin, a presidential candidate, "refused to participate over alleged fraud," as mentioned

by a Reuters article.

Creating a stable government has been a recurring issue in Haiti. Since 1957, Haiti has been unable to build a proper governmental system due to the dictatorship of the Duvalier family.

Ever since then, the transition of power to another successor has been one of difficulty.

"This is a country that has a terrible history of dictatorships and coups. And so, it's been very fragile, the democracy here, only a change in power peacefully one or two times," Carrie Kahn said on NPR.

Michel Martelly is the current president and is due to step down this Feb. 7. The two candidates, Jude Celestin and Jovenel Moise, are in the running

for the position with two very different ideas of Haiti's future. Moise is favored by Martelly mainly because they have similar values—bringing foreign investors into the country and helping the tourism industry flourish.

Celestin, on the other hand, cares deeply about the poor people of the country and doesn't want to be a part of a tainted government. His negation to partake in the election has caused protest and violence in the streets.

This incident resonated with Haitian students here at the university.

"Protesting is sometimes a way to distract the mass population from the real problems of Haiti—which is, in my opinion, a lack of knowledge about governing the country and resolving its problems," FIU student Faberna Pierre said.

The people of Haiti are afraid that the government will fall into the wrong hands which is why they want Martelly gone in the first place.

Moise and Martelly both have the same vision—bringing in foreign financiers to help boost their economy and help them put Haiti on the map as a tourist destination. However, the people won't get a say in what is being done within their country.

"Why are we the ones being scared to go back home while foreigners are walking the streets of Haiti like they are home?" Another university student, Nirva Francois-Laventure, said. "In order to know what is going on in Haiti, you would have to know its history."

This has been a circumstance

that the Haitian community has felt before and they don't want to experience the same setbacks. If foreign investors go in to build their own companies, who is to say that they won't hire the Haitian people as workers and pay them next to nothing?

The people need to have a voice in the government that represents their concerns and helps see them through.

Does Haiti need help to rebuild? Of course, it does.

Every country needs a helping hand when it's in the middle of a crisis. However, it can become an independent nation and not have to depend on other countries to constantly give them aid. Haiti needs a president who is willing to create jobs domestically instead of bringing oversea investors to dominate their country.

Plus, the workers will be able to produce an income for themselves and their families. Most of all, Haiti needs a president the people can trust in order for progress to be reassured.

In order to have a prosperous and functional country, there needs to be a foundation on which it can thrive.

Haiti needs to have a presidential election soon if they want the remnants of what's left to become something tangible and fundamentally strong.

PoliticoBuzz is a commentary that raises awareness about political issues in the US and worldwide. Fabienne Fleurantin is a contributing writer for FIU student media. For more commentary, contact her at opinion@fiusm.com

I'M READY!



SAMUEL-PRITCHARD TORRES/THE BEACON

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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PANTHER CORONATION

The 2016 Mr. and Miss FIU Pageant in Photos



DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON



DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON

Top left: Kaitlyn Bourke, a freshman majoring in theatre performance, is interviewed during a Q-and-A session, Saturday, Jan. 30. Bourke is the 2016 Miss FIU. Above: Torya Whittaker, Miss FIU 2015, opened the show with the pageant's hosts.

Bottom Right: Rene Maurice, a senior corporate finance major, is performing on stage to spread awareness on the gentrification of Little Haiti.

Below: Julian Sarmiento, a junior majoring in business, serenades the audience with a song.

Left: Stefanie Alemeida, a senior studying marketing, dances to her song. She was crowned the 2016 Miss FIU winner, serving with Feed Miami.





DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON

...ance, responds to a question from Mr. FIU 2015 Michael Cabral during the pageant's
 ...J Runner Up.
 ...a dance number to introduce the night's contestants. Whittaker and Cabral served as the
 ...or, celebrates being crowned the 2016 Mr. FIU pageant winner. Maurice will use the platform
 ...ed the crowd with a cover of Usher's "Nice and Slow." Sarmiento was the runner up for Mr.
 ...Demi Lovato's "Confident" during the talent portion of the 2016 Miss FIU Pageant. Almeida
 ...mi as her platform.

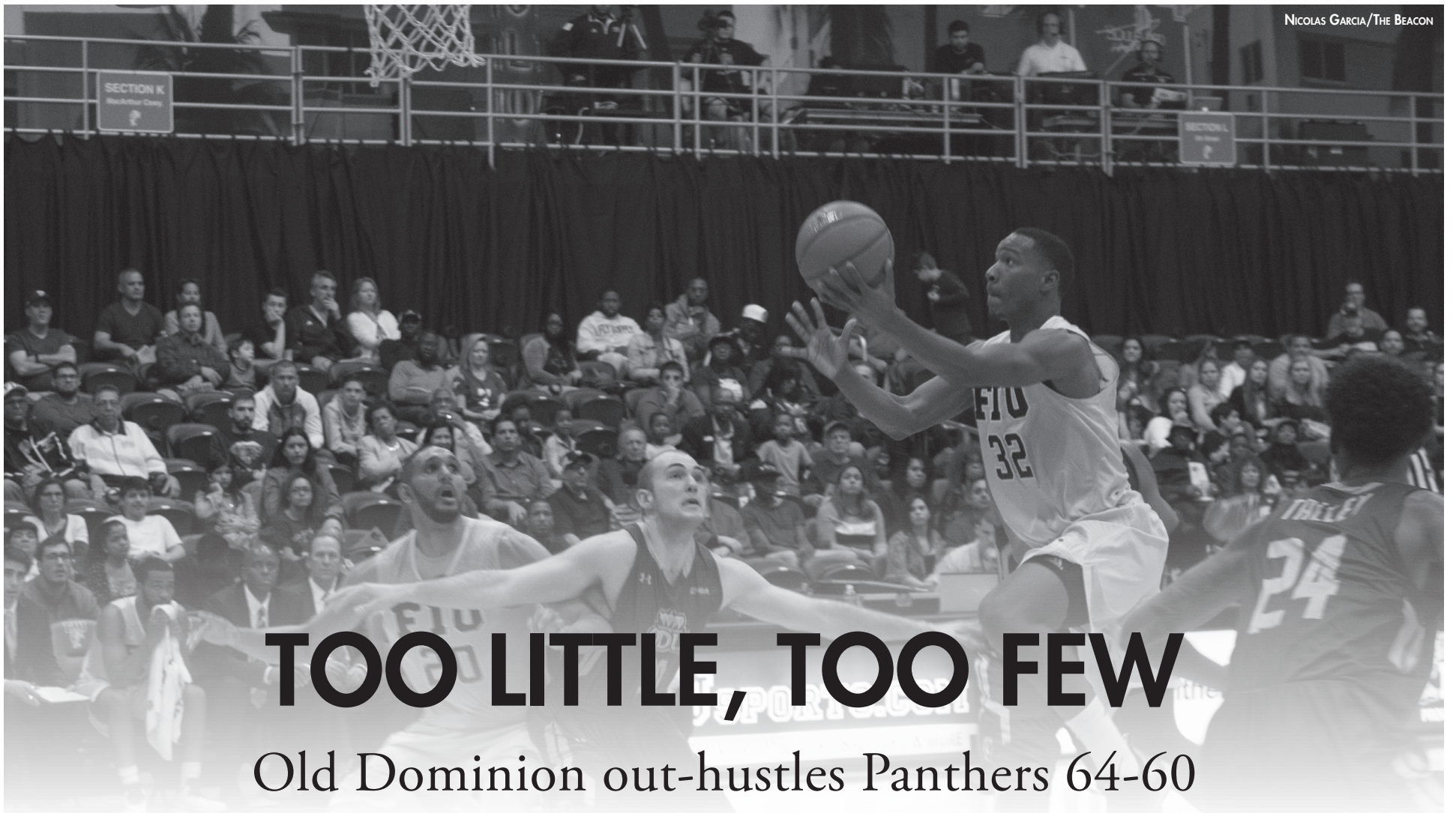


DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON



DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON

MEN'S BASKETBALL



TOO LITTLE, TOO FEW

Old Dominion out-hustles Panthers 64-60

DAVID DRUCKER
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Florida International University men's basketball team (11-11,

5-4 in Conference USA) lost their second game in a row to the Old Dominion University Monarchs Friday, Jan. 29 in a 64-60 defeat.

Senior center Adrian Diaz's 21 points and senior

forward Daviyon Draper's 19 points ended up not being enough to make up for an embarrassing rebounding effort and a poor night of shooting.

"This is a team that has a lot of new pieces, and

I know that we're deep into the season, but those pieces are still meshing," said Head Coach Anthony Evans.

Diaz scored a team-high 21 points, but recorded an uncharacteristic low

of three rebounds in 36 minutes of action.

Draper rebounded from a poor last-minute performance against the University of Carolina at Charlotte in which he committed two turnovers.

The senior forward flashed skill that has at times been missing this season, often blowing right by defenders while driving to the rim.

SEE HOOPS, PAGE 7

RING-ING CELEBRATION



NICOLAS GARCIA/THE BEACON

The 2015 baseball team receives their championship rings during a halftime presentation during the men's basketball game Saturday, Jan. 30.

FOOTBALL

Lopsided Superbowl in the making

COLUMNIST



STEFANO RIVERA

The stakes will be at their highest Sunday, Feb. 7, when the Denver Broncos and Carolina Panthers go head-to-head in Super Bowl 50.

Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California, will serve as host where both teams will aim to take home the Vince Lombardi Trophy in its golden anniversary year.

The Broncos will be making their eighth trip to the Super Bowl in franchise history and second in the past three years.

In 2014, Denver faced off against the Seattle Seahawks, but were blown out before halftime. Not having won since 1998 when John Elway was at the helm, the Elway-owned Broncos will look to forget the embarrassment that was Super Bowl 48.

As for the Carolina

Panthers, they will be making their second Super Bowl appearance in their brief, 20-year existence.

In 2003, the New England Patriots defeated the Panthers, but they will be looking for a different outcome this year.

America saw two completely different Conference Champions Sunday, Jan. 24. We watched another instant classic between Peyton Manning and Tom Brady, and a blow out between the Panthers and the St. Louis Cardinals. Well technically it was the Arizona Cardinals, but I'm sure the baseball team would have put up a better fight.

These games paved the way for a collision course for the two teams.

Peyton Manning is still chugging along, and as long as he continues to be playing "OK" I give the Broncos a chance.

Everybody is expecting a blowout victory for the Panthers, but I believe it will be relatively close for one reason: Denver's defense.

In the regular season, the Broncos led the league in total

and passing defense with 283.1 and 199.6 yards per game respectively. They were also third in rushing defense with 83.6 yards per game.

Even more special is their ability to get to the opposing quarterback. Most people would call this blitzing; however, the Broncos don't need a traditional "blitz" because their front four is arguably the best in the league. A normal pass rush, which includes their dynamic Pro Bowlers, Von Miller and Demarcus Ware, is sufficient.

Miller and Ware are not the only Pro Bowlers on the Broncos. Cornerbacks Aqib Talib and Chris Harris, Jr. anchor the secondary for Denver.

Combined with a vicious pass rush, the defense has made a name for itself throughout the season. Even the great Tom Brady was not able to beat it.

On the other side of the ball, the Broncos offense has been mediocre this season. From quarterback issues midway through the season to receivers constantly dropping balls, it has been a rollercoaster ride to say the least.

A once explosive offense when Manning first came to town has seen much better days. Could it be going hand-in-hand with the aging of Manning? I think so, but now is the chance to break out and prove the doubters wrong.

It's not like Denver doesn't have weapons. Their wide receiving duo in Demaryius Thomas and Emmanuel Sanders is near the top in the league. Running backs Ronnie Hillman and C.J. Anderson are solid players that can get the job done.

However, I think it's the inability to possess a consistent running attack that falters this offense. An aging quarterback's best friend is a consistent running attack. It keeps defenses guessing and forces them to play on their toes, and the Broncos struggled mightily all season to get this going.

Believe me, I was foolish enough to draft Anderson in the first round of my fantasy league and it did not pay off.

The moment Carolina wide receiver, Kelvin Benjamin,

SEE TACKLE, PAGE 7

MEN'S BASKETBALL



MICHAEL SLOAN/THE BEACON

Sophomore forward Cameron Smith receives a pass from his teammates during the Thursday, Jan. 28 home game against the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Panthers suffer on the glass

HOOPS, PAGE 6

He finished with 19 points, eight rebounds, three blocks, two assists and two steals.

The Panthers were dominated on the boards: FIU surrendered a season-high 20 offensive rebounds and 22 second chance points. This disappointing effort comes two days after the Charlotte 49ers out-hustled the Panthers as well, redeeming 17 second effort points in the process.

FIU was also woeful from the three point arc again, shooting 1-11. The Panthers shot a sum of 6-25 from three point range for their two-game home stand.

The Panthers got off to another slow start in this one. Freshman guard Kimar Williams was blocked in the lane and junior guard Jason Boswell traveled before the Panthers could score any points. The Monarchs quickly gained a 6-0 lead in the first two minutes of the game.

FIU found difficulty moving the ball and finding open shots early in the game. Team basketball faded away as the Panthers could not find a basket and went in favor of isolation basketball. The Monarchs built up their lead to 25-15 with 4:15 left in the half.

Draper and Diaz were able to lead a small FIU run thanks to the fact that Old Dominion was also struggling to make

shots; they shot 33 percent from the field in the first 20 minutes. The Monarchs missed their last six shots of the half, allowing FIU to catch up and pull within 26-24 halftime.

The Panthers began the second half with another pair of ugly possessions. An alley-ooop from Draper to Diaz and then a nice post move by FIU's big man, however, gained the Panthers their first lead of the night at 38-37 with 11:29 left in the game. Old Dominion reclaimed the lead seconds later and kept it the rest of the game.

Although the Panthers were dominated on the boards and shot poorly, they managed to keep it close down the stretch and were behind only a single possession with a minute left. A reach-in foul by Boswell, a fake from ODU's Trey Freeman and a Boswell miss on an open three took FIU out of the contest.

Draper believes that the Panthers must get back to their identity if they are to get back into a winning rhythm.

"Usually, we're more focused on defense - it's our staple as a team. Guys have to be more focused on playing defense," said Draper.

Next up for the Panthers is a road trip to the University of Alabama at Birmingham Thursday, Feb. 4, when the Panthers take on the Blazers who have won 15 of their last 16 games.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Trojans' end rival threat

REINALDO LLERENA
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The Troy University Trojans' comeback win in the final singles match of the FIU women's tennis home opener on Friday, Jan. 29 left the Panthers frustrated and annoyed.

The Panthers (1-1) lost to the Trojans (2-1), 4-3, in their home opener after junior Carlotta Orlando lost to Sanae Ohta of the Trojans in the final singles match of the day. Ohta came back from a one-set deficit to down Orlando and the Panthers.

"There's nothing you can say to the team after a loss like this," said head coach Katarina Petrovic. "These matches can go either way. Unfortunately for us, this match didn't go our way. It's frustrating, but we need to execute better and be more consistent in the next match and move on from this one."

Recurring troubles in doubles play was the downfall of the Panthers against Troy.

Freshman Maryna Veksler and junior Nina Nagode defeated Troy's

Hannah Seizer and Alicia Rodriguez, 6-3, in the first doubles match.

However, Orlando and redshirt freshman Andrea Lazaro lost to Jiayuan Xue and Efrikiya Herlina, evening the score at 1-1 in the doubles portion of the match. A few minutes later, sophomore Nerma Caluk and senior Kaitlin Brozovich lost to Ohta and Nancy Karaky. The loss put Troy up 1-0 in the match.

"We saw that doubles are the most important point of the match," said Nagode. "We came out tired at first, but we picked up the aggressiveness at the end. Next time, we need to be more aggressive in doubles. Tough loss."

Down 1-0 heading into singles play, Veksler defeated Xue in straight sets, 6-1, 6-3, to even the match. Shortly after Veksler's win, Lazaro defeated Karaky, 6-2, 6-4, to put the Panthers up 2-1. Nagode put FIU up 3-1 after beating Seizer in straight sets, 6-2, 6-3.

The Trojans tied the match at 3 when Brozovich and Caluk lost their singles matches, leaving the match between Orlando and Ohta as the final match of the

afternoon. Ohta rallied back from a one set hole to beat Orlando, 4-6, 6-2, 7-5. Orlando's seven unforced errors in her match allowed Ohta to come back from her deficit.

"Carlotta had the right game plan," said Petrovic. "But, it looked like she was trying to rush in the second set and she got frustrated when things didn't go her way."

According to Petrovic, Orlando and Caluk were playing hurt during the match against the Trojans. Orlando was nursing a sore back and Caluk was coping with a sore wrist in the opener.

"[Tough losses] are part of the sport," said Nagode. "We need to be more chemistry-oriented in doubles and come out more aggressive for the next one."

Up next, the Panthers will travel to DeLand, Florida to take on both the Stetson University Hatters (1-1) and the Bethune-Cookman University Wildcats (0-2) from Feb. 6-7.

First serve against Stetson is set for Saturday, Feb. 6 at 2 pm in DeLand.

FOOTBALL

Carolina's defense key to success

TACKLE, PAGE 6

tore his ACL before the season, everybody thought the Panthers offense was going to be suspect.

Benjamin was Newton's favorite target and leading pass catcher in 2014 and has immense size at 6-foot-5. I definitely thought this team would struggle without its No. 1 wide out.

The Panthers proved me and the nation wrong, but I don't think anybody envisioned Newton having the year he's had thus far.

Newton, along with key veterans like Jonathan Stewart and Greg Olsen, has made this offense electrifying and entertaining. Although many people have had problems with the Panthers' touchdown celebrations, I enjoy seeing them dancing and "dabbing" after every score.

One of the reasons why Carolina's offense has been so effective is because of their consistency in running the ball. Stewart and Newton combine for a lethal duo, especially when executing the read options.

Let's not forget Newton's ability to roll out of the pocket or take direct snaps. At 6-foot-5 and 245 lbs, Newton is built

like a tight end with running back speed, a dangerous combination.

We've all heard the saying "defense wins championships." In this case, perhaps the main reason why the Panthers stomped the Cardinals was because of their top-notch defense.

It forced Arizona to commit seven turnovers in the NFC Championship game and held one of the league's most explosive offenses to just under 300 yards.

The leader of this defense is linebacker, Luke Kuechly. Kuechly seems to be everywhere on the field and plays with such intensity. Against the Cardinals, he intercepted a pass and scored on a pick-6.

This defense is not solely centered around one man. Rookie cornerback, Josh Norman, has been the "shutdown" corner every team fears. Norman totalled four interceptions this season, but most were during the first half of the year. Once opposing teams started to realize his prowess, they would avoid throwing to his area of the field.

The Panthers may have to play without one of their key defensive players, Thomas

Davis. Davis broke his arm during the NFC Championship and his status is still up in the air. For the season he totalled 105 tackles and forced four fumbles.

That all being said, I truly wish Manning would win this game and end his career on a positive note. However, I have to go with my gut feeling. I think Carolina's defense will bother Manning and the Broncos' offense too much, forcing about 2-3 turnovers.

If Denver's defense can contain Newton and Carolina's rushing attack, which I think it will do, then this game has potential to be close and not a repeat of Super Bowl 48.

Panthers: 31
Broncos: 23

I think Newton will run and pass for a touchdown and Carolina's defense will set up the offense with short fields. The Broncos will struggle to run the football, forcing Manning to pass 35+ times and committing a couple turnovers.

Newton and the Carolina Panthers will be "dabbing" their way to the franchise's first Super Bowl victory.

Bowl Bash discusses NFL football games including the Super Bowl. For suggestions or commentary email stefano.rivera@fiusm.com

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MR. AND MS. FIU 2016

Scholarship pageant crowns next 2016 representatives

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This past weekend the Mister and Miss FIU Scholarship Pageant took place at the Mary Anne Wolfe Theater at BBC and culminated with the announcement of the University's new Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016. This year, students Stephanie Almeida, a senior marketing major, and Rene Maurice, a senior corporate marketing major, were crowned Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016 respectively.

As the winner of Mr. FIU 2016, Maurice received a \$550 scholarship, an official Mr. FIU crown, sash and plaque.

Among the many awards Almeida received as the new reigning Ms. FIU was a \$1,500 scholarship, an official Miss America crown, sash, pin and plaque. She was also awarded \$150 towards her talent costume for the upcoming Miss Florida Pageant as well as a \$400 towards her gown for Miss Florida.

"I'm excited about every opportunity to be a voice to women at FIU and share my experience with the community, getting more people involved in how awesome Mr. and Ms. FIU is," said Almeida.

Almeida went on to say that she wants to "really

encourage people to hold themselves up to a better standard and to go for their dreams and goals."

Each contestant had a specific platform that they represented. Maurice, who is of Haitian descent, focused on the gentrification of Little Haiti and Almeida's platform was Feed Miami.

The event was off to a late start, beginning about 30 minutes passed its scheduled time of 5 p.m., and kicked off with the contestants introducing themselves via a choreographed dance number to Lorde's "Royals" and "Tennis Courts."

Once the introductions were over, contestants then had to impress the judges and the live audience by showcasing their swimwear and talents.

Almeida, who is a dancer in FIU's Golden Dazzlers, completed the talent portion of the competition with a Jazz dance routine to the song "Confident" by Demi Lovato.

Katelyn Bourke, a freshman majoring in theater performance, sang a musical theater piece as her talent. Bourke was later named runner up to Miss FIU 2016 and will act as Ms. FIU should Almeida be unable to perform her duties.

Maurice, who is also



DANIEL RAVE/THE BEACON

Isai Bonilla, a senior studying criminal justice, performs a musical number for the talent portion of the 2016 Mr. and Miss FIU 2016 scholarship pageant, Saturday, Jan. 30

an Elite Man of Phi Beta Sigma service fraternity, performed a step routine as his talent. Following Maurice, Julian Sarmiento, a junior majoring in Business, took the stage to perform an acoustic version of "Nice and Slow" by Usher. Sarmiento went on to place as runner up to Mr. FIU 2016. Similar to Bourke, Sarmiento will assume the title of Mr. FIU should Maurice not fulfill his duties.

After the talent portion, contestants had to complete the evening wear and Q&A

portion of the pageant.

According to Torya Whittaker, the former Ms. FIU 2015, this portion of the competition "is designed for a contestant to make an on-stage statement her compelling charm, presence and personality."

Almeida was asked "What is a change you would like to see in your generation?" She answered that she would like to see her generation help put an end to racism and to love one-another as equals.

When Maurice was asked about his proudest

accomplishments, he answered that he was proud to have gone from a student facing legal troubles a year ago, to being in the running for Mr. FIU 2016.

After the evening wear and Q&A session, Whittaker began to prep for her final farewell.

Each year, Miss FIU winners choose someone to mentor as Miss FIU's Sunshine Prince or Princess.

Prior to her final walk, Whittaker's younger sister Dallas Whittaker took to the stage to perform a

short dance routine to the song "Beautiful Liar" by Beyonce and Shakira.

Dallas Whittaker is 6 years old and was the former Miss FIU's Sunshine Princess.

After the performance, the Former Miss FIU 2015 took the stage to take her final walk as the titleholder.

After deliberation from the judges and taking into account the audience choice vote, Almeida and Maurice were crowned Mr. and Ms. FIU 2016.

SEE PAGES 4-5

Panthers fall to Miami Hurricanes 95-205

CAYLA BUSH
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The FIU swimming and diving team fell to the University of Miami Hurricanes, Saturday, Jan. 30 at the Biscayne Bay Aquatic Center.

A complete change from the 122-83 win against the Hurricanes earlier this season, the Panthers only managed to get 95 points in comparison to UM's 205 in the last home meet of the season.

Last year, the Panthers were Conference USA Champions with an undefeated season. This year, the road to the championships has been a rough one with a 7-5 record. As of Feb. 1, they are on a three-



PHOTO COURTESY OF FIU SPORTS

Seniors Valerie Inghels, Jessica Piper and Becky Wilde were honored in this past Saturday's final home meet for the Panthers with Head Coach Randy Horner.

meet losing streak. In an interview with Student Media, Head Coach Randy Horner stated that this season's schedule and record was a reflection of the challenge he

wanted for the team. According to Horner, the schedule was created "specifically to not go undefeated."

What makes the loss even more disappointing is that

this was the last home meet for Valerie Inghels, Jessica Piper and Becky Wilde, the team's seniors, who were being honored as part of Senior Day.

Inghels dropped to fourth in both her individual swims, posting just over two minutes in the 200 yard butterfly and just under one minute in the 100 yard butterfly. Piper also dropped, coming in fifth with a time of 59.37 seconds in the 100 yard backstroke, just over two minutes in the 200 yard backstroke, and two minutes and thirteen seconds in the individual medley.

Wilde had an equally unsuccessful meet coming in last in each event she participated in.

Despite poor performances from the seniors, sophomores

Naomi Ruele and Kyna Pereira had a strong meet with top performances. Ruele placed first in the 50 yard freestyle and fifth in the 100 yard freestyle.

Pereira, reigning C-USA Athlete of the Week, placed first in the 1000 yard freestyle, third in the 100 yard backstroke and first in the 500 yard freestyle. She improved her record to 6-0 in dual meets for the 1000 yard freestyle.

Before this loss, Horner told Student Media that "dual-meet records are irrelevant."

The Panthers have one more meet, Saturday, Feb. 6, at Florida Atlantic University, before traveling to Atlanta for conference championships, which begin Wednesday, Feb. 24.