Hurricane Frances splashes out season opener

By HARRY COLEMAN
Sports Editor

The exhaustion was felt by Jamarcus Green who commented on the depressing aspect of the cancellation.

“That took a lot out of me,” said offensive lineman Green. “It was depressing that we couldn’t play.”

For many players, this was their first time through a hurricane and did not affect Frances as a serious threat to Miami.

“When I first heard of Frances I didn’t take it seriously. It didn’t hit me till football players started leaving to take care of their families,” said Green who stayed in the Towers.

Many players decided to stay on the university campus but took the time to visit family and go home.

“The team has a lot of Miami players, so pretty much everyone went home,” said Silva. “The people who live up north in Tallahassee and all those places, went home for a little while.”

For many fans, the canceled game left the desire for live-action football.

“I was hoping the game would not be canceled because my friends and I were all planning to go and support the football team,” said sophomore Christine Guzman. “We had all gotten the days off from work in order to go.”

A big crowd was expected because the game was the first the FIU Golden Panthers would have played under the transition to Division I-A football, where a 15,000 home average requirement is needed.

“I am a big football fan and I was going to attend the game to support the team. I had not gone to games in the past but with Division I hopes, I was looking forward to it,” said sophomore Mikel Uribiondo.

The game has yet to be rescheduled according to football SID Rich Kelch who is doubtful the Golden Panthers will face the Dolphins this season. The next game is scheduled for Saturday against Youngstown at Ohio and the next home will take place on Sept. 25 against Western Kentucky.

Method Man and Redman will perform after the game as FIU honors fans with Fan Appreciation Day.

Fans wishing to attend must arrive to the game prior to the fourth quarter. Fans arriving later will not be allowed to come in.
Smith returns strong from tendon injury

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

He rushes down the field protecting the football that he holds tightly to his body while passing defenders as they lurch out towards him. He looks up ahead in hopes to see the end zone near; this year, look for him out towards him. He looks up passing defenders as they latch holds tightly to his body while

Rashod Smith. To be there, look out for running zone near; this year, look for him out towards him. He looks up passing defenders as they latch holds tightly to his body while

was more serious than initially

Smith is ready for his comeback; the question is, are opponents

Standing at 5-feet-8-inches and

No. 4 jersey sprinting down the

Sept. 2's game should've been a bustling event filled with students and

best on the team.

However, due to Hurricane Frances, “The Cage” was deserted, making students wait

“You had to learn how to walk again, but I’m ready to get back into the swing of things,” said Smith. As far as Smith is concerned, the Golden Panthers are ready for action. Their days have been consumed by daily practices on the field, while getting focused for the season.

“Right now we were taking one step at a time and one play at a time,” said Smith. “Were getting ready for Thursday [season opener].”

Despite Smith’s nagging injuries he has endured and the fact that he hasn’t played a full season in a while, he is prepared to get back on the field and do what he is great at.

“I’m good now,” said Smith, “I’m excited to get back with my team. I just want to help my team win games.”

“Football is the only sport that I really enjoy calling a lifetime,” said Bendayan. Considering that WRGP is strictly a “volunteer” radio station, securing employees who will commit, while developing an on-air chemistry with the staff is the station’s main focus.

Far as Smith is concerned, “It’s not an easy job to just become an announcer,” said Bendayan. “It is a tremendous help to alternate games,” said Bendayan.

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Hurricane Frances, the second major storm to affect South Florida in less than a month, brought the FIU community to a halt on Sept. 2 as predictions of a month, brought the FIU community the event.

While the supposed Category 4 storm slowly approached, offices and buildings at the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses closed early in preparation for the event.

“We put bags on the computers and took everything off the floor. We always expect flooding in [Primera Casa],” Shawnda Mair, program assistant at the Registration office, said.

As preparations continued, students at UP found themselves in long lines as they attempted to make those last minute payments and registration changes.

“The window has been very busy,” Mair said. “Students came to do everything before the hurricane.”

Lines also stretched around the Academic One building at the BBC campus as students waited in anticipation for the hurricane and attempted to beat the Sept. 4 payment deadline, which has been extended until Sept. 11.

While crowded lines and early closing of offices sent many scurrying all over BBC, Bay Vista housing residents on the same campus faced the problem of evacuation. Some of the students drove to UP and others were bussed to Panther Hall from the northern campus at the onset of the hurricane on Sept. 2.

All 38 students and staff members took up residence in student lounges in Panther Hall and later throughout lounges in Everglades Hall.

“When they said we’d be leaving BBC, I had no idea we’d be evacuating so early,” said senior and Bay Vista housing resident Jennifer Ngo. “If anything, I’ll have a story to tell when I get back to my college,” added the exchange student from Mesa State College in Colorado.

According to the executive director of Student Affairs, Auxiliaries and Operations James Wassenaar, students were evacuated from BBC due to a mandatory evacuation order issued by the county.

The saga for BBC housing students was in the thick of their own storm.

Throughout the three days they spent living in Panther Hall and Everglades Hall, BBC students slept on mattresses in student lounges, used the showers at the Golden Panther Arena, and ate free food at the cafeteria was able to prepare under the intense circumstances.

“I enjoyed the free cafeteria meals,” said Ngo, who later added that the circumstances were not ideal.

As BBC students worried about evacuating, UP housing students were urged to buy food and gather supplies in preparation for the hurricane.

“I went grocery shopping and bought hamburgers given at the cafeteria.” added Fox referring to the free pizza and hamburgers given at the cafeteria.

Some just simply went without preparing.

“I didn’t buy specific food or anything… I just kept whatever I thought I’d be good with,” said freshman Bryan Fox.

“What we’ve been eating [at the cafeteria] wasn’t the best but… they are doing the best they can do with what they got,” added Fox referring to the free pizza and hamburgers given at the cafeteria.

This in stark contrast to the many students at the University Park Apartments and in the FIJI house who weathered the storm unaware of the food being provided to other housing students at the same campus.

Further adding to the scuttle for food and comfort, housing students were also

See FRANCES, page 7

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Because of Hurricane Frances The Beacon was unable to publish on Sept. 2 or Sept. 6.

For that reason, we have reprinted stories that were scheduled to appear in both issues and have included new stories about the affects of Frances on the FIU community. In our spare time, we also put together a special pullout with football previews and highlights of the upcoming season.

See FRANCES, page 7
FIU extends important enrollment and registration deadlines

Following the shutting down of the university last week due to Hurricane Frances, FIU has announced the extension of several important deadlines.

According to the administration, the drop/add period has officially been extended to Sept. 11, at 1 p.m.

Late registration has also been prolonged until the same day, also at 1 p.m.

The offices around the student service area have extended their working hours for several days as well. On Sept. 10, they will remain open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Sept. 11 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

For all questions related to these deadlines and their procedures, the university has set up a special hotline that may be reached from Broward or Dade counties. The phone numbers are (954) 438-8603 for Broward and (305) 448-2000 for Dade.

Hurricane Ivan hits eastern Caribbean

Hurricane Ivan, following the course taken by what has now become tropical depression Frances, moved over Barbados and the eastern Caribbean on Sept. 7.

With winds of 195 kilometers per hour, the storm is expected to strengthen by the end of the week, becoming what forecasters have predicted to be “a very dangerous hurricane.”

Long-term forecasts of the hurricane’s track, though containing a wide margin of error, have placed the storm as striking Jamaica on Sept. 10, then Cuba on Sept. 11.

Several governments have already issued warnings and marked evacuation plans for their countries, including Venezuela and the Netherlands Antilles. Though the further track of the hurricane has still to be plotted, it is assumed that Ivan will come to close proximities with Florida over the weekend of Sept. 12. Whether it will make landfall or not is still disputed.

The Beacon is looking for photographers.

The Beacon is seeking applicants with media layout/design experience in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Pagemaker.

The Beacon is hiring dedicated individuals with experience in journalism and media.

For more information stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 and pick up for an application today.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and once a week during Summer. Advertising inquiries for classified, local and national ads must be submitted to our advertising department in our newsletter. 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 reader. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.

The Beacon and media.

InDesign, InCopy/InDesign, Pagemaker, and Adobe Photoshop. The Beacon is seeking applicants with media layout/design experience in Adobe InDesign, Adobe Photoshop, and Adobe Pagemaker.

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Most nurses will enter the U.S. healthcare system. You’re not most nurses.
Students find ways to escape hurricane doldrums

"BORED" GAMES: Students from Bay Vista housing taking shelter from the hurricane in the Panther Hall lounges spend their time playing games, trying to keep themselves from succumbing to "cabin fever." C. Joel Marino/The Beacon

By C. JOEL MARINO
News Editor

Expecting rough winds and massive rains, stu-
dents around FIU sought shelter last week either on
or off campus, hoping to avoid what seemed like
the imminent arrival of their category 4 hurricane
Frances.

On campus, resident students remained in their
dorms, the thick windows and walls keeping the noises
of the eventual storm out; off campus, many left the
smoke of their "hurri-
cane party" grills behind,
finding themselves inside
shuttered houses, a few
family and friends their
only companions.

Whatever shelter route
taken, many students
would agree that in an
tempt to escape from the
arms of the storm, there was one calamity that
couldn’t be escaped: boredom.

Mike Calero, a sopho-
more who decided to
stay in Panther Hall
during the few days of
Frances, believed that,
despite efforts from the students to keep them-
Iselfs entertained, the
feeling described as "cabin fever" could not be quickly
ignored.

"We played ping-pong, pool, volleyball, a whole
bunch of board games, soccer in the hallways for
a really short time because it’s not allowed by the
resident assistants), and basically did a lot of sleep-
ing and eating. You do a
lot of that when you have
nothing else to do."

From Sept. 3 to early
Sept. 5, when Frances’
landfall brought about
heavier winds, some of the
housing was placed under
temporary lockdown, in
which no one could either
leave or enter the buildings
without special permis-
sion.

This decision brought
about mixed reactions
from the students.

"When they said we
couldn’t leave the build-
ing, it kind of sucked,
because you knew you
were about to get cabin
fever, you knew just
didn’t want to be here. I
mean, you knew they’re
doing it for your own
safety, but nobody likes
to be caged in, even if it
is your own house," said
Calero.

Ramon Alatorre, a
freshman also living in
Panther Hall, took a differ-
ent stance on the policy.

"Honestly, I didn’t care
much about the lockdown.
I wasn’t getting out any-
ways, only going to the
cafeteria and back. I really
just wanted things to
continue normally."

If anything, students
agree that it was the soli-
darity they found among
neighbors while grounded
in their nearest neighbor,
the FIJI fraternity house for
the weekend, the 10 out of
30 residing members of
their fraternity members
volunteered their services to
the nearest neighbor,
Modesto A. Maidique,
中国移动to the FIU
president’s on-campus house to see if he needed any
assistance. Besides taking
him his morning paper,
the fraternity members vol-
unteered their services to
their nearest neighbor,
Modesto A. Maidique,
and then I just stayed
there," said David Carr, a
junior currently living in
the FIJI house as a non-
member resident.

"But when I was there,
there wasn’t much to do—
sleep, eat, watch the Dol-
phins’ game, see movies,
but mostly sleep. Yeah,
there was just a lot of sleep.
Actually, there was just too
too much sleep.

Sleep, games, and just
the presence of another
soul — for some, with the
hurricane like a lullaby
pulling against shutters or
storm-proofed windows,
it was these things that
eventually became the most
sought after and appreci-
ated survival kit during the
wait through that slow-
moving storm.

Looking for an Opportunity to Make a Difference?

CIA’s Directorate of Intelligence will be interviewing
candidates for Analyst Positions.

Representatives from CIA’s analytical arm, the Directorate of Intelligence, will be interviewing for analyst positions in Miami during the week of October 25th. Analysts work on the forefront of
understanding our adversaries, our friends and the shifting climate
and impact US interests at home and abroad. They use information from classified and unclassified
sources from around the world to develop and provide the reliable intelligence that is essential for
US policymakers to make informed decisions. CIA is hiring for the following positions:

• Analytic Methodologist
• Economic, Political Leadership
• Psychological/Psychiatric Analyst
• Counterintelligence
• Science, Technology and
• Weapons Analyst
• Counterterrorism Analyst
• Medical Analyst

Candidates must have at least a bachelor’s degree with a minimum GPA of 3.0. Language skills,
previous foreign area residence or travel, and relevant work experience are pluses.

Candidates must successfully complete a medical examination, polygraph interview, and relocation to the
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Successful applicants who have submitted their resumes by September 24th
will be contacted to attend an information session and arrange a local area
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Stand at the center of scientific and technological progress at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, securing exclusive rights for inventors over their discoveries worldwide. The United States Patent and Trademark Office continues to experience significant growth in the filing of patent applications, which translates into new opportunities for engineers and scientists to become Patent Examiners. Visit us at our Career Fair Information Session to learn more about how your engineering skills can help keep American ingenuity on the cutting edge.

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As a Patent Examiner, you will analyze patent applications using your specialized engineering knowledge and technical research skills to evaluate concepts and designs. Your responsibilities will involve determining the acceptability of patent protection, while meeting weekly performance goals. You must possess a BS or advanced degree in engineering or science, technical competence in the area for which you are hired, and strong oral and written communications skills to be successful.

CAREER FAIR INFORMATION SESSION

Location: Engineering Center, Room 2300
Date: September 27
Time: 4:00 pm-6:00 pm

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Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE: As housing administrators and resident assistants warned of the incoming threat of hurricane Frances, students living on campus scrambled to stock up on such basic supplies as drinking water.

C. JOEL MARINO/THE BEACON
FRANCES, from page 3

urged by resident assistants to close all windows and blinds, cover valuable items with plastic, and store items off the floor to avoid water damage. “I packed up all my electronics and my shoes. I used plastic bags and tapes and put everything in high places. I put the mattress and put everything in high used plastic bags and tapes electronics and my shoes. I was better to leave than to be evacuated to PC. was given until late night to be evacuated to PC. Park Apartments were informed students that it was better to leave than to be evacuated on Sept. 2. Some students were told to evacuate immediately in Panther Hall while students in the University Park Apartments were given until late night to evacuate on Sept. 2. Resident assistants also informed students that it was better to leave than to be evacuated to PC. “We spoke to students to see who was staying. We encouraged them to go home so it’s not chaos if we have to evacuate. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes or left to be with their families,” said Towers’ resident assistant Shannon Hanson. However, despite all the preparations, police officers patrolling Panther Hall and the supposed lockdown, none of the evacuation plans were ever set into motion. Wassenaar, who was not available for comment until Sept. 6, responded to the rumors of temporary lockdown by stating that students were never told they had to stay in Panther Hall. He also commented that the precautions and warnings were simply safety measures. Some students agreeded with Wassenaar and said they appreciated the security measures and felt safe staying in housing. “I think the administrative was pretty good about the whole thing. Panther Hall seemed to have some more security measures as compared to other housing; I’m assum- ing because it’s all freshmen. Still, I think it was very responsible of them,” said sophomore Andres Camacho.

Despite the efforts of the housing staff, some of the given information sent mixed signals and left many students bewildered. Some students were told to evacuate in Panther Hall while students in the University Park Apartments were given until late night to evacuate on Sept. 2. Resident assistants also informed students that it was better to leave than to be evacuated to PC. “We spoke to students to see who was staying. We encouraged them to go home so it’s not chaos if we have to evacuate. Many students went with friends to their parents’ homes or left to be with their families,” said Towers’ resident assistant Shannon Hanson. However, despite all the preparations, police officers patrolling Panther Hall and the supposed lockdown, none of the evacuation plans were ever set into motion. Wassenaar, who was not available for comment until Sept. 6, responded to the rumors of temporary lockdown by stating that students were never told they had to stay in Panther Hall. He also commented that the precautions and warnings were simply safety measures. Some students agreeded with Wassenaar and said they appreciated the security measures and felt safe staying in housing. “I think the administrative was pretty good about the whole thing. Panther Hall seemed to have some more security measures as compared to other housing; I’m assum-ing because it’s all freshmen. Still, I think it was very responsible of them,” said sophomore Andres Camacho.

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In moments of crisis, one of the first things we are forced to sacrifice are our basic rights, guaranteed by the amendments. Only in the most exceptional of situations is such an action understandable but in the sheer chaos last weekend, when FIU closed because of Hurricane Frances’ impending arrival, our rights as journalists were unabashedly overlooked. It’s difficult to think that at FIU the first amendment is taken for granted (to refresh your memory, the first amendment guarantees freedom of the press). Last weekend, the red tape of bureaucracy was woven so thick that this freedom seemed like a dream.

While trying to report on the hurricane and tell the story of thousands of students living on campus, The Beacon encountered more hesitation than Frances had as she slowly moved her way towards Florida. Trying to interview anybody important was nearly impossible.

During the storm, speaking to the administration seemed out of the question and resident assistants were given orders to remain tight-lipped by the resident life coordinator. Although we were able to speak with administration after the storm, it was too little too late.

We understand this is not a direct violation of our first amendment rights and we are grateful to be able to publish this opinion. Furthermore, we were ultimately able to work around and solve the problem through other resources. What really concerns us is the lack of cooperation for such an important matter.

Had the situation been different and the big story involved, for example, providing coverage for some sort of housing event or special program, the doors of information would have welcomed The Beacon warmly.

If we are expected to serve our purpose as journalists and produce a quality newspaper that is honest and recognizable for its exceptional work, we cannot be taken so lightly. We expect that the test will cost the student $15. To get into the writing strategies class, one must score a 65 or higher. To exit the class, you must take the test again and get at least a 75. Every attempt at the test will cost the student $15.

I have come across a lot of good writers in my three-plus years at FIU and a few of them struggle when it comes to this test. In a time where spell check is the new whiteout, a gerund is the least of my concerns. Recently an email was sent out to the students in the SJMC indicating that the scores received on the test would last longer than the five-month window it once had. Obviously, the grammar test issue has been somewhat tackled. I think, though, it needs to be further evaluated.

On my exit test for Writing Strategies, I scored an 85. There are two other classes that journalism majors need to take that require a certain grammar test grade. News reporting needs at least an 80 and the choice of either feature writing or news and public affairs reporting calls for a score of 85.

The rule ought to be, if you take the test and get an 85 you qualify for entrance into all of the classes without the need for retesting. It goes without saying that most college students are not rich and the constant inflation in tuition does not help. Must you continue to take $15 from our pocket? It’s money we could be spending on the high gas prices. I think my solution is reasonable or at least wave the test fee after exiting Writing Strategies.

Shane Howard
Junior Journalism Major

Phew! [FIU] Ratings Boost!

Many South Floridians experienced relief as Hurricane Frances slowed down and almost completely missed Miami-Dade County.

But, don’t change that! Channel 4 is completely unpredictable. It could change course at any time!

It still could come to your house, knock down your door, stab you in the chest, and loot your house.

So make sure to stop by the publix and pick up some bottled water and quality canned foods. Just to remind you to publix.

By Luis Nin
Special Thanks to Kathleen Oliva

Grammar Test Causes Pain for SJMC Students

I am not one to openly complain about FIU administration but I feel I must at this present time. I am majoring in Journalism and students enrolled in the School of Journalism and Mass Communications must take a test called the grammar test.

I love it, the new system is incredibly helpful and I have experienced little or no trouble.

Although it is convenient and structured nicely, I found it difficult to search for classes. It limits your search options and can be frustrating at times.

I couldn’t figure out how to do anything at all, I hate this confusing mess of a software and I miss the old system.

What’s a Panthersoft?

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Winner & Loser

Local Affiliate Anchors: Battling fatigue and a severe lack of interesting events to report on, anchors and reporters worked nearly 24 hours a day in order to bring South Floridians the latest breaking fallen-tree-branch reports. Hopefully they were paid overtime.

The Southeastern United States: With Charlie and Frances passing us, and Ivan lurking around the corner, the worst of the storm is behind us. It’s difficult to think that at FIU the first amendment is taken for granted (to refresh your memory, the first amendment guarantees freedom of the press). Last weekend, the red tape of bureaucracy was woven so thick that this freedom seemed like a dream.

While trying to report on the hurricane and tell the story of thousands of students living on campus, The Beacon encountered more hesitation than Frances had as she slowly moved her way towards Florida. Trying to interview anybody important was nearly impossible.

During the storm, speaking to the administration seemed out of the question and resident assistants were given orders to remain tight-lipped by the resident life coordinator. Although we were able to speak with administration after the storm, it was too little too late.

We understand this is not a direct violation of our first amendment rights and we are grateful to be able to publish this opinion. Furthermore, we were ultimately able to work around and solve the problem through other resources. What really concerns us is the lack of cooperation for such an important matter.

Had the situation been different and the big story involved, for example, providing coverage for some sort of housing event or special program, the doors of information would have welcomed The Beacon warmly.

If we are expected to serve our purpose as journalists and produce a quality newspaper that is honest and recognizable for its exceptional work, we cannot be taken so lightly. We expect that the test will cost the student $15. To get into the writing strategies class, one must score a 65 or higher. To exit the class, you must take the test again and get at least a 75. Every attempt at the test will cost the student $15.

I have come across a lot of good writers in my three-plus years at FIU and a few of them struggle when it comes to this test. In a time where spell check is the new whiteout, a gerund is the least of my concerns. Recently an email was sent out to the students in the SJMC indicating that the scores received on the test would last longer than the five-month window it once had. Obviously, the grammar test issue has been somewhat tackled. I think, though, it needs to be further evaluated.

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If we are expected to serve our purpose as journalists and produce a quality newspaper that is honest and recognizable for its exceptional work, we cannot be taken so lightly. We expect to receive the same treatment as any other major newspaper. The Beacon is by no means a public relations rag; we strive to be an important source of information, created by students who care about this university.

We are deeply saddened and disappointed by the lack of cooperation during Frances. Hopefully, we can strike new amicable partnerships and solve the problem through other resources. What really concerns us is the lack of cooperation for such an important matter.
Pandemonium. Mass chaos in the streets, gas shortages everywhere, people fighting over the last case of Aquafina. Journalists described you as the one that could rouse Andrew.

They told us to get shutters, plywood, or any thing to protect our shelter and our family. I expected to lose water and power. I expected to lose half of my s Mangos and a couple of windows. People were stealing.

I expected to heat Spaghettios with a sterno and eat them by candlelight in a stifling, pitch-black pit of your creation. In a sick way, I was looking forward to it.

Quite frankly Frances, I expected more from you. You call yourself a hurricane? You resembled a group of warming gnats rather than the four horsemen I thought you’d be.

Yes, you did get me out of a couple days of school and work and I thank you for that, but couldn’t it have been at least a month into the semester, you know, when I really needed it?

There are words for hurricanes like you Frances, and among those the best I could think of is “punk.” You saunter into the Atlantic like some sort of threat, taking your sweet time to get here. Then, by the time you limp past the Bahamas, you’re a category 2 at best. I don’t think you know who you’re dealing with, Frances. We survived Andrew: a category 5, town shattering force that spit out houses like pieces of chewed gum that had lost its flavor.

After he passed, people used words like “survived” and made T-shirts in his honor.

Do you think Americans are going to make t-shirts after you? I wouldn’t hold my 60 mph breath if I were you.

You might argue your importance by remarking on the four major networks 257-hour coverage of you. But let’s break this down a bit. Your only competition was the last part of the Republican National Convention. And if it’s between your swifling patterns and President Bush trying to pronounce “no child left behind” in Spanish, I think we both know what we’d rather watch.

But I’ll give it to you Frances, you are a clever rogue. You are the storm that created hurricane. And we all flocked into the stores knowing you might be “the big one.”

And you did do some damage, humbled us a bit, and made lots of people annoyed and miss their 21st century comforts. But we’re still standing, Frances.

As you unravel in the south, I hope you think about that. You get an E for Effort though.

Oh, and if Ivan asks, tell him the Carolina beaches are wonderful this time of year.

Fearsome Frances: beware of my destructive breeze

Facts get fuzzier as election day approaches

By LAURA SCOTT
Kansas City Star

In last year’s movie “Something’s Gotta Give,” Jack Nicholson tries to explain his erratic behavior as a suitor to Diane Keaton:

“I’ve never lied to you. I’ve always told you some version of the truth,” he offers weakly.

But she protests: “Truth doesn’t have versions.”

Ah, Diane, wish you were right. But sorry, in love, as many people know, the truth often does have versions. And people choose to believe what they want to believe about what a lover is saying or doing. It’s a human foible connected to being in love.

Unfortunately, politics is a lot like love. Truth are on the way.

Wait for incoming. More versions of the presidential election will go. And the campaign spin-doctors are going to be very busy trying to dislodge from their favorite fellow. Likely most voters won’t be dislodged from their favorite fellow.

Which version of that doublespeak do Americans choose to believe? Speaking of Bush, this week he confused Americans with his comments on winning the terrorism war. First, he says we can’t and then he says we can.

One of these statements probably was a misstatement, and I am guessing the first one.

But it might have been the most honest one, if you look at the war on terrorism in the big picture. We likely will be fighting against terrorism for many decades to come.

But I figure those who support the president do not want him going around saying that the war on terrorism can’t be won. So Bush’s handlers got to him, plotted a new statement, and on Tuesday, the president reversed course.

The election is not until November, and it is just September. Lots more time for “facts” and “records” to show up.

But because most Americans seem to have made up their minds about whom to believe and what to believe, it is likely that we will just continue bat ting “facts” back and forth. Likely most voters won’t be dissuaded from their favorite fellow.

That leaves the minority of undecideds in key states to determine which way this election will go. And the campaign spinmeisters are going to be very busy trying to appeal to them in the coming weeks.

Hold your ears, cover your eyes, and wait for incoming. More versions of the truth are on the way.
Nearmiss

A Hurricane Frances photo timeline

Preparing for the worst – Sept. 2 & 3
On Sept. 2, the university cancelled all classes and events and began preparing for the incoming storm. Massive advisories were sent to all students and faculty and the order to evacuate housing was given. The Breezeaway Cafe (below) stayed open until 12a.m. to accommodate the needs of students.

FIU vs. Frances – Sept. 4
Hurricane Frances’ wind finally began to pick up on the evening of Sept. 4. FIU only sustained the weaker winds of Frances’ outer feeder bands and fortunately escaped the potential for damage.

Aftermath of sorts – Sept. 5
Surveying the aftermath of the storm, only minimal damage was sustained. Surprisingly, only a few trees were destroyed or damaged (above) leaving only minor foliage rubble. The fences were also knocked down near the new Graham Center renovations (below) but the buildings did not sustain any major damage.

FIU spared from potential disaster

By JOHN LOVELL
Managing Editor

Whoever coined the phrase, “calm before the storm” obviously has never been through a hurricane. While all of South Florida scurried to find shutters, water, batteries and other post-apocalypse supplies, FIU launched their emergency system and begun preparations for a storm that was already being dubbed “The Big One” by many. As Frances loomed in the Atlantic Ocean, stalling to a halt only about 100 miles from the eastern coast of Florida, students at FIU waited along with thousands of others while visions of Andrew danced in their heads.

Fortunately, all that ultimately awaited FIU was a weakened category two hurricane with rain no greater than a typical thunderstorm and wind gusts far below dangerous levels. During and after the storm, the worst of Frances’ fury met the students – monotonous boredom and frustrating cabin fever.

By Sunday, however, businesses began to open, the skies cleared (for the most part) and power returned to the few who had lost it. In the end, Frances proved to be a bigger nuisance than a problem, at least for students and faculty at FIU. North of Miami, in West Palm Beach and Ft. Pierce, power did not return to thousands of homes for several more days. We lucked out this time, but what’s next? Ivan, maybe? Only time and The Weather Channel will tell.
Frances makes Floridians frantic with lockdown boredom

By JULIA MARCHESE
LIFE Editor

I
'm when you've been cooped up in the house for too long. Cabin Fever - we've all experienced it on different levels during the existence of Hurricane Frances last week. Symptoms include talking to yourself, dressing up in your fanciest outfits and getting "tanked."

The first couple of days aren't so bad. One could use the sleep, especially after being physically drained from boarding up your house and your Grandma's house and waiting in those half a mile long lines at Publix and your local Shell gas station. Yes, when your head finally hits the pillow, it will be good.

Your eyes finally open on the third day. But not because the morning sun has casted its glorious rays upon your face. No, that wouldn't happen because your room is still all boarded up. You fall out of bed and wonder what's for breakfast. The most effortless, yumm-iest, non-parishable food item you discover in your kitchen cabinet is of course, Cheerios. After a couple bowls of dry cereal (your mom used up the milk the day before because she didn't want it to spoil due to loss of electricity the hurricane was supposed to incur) and watch some television or those DVDs you rented last week from Blockbuster, something suddenly dawns on you-they've known about your intense dungeon. They're not surprised to see your mom and dad have been resid-

After scrubbing the mildew off the grout in between the tiles of the bathroom walls, cleaning the toilet, and wiping the bathroom mirror, you're stuck. You don't know what to do with your beautifully-styled hair is so foreign to you. However, it's not that bad. After a trying on a few more outfits of different color combinations, you decide it's time to take the plunge. Hurricane Frances - Miami knows it as a girly storm - will no longer get the best of you. Besides, the hurricane warning had been lifted earlier that day. You're now well dressed and your hair looks great. You're going out! It doesn't matter where you go, but you're going. You can hear the rain and wind outside, so you decide it'd be best to wear sneakers - you're red Diesels will complement your outfit and look great with your new jeans. You kiss your mom and dad goodbye as they wish you well on your first outing in four days in the outside world. They warn you, "be careful and cautious of the down power lines."

You're now turning the knob of the front door. It finally opens-the experience is euphoric. The light of day is the most beautiful thing you've ever seen, and the air has never smelt so sweet. Who cares if it's raining-you like the rain. You make your way to your '98 blue Saturn as the rain drops dance on your head. You don't even mind that your beautifully-styled hair is getting messed up. By this point, driv-

You're growing increasingly restless so you try experiment with your makeup. You try on eye shadows of different hues. Time to try on clothes and accessories. You try on your classic, dark red prom dress to see if it still fits you after gaining those freshman 15 a couple years back. You smile. It still fits, instead now you just have to fill it with. After a trying on a few more outfits of different color combinations, you decide it's time to take the plunge. Hurricane Frances - Miami knows it as a girly storm - will no longer get the best of you. Besides, the hurricane warning had been lifted earlier that day. You're now well dressed and your hair looks great. You're going out! It doesn't matter where you go, but you're going. You can hear the rain and wind outside, so you decide it'd be best to wear sneakers - you're red Diesels will complement your outfit and look great with your new jeans. You kiss your mom and dad goodbye as they wish you well on your first outing in four days in the outside world. They warn you, "be careful and cautious of the down power lines."

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Students received with entertainment

WELCOME WEEK 2004

FEELING HOT, HOT, HOT: Students make molds of their hands in hot wax, one of more popular activities taking place at BBC. The wax cools, solidifies into the shape of a hand and is painted different colors. ROBERT IRIZARRY/THE BEACON

BUNCIN’ AROUND: An inflatable bounce maze entices students to take a fun break between classes. ROBERT IRIZARRY/THE BEACON

Polyphonic Spree: From feel good sounds to pastel gowns

By TOM MOON
Knight Ridder Newspapers

The No. 1 question that Tim DeLaughter, leader of the Polyphonic Spree, gets when people see his 25-member group wearing flowing choir robes in pastel colors, and singing unbarably positive Up With People-ish songs: Is this some kind of a cult?

The second question: Is there room for one more?

“Every show, somebody comes up to us with this look in their eyes, and you just know they want to be in it,” DeLaughter said a few weeks back, on the day the Dallas-based band’s long-awaited new album, “Together We’re Heavy” (Hollywood), arrived in stores. The awaited new album, “Together We’re Heavy” (Hollywood), arrived in stores. “Every show, somebody comes up to us with this look in their eyes, and you just know they want to be in it,” DeLaughter said a few weeks back, on the day the Dallas-based band’s long-awaited new album, “Together We’re Heavy” (Hollywood), arrived in stores.

The musicians, many of whom are classically trained, would fall in around him; they are encouraged to add counter lines or whatever else they hear. Most of these people grew up reading sheet music. At first they’d ask what key and what the chords were, and I had to get them to let go of inhibitions. Now, when we work on material, it’s let’s all just play and see where we go with it.”

When asked if he purposely leaned in the direction of the idealistic, if not the celestial, when writing the Spree’s lyrics, DeLaughter referred back to Tripping Daisy. “From when I first started in music today, the general tone of hope has always been my subject matter. I didn’t change my lyrics for the group.”

But, in the next breath, he acknowledged that the themes do resonate differently when sung by such a large ensemble: “It works out, conveniently, that having so many people sing gives the lyrics extra weight. And I like that. It’s sort of uncharted waters, this very innocent way of talking about being human in these times. Some people see it as almost borderline hokey. But to us it’s key, because some sort of spirit is there when we perform. And we’re not afraid of communicating that.”

For the record, DeLaughter says that despite all the spirit talk, the Polyphonic Spree is not a cult. “I haven’t adopted a specific religion in the songs. There’s no clear-cut agenda.” As for the robes, DeLaughter says they’re just another way to differentiate his group.

“I was thinking a lot about the way people look at someone’s clothes, and they made judgments about what kind of a person they’re looking at,” DeLaughter says. “That’s annoying to me. I wanted something to unify the group, and the first image was white robes, so I went to my mother-in-law, and boom, right away we made the robes. At first the idea was to project images on the (white robes), but as we’ve gone along, we’ve come up with a lot more of a band and a family, we’ve realized there’s a lot of vibrance, a lot of color. So now each of us wears our own color – we’re like pixels on a TV screen.”

We’re still hiring!

Stop by GC 210 or WUC 124 for an application or e-mail Managing Editor, John Lovell at john.lovell@fiu.edu
Coben’s No Second Chance, with conspiracy theories, mayhem yield best seller

By JULIA MARCHESE
Life! Editor

Suspense, shock and surprise. With these elements combined, author Harlan Coben created the New York Times best seller entitled No Second Chance. Dr. Mark Seidman endures the unfathomable pain of his wife being murdered, his daughter vanishing and nearly being murdered himself by an unseen assailant.

The authorities thought he did, but were unable to fill in the blanks, such as him being shot and nearly meeting his death the day the crime took place. He is given a chance to find his six month old baby girl, Tara, when a ransom note is delivered to his rich father-in-law.

It ordered him not to contact the authorities or they would disappear and he would never know what happened to her. They had an inside source, but little did Mark know it was his best friend and lawyer. They wanted two million dollars. His every move was anticipated and watched.

When the first ransom drop was made, things went wrong. You’d think that was the end to him seeing his daughter again, but that was only the beginning of Dr. Seidman’s hellish reality.

For eighteen months he agonized over the occurrences in his life.

He tossed and turned at night replaying that morning in his head and trying to search for reasons or clues.

As the plot unfolds he begins to realize how wrapped up in his work he had been and failed to address issues in his life, such as his unstable wife’s condition. He was forced to analyze his relationship with his depressed wife, family members and ex-girlfriend, Rachel Mills. But more importantly, he evaluated his own manhood.

As the story line thickens, a second ransom note is delivered to his father-in-law requesting another two million dollars. His father-in-law provides him with the large sum of money in hopes of his granddaughter’s safe return home, but has to warn Dr. Seidman of his depleting liquid funds.

Dr. Seidman decides not to contact the authorities this time. He requested the expertise of former FBI agent and ex-girlfriend from his college days, Rachel Mills.

They embark on a life altering experience together and repeatedly risked their lives for one another as well as Tara. They bonded and realized their was so much more to their relationship than just the past.

It’s not until the last few pages that everything falls together. From the granola bar he was eating when he was shot to his wife crying at night and the mysterious girl from his childhood who appeared standing on his lawn twice during those eighteen months finally made sense.

His life was truly flipped upside and changed for the better. While trying to find his daughter he made companions and confronted his feelings for Rachel Mills.

The irony is that he actually did get a second chance with her. And, he was given a second chance with his daughter when they were reunited her, leaving readers in tears.

The title refers to those who betrayed Dr. Seidman that didn’t get a “second chance.”
Universities watch out for torrent of users

By ERIKA D. SMITH
Knight Ridder Newspapers

Who says students don’t learn anything over the summer? Chances are quite a few of them attended the new school of file sharing. They learned all about BitTorrent, and how it’s easy to download full movies, CDs, video games and software. But the University of Akron and Kent State University are prepared.

“We monitor network usage and bandwidth and we respond to complaints,” said spokesman Paul Herold, summarizing up UA’s strategy. Kent State isn’t much different.

“We know we have a lot of people using it,” said Greg Seibert, Kent State’s director of security and compliance. “We know we have a lot of people out there using it,” said Greg Seibert, Kent State’s director of security and compliance.

The university doesn’t root out and punish students for using BitTorrent or any other file-sharing network. It does, however, limit how much bandwidth a single student can use. That way the university’s high-speed network won’t get bogged down by a few users swapping the new Eminem CD.

The only time that changes is when the Recording Industry Association of America slaps Kent State with a cease-and-desist notice.

Then, the university will block a user’s access to the network until he removes all the offending files from his PC.

Last year, Kent State received 45 of those notices, small potatoes compared to the hundreds and thousands sent to other colleges. No numbers were available Thursday for the University of Akron.

At Kent, more and more of those notices list BitTorrent as the partner in crime, Seibert said.

“They don’t understand how it works,” he said of students. “They just go to a Web site, and they see movies and they see songs, and they’re happy.”

This year, Seibert expects even more students to switch from peer-to-peer (P2P) sharing programs like KaZaA, the most popular file-sharing program for music.

A six-month analysis showed BitTorrent accounts for 53 percent of all file-sharing traffic in Europe.

In June, CacheLogic also reported that about 8 million users were online at any given time sharing a petabyte, or 10 million gigabytes, of data.

“It’s much stealthier,” said Eric Garland, chief executive of the P2P tracking firm BigChampagne LLC.

But buzz aside, BitTorrent is still largely the domain of early adopters in the United States, typically teen-agers and college students. Much of mainstream America is still taking its legal chances with P2P.

“They feel there really is safety in numbers,” he said. “They think, ‘Yeah, I could get hit by a bus, but I’m not going to.’”

Lespi Endependan: Discovering Haitian Sculpture: An opening reception for the groundbreaking exhibition, bringing together a diverse selection of over 50 pieces from Haitian sculptors spanning the past half century to the present. Geoffrey Holder, an actor, designer, choreographer and Tony award recipient, will be speaking on the influence of Haitian culture on his life and work. The lecture begins at 8 p.m. in the Green Library in room 100 and the reception will follow immediately at the Frost Art Museum in PC 110. For more information, contact The Frost Art Museum at 305-348-2890 or visit www.frostartmuseum.org.

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Volleyball Coach Cookie Stevens optimistic on season despite a high number of new players

By NATALIE SABIA
Staff Writer

Q: How have you and the team been preparing for this upcoming season? Have you been practicing at least two times each day for the last two weeks and we have been doing team building exercises, physical conditioning, individual skill work, team concepts and strategies.

Q: What are your expectations for this season?
I am very encouraged that even though this is a new team of players, we have good talent and some players with experience already to help us be competitive from the start. Our goal is to work hard and put the puzzle pieces together each week, that will bring us success.

Q: Are you excited about the new players?
Very excited, these players are hard working, dedicated and passionate about playing and winning.

Q: How do you mold your young players?
Demand from them everyday a level of excellence on and off the court and be consistent and caring. They have to know the coaches care about them as people first.

Q: How do you feel about the schedule?
I think the schedule is very challenging this season?

THE MOTIVATION
Amber’s motivation to stay in shape comes from her team. “Nothing about gymnastics is individual. It’s all about us working together, and each have to do our best.” That bond translates to other aspects of college life.

“As a team, we try to look out for each other and help each other keep a healthy mentality. It’s good to have someone around going through the same things you’re going through because they understand exactly what you’re saying.”

THE ADVICE
“Whatever you’re able to do that’s convenient for your schedule, I’d say go for it, whether it’s working out, sports or joining intramural teams. It all starts with your mentality.

“If you know you want to develop a healthier lifestyle, take baby steps. Start with an organized mindset on how you want to do things. On top of your classes, schedule a workout program for yourself.

“Whatever your thing might be, you need to be happy with what you’re doing for it to work, whether it be school or eating habits.”

Mike Austin, 21, is a Southern Methodist University senior from Seattle who plays intramural sports . Specifically football, basketball and volleyball.

THE WORKOUT
Mike makes time to hit the gym. Monday is chest and triceps day, and Tuesday is back and biceps. Shoulders and abs on Wednesday, legs on Thursday. Friday is free day. A little cardio every day, and intramural games take up an hour, a few times a week.

THE STUDIES
Make a financial planning major who studies after class when he can and at night. Exercising helps him cut the stress.

“It’s hard to balance such a hard curriculum and a strict workout schedule because when you have papers, a test or my friends want to hang out, it can be hard to get to the gym. That’s why I try to stick to a schedule. When I get tired, I take a week or so off, and that’s a good thing to do, too, to let your body rest.”

THE MOTIVATION
When Mike was a freshman, he started intramurals to get involved in something.

“It was also a good way to stay in shape because between working, school work and the college lifestyle, it’s easy to get in bad shape.

“Most frats have teams that play in tournaments, and with all the sports available, there are lots of chances to play just about any sport you can think of.”

THE ADVICE
“Try new on campus and if you’re starting to get healthy, get involved. Get involved in your dorms. Most of them have intramural teams themselves or residents who play on a team.

“Start there, and you’ll find ways to stay active.”

Make a schedule that you can stick to, and try to work out with a friend.

“It could be a roommate or just someone else in the dorm. That extra person can get you motivated to go work out when you don’t feel like it.”

WHAT YOU CAN DO
Intramurals: Intramural sports are usually offered year-around.

Here’s just a sample of the men’s, women’s and co-ed teams you might find: flag football, softball, football, racquetball, table tennis, basketball, indoor and outdoor soccer, volleyball, sand volleyball, golf.

How good do you have to be? As good as you want to be. But some do get competitive.

Sports clubs: Archery, crew, folk dancing, field hockey, cycling, swimming, ice hockey, polo and gymnastics are just a few clubs offered at Texas universities.

Clubs often welcome a range of skill levels, and offer instruction. They often compete against other universities’ clubs and regional teams, and some charge dues.

Check your University’s Web site for more information.

Go solo: Enrolled students who have paid their fees can take advantage of the rec center at most schools. Here’s your chance to experiment:

Try the swimming pool, weight room, track, gym equipment, aerobics classes and yoga.

Or get in shape and get credit for it. You’ve got elective hours, right? Use ‘em. Why exercise through badminton when you could challenge yourself with weight training?

If nothing else: walk, walk, walk. Allow enough time between classes for a stroll. And always take the stairs.
FIU not ready for Division I-A football

Under new coach ‘Tiger’ Clark, defense switches to 4-3 formation

By HENRY GONZALEZ
Contributing Writer

Twenty-eight points per game, a four-and-a-half yard rushing average and a miniscule twenty-one sacks. When you couple those underachiev- ing numbers with the fact that opposing teams averaged more yards rushing (227) than they did passing (172), defensive line changes are a must. Last year’s team opened the season playing a 3-4 alignment. As a result, the defense suffered and was forced to revert to the original 4-3 scheme halfway into the schedule. “We had to change it up,” declared Defensive Line Coach Taubert. “We’re more familiar with the 4-3 because that’s how we first started.”

Last season’s 3-4 style demanded large defensive tackles that can handle at least two offensive linemen. That means putting up with, and pushing off nearly 600 pounds every play while simultaneously trying to make a tackle. While arduous, this defense is not impossible and is successfully executed by many teams. However, the defenses that accomplish this enlist gargan- tuan men on the line who routinely exceed 300 pounds. The Golden Panthers do not have that luxury. The defensive tackle average on the team was 257 pounds. The large discrepancy in weight represents trouble. It means opposing linemen will have more room to maneuver, leading to the necessarily heavier, less mobile defensive end. Opposing teams found big holes to run through and had little trouble releasing the football. Because of this, it should come as no surprise that teams averaged more than ten minutes of possession time against the Golden Panthers.

This year, FIU acquired an extra ten minutes of offense tires the defense and limits the offense. Opposing teams outscored FIU all season and why the Panthers pro- duced a disappointing 2-10 record. This year, FIU acquired a full-time defensive coordi- nator in Bernard Claker. One of the things that makes Bernard a perfect fit for the 4-3 defense is his proactive coaching style. FIU’s already a Sun Belt member in all of their other sports, and they need to use Sun Belt talent to get a 5 A school to play at FIU next year, an NCAA requirement for moving to I-A. If FIU doesn’t go 1-A now, the Sun Belt and FIU is up a certain kind of creek with no paddles.

Florida Atlantic’s move to I-A puts the Golden Panthers in an enviable position. FAU, on the other hand, is better-prepared to make the move than FIU is, and in a market that may be over-saturated with college football teams, FAU or FIU cannot afford to let the other go too far ahead of them, lest the one left behind be deemed irrelevant.

FAU’s move to the Sun Belt also put pressure on FIU, don’t think other conference mem- bers aren’t aware of the scenario on FIU to make the jump when their neighbor to the north and fellow conference rival had already done so.

To protect FIU’s massive investment in the big money-maker of all collegiate sports, Mello was forced to put his John Hancock on this move, even though he, pretty much everyone else in FIU, knows that this program isn’t ready for I-A.

To delay was probably to be left behind Owl poop and Hur- ricane debris for good.

So, here we go with part two of FIU Football. A premature baby is about to be born into an already very unforgiving world. For its sake, I hope this baby’s strong enough to begin walking on its own, quick. History is not on its side.

Sports Writers needed!
Contact Sports Editor
Harry Coleman at
HCole001@fiu.edu for more information

Under new coach ‘Tiger’ Clark, defense switches to 4-3 formation

By MESSO BENDAYAN
Contributing Writer

Well, here we are, folks. Part tros of FIU Football Year uno of I-A. It seems like yesterday when 17, 314 fans packed into FIU Community Stadium to see the Inaugural Game, way back on Aug. 29, 2002. I was a sopho- more, then, and that game was my first taste of being a football play-by-play broadcaster. Now, I’m about to graduate. I get to call five more games before Radio Golden Panther sends me packing. And my school’s about to get its first taste of big-time college football.

Good luck in the future.

Hello, Kansas State, Texas Tech, Alabama and all of the other small-time Division I-AA schools FIU played during these last two years. It’s been a pleasure knowing you. Good luck in the future.

FIU has averaged roughly 7,000 fans a game, which is 8,000 short of what they need if they’re to stay A 1 past 2005, according to the NCAA.

We had to change the defenses that accom- pany those underachev- ing one sacks. When you

The large discrepancy in weight represents trouble. It means opposing linemen will have more room to run through and make plays. The old 3-4 defense was a disaster. Bernard Claker is taking over the squad in hopes of improving a defense that gave up 28.4 points per game.

“I’m bringing a lot of different things with me,” said Clark. For one, he is focusing on the 4-3 defensive scheme and plans to bol- ster it with the addition of a 4-6 defense. The 4-6 simply brings a safety up to act as an extra linebacker. This move will undoub- edly help the run defense by providing one extra tackle near the line of scrimmage. The 3-4 will not be totally abolished, but will only be used sparingly in situational games. 

“I feel the 4-3 is better. It covers all the gaps and produces more pressure on the quarterback,” said Clark.

The players also seem to agree that the new defense will allow them to be more proactive.

“We’ll be able to attack more with the 4-3 because offensive linemen will have more defenses to block,” said linebacker Gerrard Bodie.

With more defensive players on the line of scrim- mage, line backers will have more room to run and make plays. The old 3-4 formation left offensive linemen go out and chase linebackers.

It also lets them domi- nate defensive linemen by double-teaming them. These problems will be minimized by the new set up.

“It’s excited because I wasn’t able to deal with other players, but looking at this season, this year,” said quarterback Lance Preston.

Under new coach ‘Tiger’ Clark, defense switches to 4-3 formation

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Position by Position Analysis:

**FIU strong at QB, Receivers, weak on offensive line**

By ANDRES CORDERO  
Staff Writer

With the 2-10 record neatly tucked in the back of their minds, the Golden Panthers are set to kick-off a new football season. The sports world is cyclical and once the disappointment of a losing season fades, it’s replaced with the hope and prospect of a clean slate.

Regardless of last season’s performance, every team kicks off the Fall with a zero in the loss column. FIU will try to add wins by relying on its strength, a cliché that defense wins games, it’s still true to a certain degree. FIU will try to add wins by relying on its strength, a cliché that defense wins games, it’s still true to a certain degree.

Quarterbacks

The Golden Panthers’ ground attack is games are won and lost along the line of scrimmage. The tight end position is the biggest toss-up on the team.

The unit has given up 76 sacks for 583 yards over the past two seasons. With junior John Shanahan suffering a high-ankle sprain in a recent scrimmage, FIU will start the season with three offensive linemen sidelined. Tackle Tim Dierks (knee) and Guard Jonathan Taylor (shoulder), who combined for 1,579 snaps in 2003, will be alongside Shanahan on the injured list.

Offensive Line

The Golden Panthers’ ground attack is games are won and lost along the line of scrimmage. The tight end position is the biggest toss-up on the team.

The O-line is the backbone of any offense. Unfortunately for the Golden Panthers, this is where the team is in most disarray. FIU has two very capable quarterbacks on its roster and it may need them both if the O-line can’t protect the starter.

Running Backs

The Golden Panthers’ ground attack rushed for 1,417 yards and 16 touchdowns in 2003. When placed side-by-side with last year’s Sun Belt Conference teams, the ground game ranks 6th in touchdowns, rushing yards and yards per game.

The team’s leading rusher in 2003 was full back Adam Gorman (736 yards, 8 TD), who stepped in because of injuries and was named the offensive player of the year. He and Diamos Demerritt became the first FIU tandem to rush for 100 yards each in the same game last year. Demerritt will not be back because of the six felony counts he’s being charged with as a result of his alleged involvement in an on-campus robbery attempt.

The player expected to fill the team’s starting role as halfback is returning senior Rashod Smith, who battled injuries throughout the 2003 season. Smith is the school’s only career 1,000 yard rusher. In his sophomore season, Smith was voted team MVP by his teammates after rushing for 784 yards in just nine games.

The player to keep an eye on is true freshman Julian Reams will look for converted defensive tackle Ronny Silva and freshman Ted McConahie to contribute. McConahie is a 6-foot-3, 310-pound lineman who can play guard, tackle and center. His strength and versatility has earned him praise from the coaching staff and made him a viable option to fill some of the holes left by injury. The bottom line is games are won and lost along the line of scrimmage and the offense will need the O-line to hold up to be effective.

**Tight Ends**

Junior Joe Struyf will be sidelined with a possible season-ending surgery. This means that the door is open for either Samuel Smith or Moses Hinton to step into the starting role. Smith is a sophomore who caught 9 passes for 119 yards in 11 games as a true freshman. Coaches are impressed with his progress and he holds a slight advantage over the freshman Hinton.

Hinton is a big and physical player who at 6-foot-5, 260 pounds can be a force at the line of scrimmage. The tight end position is the biggest toss-up on the team and the former Detray Beach standout has a legitimate shot to start.

**Receivers**

The receiver position is one of the strongest on the FIU offense. With returning starters such as Harold Leath (6-foot-3, 199 lbs.) and Cory McKinney (6-foot-3, 219 lbs.) both healthy, the team’s passing game should be every bit as good as it has been. They are the school’s only career 1,000 yard receivers. Both played in all 12 games last season, and were a huge part of Josh Padrick’s break-out season.

Also in the mix will be senior Chandler Williams and junior Andre Rollins. Williams is an experienced threat that made 29 catches for 460 yards last year as the number three receiver playing the slot.

Rollins has been impressive in the spring after returning from a shoulder injury. At 6-foot-4 and 222 pounds, the big guy out of Carol City High can have a good option at the slot or wide-out position. He looks more comfortable in the offense than in previous years and should see more time in the wide receiver rotation.

**Quarterbacks**

If ever there was a strong position on this team, this is it. The Golden Panthers have a good situation at quarterback with the return of Josh Padrick and a healthy Jamie Burke. Padrick stepped in for the injured Burke in 2003 and quickly became the story of the year en route to a school record 2,493 yards.

The number of sacks decreased with Padrick under center due in part to his superior mobility over Burke. After averaging 226.3 yards per game and completing nearly 50 percent of his passes, the starting job is his to lose.

Burke is returning from his third career ACL surgery and has spent much of the off-season getting stronger. He was impressive in his freshman year and is expected to challenge for the starting spot. David Tabor is an experienced back up who can step in if things go terribly wrong for the number one receiver and two guys.

The addition of Tahures Kendrick is a solid move for the future of this team. Kendrick was the top rated quarterback out of the top-25 Miami-Dade recruits and should be the quarterback of the future for FIU. At 6-foot-3 and 220 pounds, he runs a 4.60 second 40-yard dash. He is praised for his size, speed, and powerful arm.