The Beacon, July 18, 2005

Florida International University

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A LOOK INSIDE: The new recreation center will offer a wider range of free weights and stationary machines. It is scheduled to open in August 2005.  

By DAMIAN GRASS  
Assistant News Editor  

FIU officials involved in the development of the new Recreation Center at the University Park campus are waiting for the final inspection from the state fire marshall before opening its doors.

Since its ground-breaking ceremony in October 2003, the grand opening of the new gym has twice been delayed – it was originally scheduled to open in Fall of 2004 and then in April of this year.

“Despite a few more hurdles, we’re very excited and anticipating for an early open in August,” said Rob Frey, director of recreation services.

The new gym, which is located just west of the Health and Wellness Center, in Parking Lot Eight, and is within walking distance from the Pharmed Arena.

The new 50,000 square-foot gym is designed to be a total fitness facility that will address the needs of the diverse campus population.

Visitors will be greeted by a walk-up information and membership window, a pro-shop that will sell health drinks, snacks and athletic gear, plus a food service area. The vendor is yet to be determined.

The new gym will also have an enclosed “Fitness Outpost” area that wasn’t included in the original plans.

Complete with a variety of treadmills, bikes and upper body ergometers that measure the amount of work done by a muscle or group of muscles, the 2,000 square-foot space was designed for exercisers seeking a more private workout.

Four specialized machines will be moved into the private area to accommodate people with disabilities. Aside from that, there are also areas for cardio, free weights and resistance machines, two 3000 square-foot rooms at 3,000 square-feet for aerobic classes and two full-size men’s and women’s locker rooms with 220 lockers in each.

“I’m happy to announce that we have not exceeded the budget,” said Jim Wasicaar, director of housing. “But we’re not too thrilled that we have not exceeded the budget.” said Jim Wasicaar, director of housing.

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Basketball and volleyball enthusiasts will no longer fall victims to South Florida’s unexpected weather when playing at the facility’s two indoor courts.

Students who frequent the fitness center are looking forward to a new change in their workout routine.

“The current gym is cool, but I heard that the new gym is going to be awesome,” said senior Carlos Benitez.

Leticia Johnson, whose majoring in business and lives in student housing, finds the longer hours a matter of convenience.

“This walk by the new gym every morning on my way to the fitness center and I can see how nice it looks inside,” Johnson said. “I just can’t wait.”

After various delays, fitness center to open in August  

Students who frequent the fitness center are looking forward to a new change in their workout routine.

Art of the Diaspora

By GIOVANI BENITEZ  
In-Depth Editor  

It was two hours past midnight when university police officer Frederick Currie, 35, approached a suspicious vehicle in Tamiami Park on July 8. That’s where it all began.

As he neared the car, Currie may have seen a young couple kissing, university officials said. But it was what he may have done at that point that brought upon a controversial and serious allegation: Sexual assault on the 18-year-old woman inside the car while Currie was on duty, officials said.

That same day, university officials placed Currie, a nine year law enforcement veteran, on administrative leave with pay Miami-Dade police launching an investigation.

Although Currie has not been arrested for this alleged incident, President Modesto A. Maidique contends the seriousness of the allegation and said security at FIU will not be compromised.

“We take this kind of allegation very seriously, even more so when it involves a police officer,” Maidique said through a written statement. “Ours have always been safe campuses and we have every intention of maintaining a high level of safety for our students, faculty and staff.”

While police have not yet released details on this ongoing investigation, The Beacon obtained an official copy of Currie’s personnel file – containing hundreds of pages of both problems and praise.

The records show he was twice fired from FIU and was arrested at least three times while working for the university.

Currie was arrested on charges of domestic battery in December 1996 and September 1998. All charges were dropped in both cases. Then in 2001, Currie was arrested on charges of child abuse. In this case, the jury found him not guilty.

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South Florida resident and FIU alumna, Maria Villar, was selected as one of this year’s 80 Elite Hispanic Women in Business and top 100 Most Influential Latina leaders throughout the country.

Villar, was chosen because of her outstanding drive, high-level achievement and innovation in the field of technology and service to the Hispanic community.

With more than 20 years of experience, Villar became the first Cuban-born Hispanic woman to become promoted to IBM vice president.

Villar is also very involved in IBM’s various diversity programs. She has also been selected by Hispanic Business magazine as one of the top 50 Hispanic Women in Business and top 100 Most Influential Hispanics.

“The fact that FIU rehired him is stupid. This guy is apparently violent and he’s been arrested before. What makes the school think that he’ll be safe with a gun?” said freshman Cristiana Moussawel. 

Officer, from page 1

The fact that FIU rehired him is stupid. This guy is apparently violent and he’s been arrested before. What makes the school think that he’ll be safe with a gun?”

Currie suspected of sex assault

Currie, 23, is suspected of attempting to sexually assault a FIU student, a 19-year-old freshman from South Florida, who was found unconscious in a room on campus.

Currie is a security guard at the university and has a history of violent behavior.

The university has since expelled him and is investigating the incident.

Currie is barred from returning to the campus until the investigation is complete, according to a university statement.

Officials ordered him to surrender his weapon, but he refused. Currie was not available for comment at press time.

### THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

**MONDAY • JULY 18**
 Panther Rage General Meeting, 4 p.m., GC 140

**TUESDAY • JULY 19**
 Student Programming Council “General Meeting” (Free Food and Updates), 3-30 p.m., GC 150

**WEDNESDAY • JULY 20**
 Student Programming Council “Films” meeting, 3 p.m., GC 215

Student Programming Council “Comedy and Concerts” meeting, 3 p.m., GC 215

**THURSDAY • JULY 21**
 Student Programming Council “Special Events” meeting, 2 p.m., GC 215

Student Programming Council “Hispanic Heritage” meeting, 3 p.m., GC 215

**FRIDAY • JULY 22**
 Free Fridays at the Wolf, 6-9 p.m., Wolfson Museum

--- Compiled by Reuben Pereira

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Linton predicts improvements

By Betsy Martínez

BBC Editor

After taking over as the vice president of the Student Government Association at the Biscayne Bay Campus in April, Lemar Linton has expressed his excitement to begin his goals for an improvement at BBC.

His first priorities include filling four out of the six open positions at SGA, improving customer service and stopping tuition increases.

Q: What were your feelings when they announced you had won the SGA election?

On one hand I was very, very happy and proud that the hard work on my campaign had paid off. On the other hand, I felt gratitude toward all those students who voted for me.

Q: What is your major and what has helped you during your campaign?

My majors are accounting and finance. My international business background specifically aided me in my campaign. The course that I have feel have sharpened and fostered my communication and interaction skills.

Q: Which positions are still open here at the SGA BBC?

To date we only have about four positions vacant: Director of Technological Advancement, Arts and Science Representative, Graduate Representative, and Academic Affairs Chairperson.

Q: What do you plan to do to fill up the open positions?

SGA continuously holds orientation sessions, recruiting qualified students to join our association and our intern program.

We place emphasis on the numerous opportunities through SGA serving on the Board of Directors, Board of Trustees and/or (state) Board of Governors, compensation, leadership skills, etc.

Q: How does that compare to the SGA-UP?

SGA-UP does not compare its accomplishments to those of the University Park campus. BBC and UP both strive to accomplish our goals and perform to the best of our abilities. We will say that is a nearly full council is a significant accomplishment for SGA-UP, something that hasn’t occurred in the past few years.

Q: What do you feel needs the most change at BBC?

Students have identified that improvements are needed in the areas of general customer service from some student affairs departments, such as the Cashier’s Office, Enrollment Services, etc. One of the main concerns was increasing more classes and a halt to ever increasing tuition and fees. Students have also identified the need for improved cafeteria services.

Q: What do you predict will happen to Greek Life at BBC?

Being a fraternity gentleman myself in Lambda Chi Alpha, SGA has already begun several collaborations with Greek organizations. The approach here is more personal whereby, instead of several men “hounding” one individual, fraternity men on this campus approach quality gentlemen on a one-to-one basis. Some of the events include joint BBQs, step shows, and concerts.

Q: How do you feel about the Biscayne Land-

construction site and do you think it will affect BBC students?

It is known in the business world that whenever you see major stores “set up shop,” such as Publix, it usually means that the particular area will become a “hot spot” in the real estate market. This presents opportunities for BBC to receive significant funding from private donors. There are current talks of major donations to FIU; yet, no specific information is available to date.

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For an extended version of this article visit www.beaconnewspaper.com.
President cheers on Schiavo, Iraqi war and protests stem cell research

By JAMES VALLE
Staff Writer

If you’re a republican, you had to be in good spirits when the Spring semester ended. With complete control of the presidency and Congress, you had to feel good about your agenda, not to mention your prospects for growing your majority in the 2006 midterm elections. What a difference a few months make. You have to admit that when a country elects a former male college cheerleader with a C average as president, your politics have to have some absurdity.

The latest AP-Ipsos poll found that President Bush’s approval rating is at 43 percent, while Congress checks in at an astonishingly low 31 percent, the lowest marks for either since the poll began in December 2003. Only 35 percent of adults believe the country is heading in the right direction and 41 percent support Bush’s handling of the Iraqi war.

These historically low numbers come only seven months after Bush’s reelection, in which he claimed to have earned “political capital” to advance his conservative agenda. With Congress and the media in his pocket, no one thought to suggest he would have any trouble. Now the question is, what happened?

Bush found himself in a situation that only he could have bungled. First the pushed for the privatization of Social Security, arguing that making the program susceptible to the market, instead of a guaranteed benefit, was to the advantage of America’s youth. That position fell flat on its face with Americans, although Bush seems to think that by repeating the same mantra day in and day out Americans will one day wake up and see it his way.

Dear President Bush, just because you misled us into a war once, does not mean we’ll fall for your shenanigans again. Like you said in Tennessee back a few years ago, “Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me twice… shame on you. You can’t be fooled again.”

-Forward Thinking Americans

DEAD OR ALIVE

The next craze came in the form of Terri Schiavo. Diverting from traditional conservative thought, republicans attempted to interfere in a private matter to keep the brain damaged woman alive, even if her husband and legal guardian insisted she did not want to be kept alive in such a manner. Although over 60 percent of Americans sided with the husband, Michael Schiavo, the radical conservatives (Radcons) backed their narrow interests, the Christian Right, over the sentiment of most Americans. Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., didn’t help matters when he admitted a memo claiming that the Schiavo case would be a “great political issue” originated in his office.

This case is still coming up in the news, and yet I could have sworn that they took Mrs. Schiavo off life support and that Michael Schiavo won the legal battle. What a crazy world we live in.

DON’T TOUCH MY FIBLUSTER, BUSTER!

A recent conservative blunder was the Republicans attack on the federal judiciary. In blatant attempts to load federal benches with conservative “activist” judges, radical Republicans in the Senate tried to revoke the minority’s right to filibuster judicial nominees.

Led by majority leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., these senators wanted to eliminate the minority’s last instrument to have a voice in the U.S. Senate. Without the filibuster, Republicans would have been free to put anyone on federal benches, qualifications be damned.

Fortunately, some sensible moderate Republicans such as Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., came together with seven Democrats to forge a compromise to ensure the filibuster was maintained. They understood its importance and acknowledged that one day Republicans will be the minority again and they themselves will benefit from the filibuster.

MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

Finally, the most consistent topic of bad news is the Iraqi war. Everyday Americans hear about more troops dying in Iraq along with more allegations of prisoner abuse. With the Bush administration’s reasoning for the war proven false, Americans can only ask, “Why?” Hence the low approval numbers for the Bush campaign.

Considering the Bush administration lost, or is losing on all the aforementioned issues, it is safe to say the “political capital” is long gone. Democrats, Republicans and independents are more aware of the Bush administration succumbing to the interests of the Christian Right.

The vast majority of the population is opposed to these developments and is clearly voicing its dissent. It is no wonder Bush is threatening to veto legislation Congress is sure to pass that opens stem cell research to more federal funding.

The Republicans in congress are separating themselves from the White House, knowing midterm elections are around the corner, while Bush continues to oppose the legislation that could help millions with Parkinson’s disease, Alzheimer’s disease and spinal cord injuries because Christian fundamentalists oppose it.

The consequences of these developments remain to be seen. What is clear is that Democrats have a precious opportunity to gain seats in both the House and the Senate in 2006, not to mention a chance to regain the governor’s mansion in Florida.

If history is any indication, we can assume Bush won’t be changing his hardline approach anytime soon. The issue is then, who will Democrats nominate to run in these races? In Florida, the party is off to a good start on that front.

The Beacon – July 18, 2005
Anti-viral drugs bring hope to AIDS forefront

By GERMAN SILVERIO
Staff Writer

It had been a while since I last heard about AIDS, and even though I have not forgotten it, for me it was pretty much old news. It’s not that I wasn’t aware of STDs and the threat they pose to our lives, especially to our age group. Rather, I no longer thought of AIDS so much as a big public issue, but as a private one.

AIDS affects nearly 40 million people around the world and, given our inability to effectively combat it, six million people are expected to die from it within the next two years, according to the International Aids Society.

Two years ago, according to the United States, we have more extensive means to counter AIDS, help is as near and as convenient as going to FiU’s Wellness Center every Monday.

There is free HIV testing available to students and a non-profit organization, Care Resource, comes to provide students with information as to where and how to get help for this disease.

In the case of Radebe, it’s hard to read a story such as hers and not be moved. For me, it really wasn’t about compassion, and much less pity. I was earnestly glad to hear good news from people whose lives, at a point, seemed to have been permanently lost.

The horrible tales we so often hear about AIDS are meant to strike fear in us, while the tale of Radebe does the contrary: It inspires hope.

AIDS is not a lost cause and I am glad that it is not thought of as such by the 300,000 Africans receiving anti-viral drugs.

“We do a lot of AIDS stories in this part of the world but not many like this … with a happy ending,” Phillips said. I would be glad if he just kept them coming.

If you are interested in finding out more about the AIDS epidemic, please visit www.aids.org.

WINNER & LOSER

WINNER

The Hogwarts gang: Congratulations to J.K. Rowling for putting out the anticipated sixth Harry Potter book. Millions of fans of “The Half Blood Prince” have been shipped worldwide. Hedwig the owl surely has some busy nights ahead of him.

Anti-Potterism: Gabriele Kruby and Pope Benedict have a vendetta against the Harry Potter series. Pope Benedict, when Cardinal, contributed a letter to Kruby’s book “Harry Potter – Good or Evil.” According to Benedict, the Potter books seduce young children and distort Christian beliefs. It is under the fiction section, right!

Los Angeles Times: “It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number one!”

Loser

Anti-Potterism: Gabriele Kruby and Pope Benedict have a vendetta against the Harry Potter series. Pope Benedict, when Cardinal, contributed a letter to Kruby’s book “Harry Potter – Good or Evil.” According to Benedict, the Potter books seduce young children and distort Christian beliefs. It is under the fiction section, right!

Los Angeles Times: “It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number one!”

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Why did you decide to attend FIU?

• It was my first choice. Golden Panthers number one! 48%

• It wasn’t my first choice, but FIU is a bargain education. 20%

• It’s close to home … my mommy made me. 10%

• This is only a temporary stop. I plan on transferring somewhere else. 14%

• I got rejected by every other school I applied to … all 37 of them. 3%

Total participants: 80

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
In the hair and make-up department, “I never leave the house without my rock chick hair,” said junior Jennifer Garcia, when asked about her personal clubbing wardrobe do’s and don’ts. “Sexy, low-cut sequin-embellished dresses – indie rock and ‘80s music takes the place of house and drum and bass. These trend in the clubs are also edgy, so a more eclectic and eccentric wardrobe is vital. Ripped jeans, vintage T-shirts and Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers are worn by guys and girls alike. Some women express their femininity like wearing long-length vintage dresses with one-of-a-kind heels and gently jewelry.”

“The guys who aren’t afraid of small sizes go for tight shirts and even tighter pants and pair them with beat up Chuck Taylors (usually in black). Short, messy black hair, with the occasional red or blue streak, is ubiquitous and is the style of choice for both genders.”

“Women need to pull it off. Whether it is long or short and trendy club scene. One might think it is easy to get into these clubs with the mum age of 21, a great face and an even greater looking body – but if one can’t look as if they’ve spent hours getting ready then they are deemed casual wear is a no-no. Shorts, jeans, vintage T-shirts and Converse Chuck Taylor sneakers is worn by guys and girls alike. Some women express their femininity like wearing long-length vintage dresses with one-of-a-kind heels and gently jewelry.”

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I felt most comfortable with them [Sig Ep]. The guys I hung out with in high school were just like the guys I spoke to in the organization.

Most interesting was the experience with the members as well as introduce themselves to the sororities on campus.

As the night progressed, Barbara browsed the different organizations stationed along the plaza until she came upon, and decided to speak to, Sigma Phi Epsilon. Barbara was set on getting to know Sig Ep (as they are known on campus) a little better. Many may ask how an individual figures out which fraternity he is truly interested in joining, and as Barbara experienced, it is all about getting to know the members and deciding whether or not one is comfortable with them.

“I looked around and I felt most comfortable with them [Sig Ep].” The guys I hung out with in high school were just like the guys I spoke to in the organization,” he said.

On July 12, was the beginning of most fraternity’s social gatherings. These are opportunities for each potential member to create a one-on-one relationship with the brothers of the fraternity of his choice. Unfortunately, Barbara could not make it to this event and regretted missing out. He stressed that one should try to attend each event in order to become more familiar with their fraternity members.

On July 13, was two to three days from the day when the fraternities would unveil their choice of potential brothers. Barbara attended Meet the Sig Eps in order to make up for the night before and to continue meeting the members. The fraternity members introduced themselves to the recruits, informing them of the different community service events and additional information about the fraternity.

“At the end, we went to the memorial next to the Graham Center for one of the brothers that passed last year,” Augustin said. “Everyone is close.”

There is also a chapter on crucifixion experiments in which the history of crucifixions and their effect on the human body are researched. The research shows reasons as to how the body dies when it is crucified. Disturbing? Yes, but very interesting and witty. “Stiff” is as unusual as it is wise. It is guaranteed that those who read it will never look at death the same way.

After reading this New York Times best-selling book, the reader might lose their fear of death or will realize that death is a part of the human cycle and miraculous at the same time. The life of cadavers is quite strange, and Roach includes every aspect of their life in this book. From Egyptian embalming to scientific research, all the ingredients for a different kind of reading and for a great post-mortem experience are within the pages of “Stiff.”
Elliott’s recipe misses key ingredients

Missy Elliot

★★

KISS THE COOK: Missy Elliot collaborates with Ciara and Mike Jones, but long-time producer Timbaland’s presence is hardly felt.

Coast Box Photo

By LEONCIO ALVAREZ
Managing Editor

“Missy be the name that you should already know,” Missy screams out in her song “On and On,” but after her latest album attempt, audiences might be urged to forget the name.

For years, hip-hop diva Missy Elliott has gone where no other female rap artist has dared. From singing while wearing a trash bag in “Supa Dupa Fly” to showing off her weight loss in the video for “Work it,” she has done it all. Now, with the release of her sixth album, The Cookbook, Missy has strayed away from the originality she was known for and focused more on what audiences want: To simply dance and have a good time.

The album as a whole is packaged very well. The cover-booklet is carried out in the form of a cookbook and written as a menu, with the songs divided as appetizers, refreshments, main course and dessert.

Most of the songs are intended to make you get up out of your seat and dance, but there is the occasional slow ballad that makes you think, “Wow, Missy isn’t cut out to sing ballads.” Even though most albums have some form of variety, she should stick to what the fans want to hear and to what she seems to do best.

One of the main reasons why the album seems so different, compared to the rest of her work, is that Missy took it upon herself to produce most of the songs. Timbaland, who produced most of the songs in prior albums, only produced two this time around, “Party Time” and “Joy.” Ironically, these two were the better songs. If it were not for the collaboration of artists – including Mike Jones, Slick Rick, Ciara, Fat Man Scoop, Mary J. Blige and American Idol winner Fantasia Barrino – the album would fall short of average status.

On a positive note, Missy preferred to use different musical styles throughout the album, not sticking to her typical hip-hop roots. The album changes from R&B to hip-hop and soul to lavish bohemian sounds from one track to the other. This approach identifies Missy as a versatile artist who can pull off more than one musical genre and appeal to a wider audience.

The song that saves the album single-handedly is “Bad Man,” featuring Vybez Cartel and M.I.A. The song features what sounds like a marching band with a drumline (which seems to be the direction most artists seem to want to take with their songs now-a-days, including Destiny’s Child and Gwen Stefani), and ends the album on a high note. Compared to her better albums, the recipe for Missy’s cookbook is nothing to boast about and, in reality, leaves a bitter taste in the listener’s mouth. Maybe she should depend more on the talents of her past producer and focus more on pleasing the fans that have been there since her status.

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EA Sports NCAA Football 2006 excels

By SERGIO CARMONA
Contributing Writer

Football season doesn’t start until August, but video gamers can get a head start with EA’s “NCAA Football 2006,” available on PlayStation 2 and X-Box. While the game remains a selected college, different features are selected. For FIU football fans, the game also includes the Golden Panther football team.

One of the finest features added to any sports game is the “Race For the Heisman” feature. This unique RPG feel starts off in a high school summer camp, where the player tries to impress colleges. As soon as it’s completed, scholarships are offered. Once the player enrolls in a selected college, different features can be selected. For FIU football fans, the game also includes the Golden Panther football team.

Following that, the chance is offered to develop into a Heisman hero and win the ultimate prize in collegiate athletics. If successful, the player is able to continue his professional career in “Madden 2006.”

Another new feature is the spring drills, which includes the Pass Skeleton, Oklahoma Drill, Option Attack and Rushing Attack mini-games. These modes are a good way to practice, as well as very addictive.

The best of these mini-games is the Pass Skeleton because the player is able to improve his player’s coverage reading skills and his poise in the pocket.

See NCAA, page 10
Imagine being trapped in your residence hall with close to 700 classmates – plus your professors – for 24 hours a day. The building is where all your classes, meals and social activities take place. You can leave only at designated times and when you do no one speaks English.

Tony Fiorini, a Pitt and two-time Semester at Sea alumnus, said he is disappointed that Pitt decided to end its relationship with the Semester at Sea program but he is confident that the program will survive the change.

“It’s happened to Semester at Sea before. It started at Chapman (University in Orange, Calif.), then University of Colorado-Boulder, then Pitt. ... I’m sure they will find another academic sponsor,” he said.

Paul Watson, the director of enrollment management for the nonprofit Institute for Shipboard Education, which runs Semester at Sea, said that despite the upheavals, “I see the program thriving and growing.”

Fiorini, his Semester at Sea experience was life changing. As a student at Pitt in the early ’90s, Fiorini wasn’t sure what he wanted to do after he graduated. For inspiration, he decided to participate in Semester at Sea during his sophomore year.

The program’s 100-day voyage is divided into 45 days in port, with each port visit lasting four to five days, and 55 days at sea.

Fiorini started his trip in 1994 in Vancouver on the SS Universe, then visit a Buddhist temple the next day. “It brings everything you are learning to a whole new level,” he said.

“You come home and your friends are trying to figure out when the next kegger is, and you realize it doesn’t matter. You see how other people live. There is a whole lot else out there.”

New features elevate 2006 version as franchise’s greatest

From NCAA, page 9

The most difficult is the Option Attack because of the stingy defense the computer throws out. It is best to start on the easiest mode, then move on to the harder modes, making it easier to improve.

Other features worth mentioning are in-season recruiting, where you can assign a percentage of your recruiting power to pursuing top high school players each week and the addition of an all new in-studio commentary on different team’s players prior to kickoff by Lee Corso, Kirk Herbstreit and Brad Nessler.

As far as game play is concerned, a few tweaks have been made to the remote control, where the player will have to tap the right analog stick to make most of the explosive moves.

However, it isn’t difficult once you get used to it, and the passing is much easier than in previous installments as defensive backs don’t react too quickly to balls in the air as they once did. Plus, the Pass Skeleton Drill improves your skill.

The addition of impact players is another notable addition. Here, the two best players, know as impact players, on offense or defense, will be labeled by a white dot. Once the white dot blinks, the player is in the zone, propelling the player to unleash jaw-jarring hits or ankle-snapping kicks. The camera will zoom into the player, propelling you to stare in amazement.

Despite these new additions, this game still remains faithful to the franchise. The same modes, such as the online play, Dynasty and Rival Game, remain and the abilities to create a player or school remain as well.

Unfortunately, the traditional mix of rap and rock that’s heard doesn’t fit well and is the game’s biggest weakness.

However, the sound is still excellent and the dazzling graphics have never been better. This great installment of the franchise is a must have for anyone who enjoys sports games.
Heat have right pieces to win, need minor adjustments

By ALDEN GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

Much can happen in one year. During the 2002-2003 season, the Miami Heat had one of the worst records in the Eastern Conference and seemed to be headed in the wrong direction.

Just one year later, the up and coming play of athletes spectacular Dwayne Wade and Lamar Odom pushed the team through the first round of the playoffs before getting beat by one of the best teams in the league – the Indiana Pacers.

Just one year after that, Miami was one broken rib and a bruised thigh away from winning it all.

This off-season, the Heat have a task they have never had in their franchise history – strictly maintaining the same pieces that got us all the success from last season and plug in a few entities that can get us over the hump.

This year was one of the few years the draft didn't mean as much to the Heat. They wanted to get an experienced player that has the tools to be consistent and contribute right away.

They couldn't have done a better job than getting Wayne Simien. The four-year player out of Kansas averaged 15 points, 8 rebounds and shot .56 percent from the field throughout his collegiate tenure.

During his senior year, he lead the Big 12 in scoring and rebounding and was the only player to average a double-double. You can lock up the team’s other power forward as well because Miami native Udonis Haslem – despite being aggressively pursued by the Cleveland Cavaliers – wanted to be a part of the Miami Heat so badly that he agreed to the maximum contract the Heat can give him, $24 million over five years. He took $10 million less than what Cleveland had offered.

During this past season, there was also a lot of talk about the Heat involving Eddie Jones in a trade, but after his magnificent play in the playoffs, Heat President Pat Riley has silenced all those remarks by saying, “there is no way we would move [Eddie], he is a valuable part of this franchise and a big reason for our success so far.”

A few of our key reserves are also guaranteed for the 2005-2006 season. Those include talented small forward Rashual Butler and key backup center Michael Doleac.

But two reserves the Heat are really excited about are two that weren’t even active throughout most of the season. Youngsters Qyntel Woods and Dorrell Wright are currently playing in the Heat’s summer league and are sure to add a lot of energy and talent to the bench.

No player can sign a contract until July 22. All they can do is agree in principle.

That’s basically what star center Shaquille O’Neal has done, with the Heat likely offering him a five-year contract that will keep him as the highest paid player in the league.

However, there are two key questions marking this offseason: Whether Damon Jones and Keyon Dooling will come back. Recently, they opted out of their contracts and chose to be free agents, but the Heat’s front office is pretty positive they can get them both back at least one.

In addition, the Heat have picked up the option on Miami favoriter Alonzo Mourning. Now all it comes down to is whether or not Z is ready to be healthy enough to play.

In an interview on “The Paul and Young Ron Show,” Zo stated that his doctors have cleared him to play and said, “There’s a 75 percent chance I will come back and play basketball.”

So far, there seems to be a pretty good chance that last years Heat team will look a lot like this year’s. But a few players will be different and there could be some good players out there that can improve the team.

The Heat recently signed former University of Florida player Matt Walsh to play point guard. The six foot six inch junior finished off averaging 15 points, 4 rebounds and shot 45 percent from the field.

He may be one in a long list of point guards the Heat sign if by chance they don’t get Jones or Dooling back.

If they can’t get those two back, they may want to look to an experienced guard that can run the offense well and does not need the ball in his hands to be effective.

Boston Celtics free agent Gary Payton seems to be an enticing offer. After struggling in Phil Jackson’s triangle offense, the glove was shipped to Boston where he had a very successful year.

I believe he can be a catalyst on this Heat lineup that already has the firepower of Shaq and Wade.

We wouldn’t need him to score a lot or put up big numbers, but his experience will surely not have him score two points and turn the ball over countless amounts of times in a Game 7. (I don’t want to mention any names, Damon, but you should be lucky the Heat are still pursuing you after that).

One type of player that the two teams in the NBA Finals bad was a power forward that can stretch the defense with their long range shooting.

The Pistons had Rasheed Wallace and the Spurs had Robert Horry. The Heat hope they can get that with Clifford Robinson.

Coming out of the Golden State Warriors, where he averaged eight points and three rebounds, Robinson would bring a lot of experience and success from beyond the arc that could be vital deep into the playoffs.

The Miami Heat and its fans have a lot to look forward to this season. Wade just keeps getting better and now the Heat have that notch of playoff experience under their belt to carry them selves to the next level.

If everything falls into place, this will be another great season of basketball under that South Florida sun. Hopefully, it won’t consist of a bruised thigh or a sore rib.

THE BEACON WOULD LIKE TO WELCOME ALL INCOMING FRESHMAN AND TRANSFER STUDENTS TO FIU!

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Former soccer captain discusses life in MLS

By C. JOEL MARINO
Senior Staff Writer

Bobby Boswell, a former defender and co-captain of the FIU men’s soccer team, says he has been fascinated by soccer since the age of five and that it’s a passion he’s been following all his life.

That commitment to the sport recently paid off for the university graduate when he joined Major League Soccer with Cup champion D.C. United in March. Since then, Boswell has been playing central defender, starting 13 games this season and playing more minutes than anyone else on the team.

The 2004 NSCAA/Adidas All-South First Team pick recently took time from his traveling to talk with The Beacon about his FIU memories, time on the road and soccer in general.

Q: How did you start playing for D.C. United?
They invited me into a camp they were having here in Florida and, after I was with them, they asked me to play for them a little more. Eventually, they offered me a contract.

Q: What do you remember the most about playing at FIU?
I remember the weather was nice, both the practice and my teammates were a lot of fun and how we joked around with the coach all the time. The games were the best, especially when we won the big tournaments.

We were in Honolulu for eight days once and that was a lot of fun. We got to hang out on the beach. The weather was perfect and we won the game against Los Angeles, so it was all great. I’d never been to Hawaii, so it was a great experience.

Q: Do people you don’t know recognize you on the street, and if so, how do you deal with fans?
Occasionally, you get a fan or two who knows who you are, who comes and asks ‘Don’t you play for D.C. United?’ But it’s nothing out of the ordinary, since it happens less than more. I mean, I get a few people who tell me they know what I do, but mostly, no, nothing much.

Q: If you could play for any team beside D.C. United, what team would it be and why?
I would probably play for Ajax in Holland, because that’s the team I supported growing up.

Q: Who do you think was or is the greatest soccer player of all time?
That’s hard to say because there are a lot of players on the field with different roles. [Argentine soccer player Diego] Maradona would probably be on the top of my list because he played as a midfielder and he was the whole package.

Q: Who do you think is going to win the next World Cup?
Right now, I’m going to go with Brazil. They’re playing really well. They have so much talent [that] I don’t think they can be beat.

They also wouldn’t know about his record six — soon to be seven — consecutive Tour de France wins. Something nobody thought was possible, much less by an American.

What is truly terrible is that some of these people don’t know the true story of Lance Armstrong: Being told he had testicular cancer that spread to his brain and lungs, while he was seemingly at the top of his game.

Armstrong’s own web site says that if his story were “scripted by Hollywood, the story would be dismissed as a trite melodrama.”

He had less than a 50/50 chance for survival and, not only did he overcome it, he returned to cycling and won the biggest race of his profession six consecutive times.

That movie wouldn’t even be considered a melodrama, it would be science fiction.

Yet, there are some people who aren’t aware of this.

I saw a girl in class wearing the little yellow bracelet and I asked her if she knew who Lance Armstrong was.

Her reply: “Oh, you mean that saxophone player?”

Then you wonder why I’m so cynical when it comes to these bracelets.

Despite people’s ignorance, those bracelets have raised millions of dollars for cancer research. With their unexpected popularity, the Lance Armstrong Foundation greatly surpassed their fund-raising goal.

So maybe those bracelets aren’t that bad because, for once, people’s ignorance is helping others rather than keeping them down.

All I want is a bit more respect for this man. You may think he gets enough respect, but he still deserves more. He battled cancer and has won races that mainly consist of cycling up the steep French Alps. Most of us can’t cycle up a slight incline without rolling backwards.

Lance Armstrong is an amazing athlete, more importantly an amazing person.

He is the one that should be recognized for that and not some yellow wristband.

So the next time I see a random person with that bracelet on, I’ll ask her if she knows who Lance Armstrong is. Hopefully she won’t say, “He’s the guy who made this bracelet.”