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The Beacon, November 20, 2006

Florida International University

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FOOTBALL COACH STROCK RESIGNS

Team members surprised, saddened by coach's departure

XAVIER VILLARMARZO
Sports Editor

Defensive end Justin West, a freshman, had no idea he'd be playing under two different football coaches when he began FIU this year. After current head coach Don Stock resigned Nov. 15, this realization came as a shock to West.

“It took all of us by surprise,” West said. “This is the same guy who gave me a scholarship.”

With less than a year in the football program, West had little time to fully know what his soon-to-be former head coach was like.

“He kept to himself, but he was cool to talk to,” West said.

Stock said he will finish out the season, which has been marred by a wireless record and the infamous brawl with the University of Miami.

Strock addressed the media at practice Nov. 16 on an overcast day and talked about his reasoning behind the decision.

“I put a lot of hard work into this team, but there’s a lot of things going on in the University right now and I felt it was the right thing to do,” Stock said.

Senior quarterback Josh Padrick, who arrived on the team prior to the inaugural 2002 season, shared the same sentiment as most of his teammates.

“My first thought was sadness,” Padrick said. “He brought me here and gave me a scholarship and I’m sad to see him go.”

Stock was named director of football operations in 1999 and was responsible for obtaining approval for a football program from the Florida Board of Regents. He saw his wish fulfilled May of 2000.

On Sept. 13, 2000, Stock was named head football coach by former athletic director Rick Mello.

“Building a football program from the ground is a difficult and daunting task and Don put every-thing he had into it,” Mello said. Stock, 55, was a popular figure in South Florida before coming to the University, serving as a backup quarterback to the Miami Dolphins from 1974-1987.

Stock’s term was drafted by the Dolphins in the fifth round of the 1973 NFL Draft, is best known for his role in a Dolphins playoff game against the San Diego Chargers in 1982.

With the Dolphins trailing 24-0...
CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated Nov. 16, 2006, the photo for the “History, solace found in local monastery” story in At the Bay was taken by Yali Panell, not Chris Cutro.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our UP office at 305-348-2709 or BBC at 305-919-4722.

HONORS COLLEGE STUDENTS HELP RAISE FUNDS

Honors College students are here on a scholarship,” Chapman said. “At first we only talked to Honors College students to collect money, but now we are accepting donations from anyone.”

The students hope to have as much money raised as possible by Nov. 27. “I don’t have any exact counts yet, but I have been getting good feedback,” Chapman said. Although it is not certain if FIU will reach the $800,000 fundraising goal, current first generation freshmen are excited about the new scholarship. “It would be a great help,” said freshman Francesca Corea. “There was a screw up in high school, so I’m not receiving any scholarships.”

Other hopeful freshmen feel that a new scholarship would help alleviate the pressure they receive from their parents to succeed at FIU. “My parents don’t have a lot of money to spare,” said freshman Salvatore Valenziano. “They are so proud of me and that puts a lot of indirect pressure on me.”

Strock was a collegiate quarterback at Virginia Tech, where he holds the school record for career passing yards, as well as the record for passing yards single season and in a single game. He was elected into his alma mater’s Hall of Fame in 1985.

Strock began his coaching career in 1993 with the Miami Hooters of the Arena Football League. He then moved across the league to head the Massachusetts Marauders. In 1995, Strock was offensive coordinator and quarterback coach of the Rhein Fire of the World League.

At FIU, Strock has compiled a 15-39 record in five seasons. Under him, the football program made the fastest transition from Division I-AA to Division I-A in NCAA history and joined the Sun Belt Conference.

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He was named Sun Belt Conference Coach of the Year in 2005 after his team finished the season with three consecutive victories. “We’ve done a good job in getting this team to the right direction,” Strock said. “It’s been one of the biggest challenges I’ve ever had.”

Strock plans to spend more time with his wife, who had been taking care of her ailing mother before she passed away three months ago. He announced that he will resign as head coach at the end of the season.

Athletic Director Pete Garcia would not comment on Strock’s resignation or the future of the program, but said he might make an announcement in a couple of weeks. At press time, the University has no candidates for the next head coach.

-Additional reporting by C. Joel Marino, editor in chief

ATTENTION STUDENTS!

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No experience needed. Earn $9.77 per hour while you train... $14.27 per hour after training.

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For applications and job description go to broward.org/careers and click on HOT JOBS to submit an online application. Or, call 954-357-8314, TTY 954-357-8302, for more information.

Applications may be submitted in person at: Broward County Human Resources Office, 115 S. Andrews Avenue, Annex B, downtown Fort Lauderdale.

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Senators find flaws in Maidique’s explanations

Modesto A. Maidique, University President

I consulted with the other members of the board and no one wanted [Wertheim to disburse his donation over time]. There was a contract, and it wasn’t adhered to.

“Even if we get the money all at once, it might cost us more in donations from bad publicity. What kind of impression is the school giving with this shabby treatment of donors? If this is how we treat our benefactors, who wants to be associated with a place like this,” Peterson asked.

Maidique claimed that, while no one has contacted the University with criticism about the dispute, donors have called him supporting his decision.

Maidique also talked about finding another donor to replace Wertheim. He said John Rock, who will be the College of Medicine’s founding dean, wants to appoint five “superstar chairs” and that in order to do that, FIU needs more than Wertheim’s $20 million.

According to Maidique, the naming rights for a medical school usually range from $30 million to $50 million.

“We’ll wait until we get a huge donor, and I’m confident that we’ll get several. I feel comfortable saying that getting the naming rights for our medical school is the biggest honor in the city of Miami,” Maidique said.

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SGA Notes

Nov. 15 Call to order: 4:19 p.m. Adjournment: 5:25 p.m.

President’s Report (Alfonso “Allie” Leon):
- Replacement donors for the College of Medicine are in the works - $100 million after matching funds; asking not to be named at the moment
- New medical school dean announced: Dr. John Rock; he did not think the revoked gift was a problem; will be starting the first week of January
- No meeting Nov. 22. UWC meeting Nov. 22 to discuss Spring elections

Student Union (Michael Jado):
- It will cost $1,000 to fix water fountains next to GC information desk
- Meeting with the game shows. Online games should be working on Monday
- GC forum was a success. Issues addressed: Security cameras in bookstore, Burger King hours too short

Student Health Advisory (Rebecca Louiss):
- The Health Center will extend Tuesday hours in Spring (9 a.m. to 7 p.m.)

Elections Board (Judith Tulloch):
- We are starting to plan Spring elections. The focus is to get out of GC. If you have any ideas, please email me. My next committee meeting is Nov. 27.
- I spoke to Charlie regarding online voting. We are going to try as hard as possible to make it happen this year.
- We have two representatives to define their positions:
  o Ralph Delgado, Education; Joe Torres, CHUA

Homecoming (Alex Ravel):
- “Something is going on with Athletics, they are being nice to us. They actually want a few million dollars from SGA for a practice complex.”

New Business (aye-nay-abstain):
- Appropriation 06-30 for $1500: In support of the Honors College Mentoring University Students for Excellence (MUSE) Program (10-6-0).

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FACULTY SENATE, page 1

College of Medicine.

When Maidique responded that it would be unethical for a trustee and donor to chair such a committee, Wertheim went to the board’s chair, David Parker, to intercede.

Wertheim eventually became the committee’s vice chairman.

Moreover, said Hauptli, Wertheim should have consulted with his lawyers and accountants before, not after, signing the $20 million contract.

Ultimately, the senate voted in favor of sending Wertheim a letter thanking him for his service to the University.

“I don’t want to make him a hero, but I do want to give him his due, because he did not do this on the cheap” as Maidique accused him of doing,” said Joan Baker of the English department.

However, once Maidique arrived and invited the senate to ask him questions faculty members were more reticent with their opinions.

Secretary Howard Rock broke the silence, asking Maidique to explain his handling of the dispute.

“I consulted with the other members of the board and no one wanted [Wertheim to disburse his donation over time]. There was a contract, and it wasn’t adhered to,” said Maidique.

According to Maidique, Wertheim’s financial commitment was the result of three hours of negotiation, after which the BOT determined that Wertheim could secure the naming rights for the new college only if he made the donation “immediately, in cold, hard cash.”

Receiving the money over time would have presented a monetary loss to the University, Maidique argued, because if it received the entire donation at once, the University could begin making interest on it.

Stoddard rejected Maidique’s explanation, saying that he attended the BOT’s meeting in which the donation was negotiated. Contrary to Maidique’s account, the stipulation that the donation must be given immediately never came up.

Stoddard also questioned whether Maidique’s actions were based on a general consensus among board members.

“If everyone on the board feels this way, why has the Board of Trustees stayed silent?” Stoddard asked.

Maidique responded that the BOT chair gave a statement, which represented the entire board.

Stoddard also asked whether Maidique felt that he had treated Wertheim appropriately on “a personal level.”

“For me, it was strictly business. We have a contract and this is what the contract says,” Maidique said.

He also denied that FIU General Counsel Christina Mendoza sent Wertheim a letter saying that if he made his donation over time, he needed to give $5 million over 8 years for a total of $40 million.

Brian Peterson of the history department said that, even as a business decision, Maidique’s actions were wrong.

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The Beacon is published on Mondays and Thursdays during the Fall and Spring semesters and only one week during Summer B. One copy per person. Additional copies are 25 cents. The Beacon is not responsible for the content of ads. Ad content is the sole responsibility of the company or vendor. The Beacon is an editorially independent newspaper partially funded by Student and Services fees that are appropriated by Student Government.
Homecoming inspires nostalgia

High School was the last time I ever went to a homecoming dance. This was my junior year and my first time ever attending a major university event. To be honest, I’ve never been the school spirit type. Like a number of my fellow students, I never cared for extracurricular activities. I also never expected to ever go to another homecoming.

My journey into the world of school spirit began Nov. 15, when I attended my first ever University pep rally. The pep rally was for the FIU vs. Lafayette football game. The Hospitality Management Patio overlooked the bay and the night was cool and breezy, not humid at all. The smell of free hamburgers, cheeseburgers and hot dogs floated in the air. The snow cones looked like watered down fruit juice.

Around 10:30 p.m. the pep rally/block party switched gears. Hip-hop music blasted loudly through the deejay’s sound system and students kept on coming. I was a little uncomfortable until I saw some people I recognized. I was reminded of high school days when I would hang out with a few minor obstacles. Namely, I wasn’t sure what to wear and my date also stood me up because apparently she was “feeling very sick,” another reminder of my distant high school years. I did come in contact with a few minor obstacles.

The college atmosphere is more relaxed than the uncertainty and peer pressure of my high school years. I felt as nervous as I did in high school. The only things that differed was the amount of pressure.

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I arrived around 9:45 p.m. The ballroom was dimly lit. Tables were decorated with yellow table cloths and flowers. On top of every table was a frozen, oval-shaped bouquet of white roses. Red, blue, and green lights circled around, lighting the dance floor. Instead of dinner I helped myself to the sugar coated ladyfingers, Graham crackers, the delicious vanilla wafers and the chocolate banana cream with the vanilla outside Oreos that lined the dessert tray. It was interesting to see the University through a different angle. I saw it through the eyes of the Student Programming Council, the Student Government Association and all the school spirited students.

I saw my fellow classmates enjoying themselves and they all looked very satisfied and proud to partake in these events. Students really dressed to impress. Ladies were dressed elegantly with long gowns running the gamut of shades: red, black and white. Black suits, cream colored suits and all white suits. Each tried to complement their dates’ dresses.

One student donned a “pimp suit” and matching hat. I also noticed the large amount of dateless guys like me. Women dancing by themselves never seems odd. What does a group of guys dancing by themselves.

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Missing votes expose flaw in voter system

JOSE PAGUIERO
Contributing Writer

With 18,382 votes missing in Sarasota County’s District 13, the Florida Legislature has found itself out of excuses for rejecting a system of paper trails for electronic voting machines, which is both required and more accurate. Although Florida Secretary of State Sue M. Cobb will be sending a team of investigators to supervise the recount and audit the systems, this move will serve little more than to quell the questioning and provide for political photo opportunities.

While Direct Recording Electronic systems are required by law to provide auditors with a paper trail, they do not provide a receipt for every voter. This creates a problem for auditors, who can only count the final total of all the votes instead of “recounting” each individual one. Why send a team to recount a tally that can’t be double-checked and audit a procedure that can’t be examined?

By sending in a useless team of auditors and drawing attention to Sarasota’s voting discrepancy, Florida Legislature may soon reveal one of their biggest mistakes.

The Florida Legislature has argued that using only DRE systems protects a voter’s identity, but how can a nameless receipt be identified? If voters drop their paper vote into a closed ballot box, they may obtain the right to privacy and the guarantee that a recount will serve as more than simply a reprint of systematic flaws. Without proof of accurate voting procedures, the democratic process is being played at.

The Florida Legislature argues that relying on DRE systems speeds up the process. But as of November 2006, functional DRE systems have slowed down every election in which they have been used. If each machine provided a voter with a receipt, dealing with a malfunctioning machine would only entail checking the precinct’s paper votes. In all cases, accuracy takes precedence over speed. Since speed is not an issue when it comes to accuracy, for DRE systems, it’s also a lame defense.

Florida’s electronic voting machines are provided by the Diebold corporation and cannot be hacked into by outsiders, but a recent study conducted by Princeton’s Center for Informational Technology Policy has shown that “an attacker who gets physical access to a machine [could create a malicious code…that could steal votes undetectably].” Having a paper trail would uncover any major inconsistencies between a machine’s count and a hand count. Having double the proof could not be wrong unless there is something to hide.

CorpWatch, the independent investigative organization behind the initial investigations of the Enron Corporation and Halliburton Energy Services, reported that “Diebold and its executives have contributed some $409,170 to Republican candidates and the Republican National Committee since 2001, while contributing only $2,500 to Democrats in the same time frame.”

While a DRE system already costs the state an average of about $3,000 per machine, a printout service would cost the state little more. Diebold DRE systems with individual printers cost San Diego County $3,040 each – only $40 more than what Florida has paid for each machine.

If our state refuses to pay for the minute difference in price, it will continue to find itself plagued by Sarasota-type debacles that cost something much more valuable: the trust of the voters whom our democracy rests on.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Some inconsistencies found in Luna Cafe story

I really want to thank you for covering the Luna Star Cafe in your article “Cafe offers relaxed ambiance, artistic expression” and also for the mention of my reading series, Cast your vote at Joe Mailin, a creative writing graduate student, read short excerpts of prose from FIU’s literary magazine, Gulf Stream, Nov. 9.” I have not met a Mr. Mailin in the writing program, and none of the readers who presented are current MFA students. It is a policy of Gulf Stream to not publish students within the MFA program. The male readers for the evening were Denina, Leonard Nash, and the female readers were Haya Pomrenze and C.M. Clark. Our fiction editor is named Joe, but he neither reads nor has the surname of Mailin.

Again, your covering the Luna Star Cafe is great! People really need to know of the great treasure that lies on NE 125 St.

Laura McDermott Event Coordinator

Football program in need of new blood

We all saw it coming. FIU head football coach Don Strock announced his resignation Nov. 15 and fans and alumni are breathing a little easier. Many are now looking forward to the change in direction a new coach will bring to the program, especially on the offensive side.

Granted, Strock built the program from the ground up, but he isn’t the man to take the Golden Panthers to the next level. It’s time for some fresh blood. His offense and his recruiting strategies may have worked at the Division I-A level, but this season’s winless record shows it may not work in Division I-A. Strock was building a losing culture in which fans didn’t expect much from the team.

Even though he made NCAA history after FIU’s quick jump to Division I-A in 2005, it just wasn’t enough to save his job. We live in a society where people hold a “What have you done for me lately?” attitude.

What the team has done lately is go-0-10 this season; brawl with the University of Miami; get 16 players suspended indefinitely; rank the nation’s lowest in almost every offensive category; and given games away they should have won.

As soon as Athletic Director Pete Garcia arrived on the scene, it was apparent that Strock wasn’t going to be in his plans of reconstructing FIU athletics.

The question becomes who is going to be the next football coach. Names are being thrown around message boards as if it were a cafeteria food tip. UM defensive coordinator Randy Shannon (father of sophomore center Xavier); FIU defensive coordinator Kevin Foorquier; San Diego Chargers tight end coach Rob Chudzinski; and University of Georgia defensive coordinator Willie Martinez. All these candidates, except for Foorquier, have ties to South Florida and have either played or coached at UM, Garcia’s previous employer.

Regardless of who becomes the next FIU coach, a new football philosophy cannot make the program any worse than it is now.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you eat at on-campus food venues?

• Yes – As a housing student, do I have a choice? 7% 
• Yes – It’s the only option and I have to eat somewhere. 13% 
• No – At these prices, stadium hot dogs are a better deal. 60% 

Total participants: 235 Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Letters to the Editor must be dropped off at GC 210 at University Park, WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus or sent to beaconopinion@yahoo.com. Letters must adhere to a maximum of 300 words. Letters must include the writer’s full name, year in school, major/department and a valid phone number for verification purposes. The Beacon reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and/or spacing constraints.

C. Joel Marino Editor in Chief • Christopher Necuze Production Manager • Jose de Wil Opinion Editor
Students dance the night away during the annual Homecoming Dance at the Biscayne Bay Campus Nov. 16 (top); a menacing Roary Rage balloon winds through University Park (left), part of the Homecoming parade that began at the Engineering Center Nov. 18 (bottom left); students hope to win a faculty parking spot during a raffle held at the Block Party Nov. 17 (bottom right); a Golden Knights performer parachutes unto the FIU Football Stadium field right before the start of the game (right).
After helping hundreds of customers purchase their new Sony PlayStation 3 videogame systems on Nov. 17, sophomore Georgina Reyes, a Best Buy sales associate, is tired from spending hours dealing with long lines. Nevertheless, she will have to deal with much worse on the day after Thanksgiving, also known as “Black Friday,” one of the busiest shopping days of the year.

For Reyes, this Black Friday will be her first as a sales associate.

“I’ve done Black Friday before, but only as a shopper,” she said. “This is going to be a new experience for me because I’m on the other side of the cash register this time.”

According to About.com, the term “Black Friday” originated from the shift in profitability that retailers experience once holiday shopping begins; retailers go from being “in the red,” indicating loss, to “in the black,” which signifies profit.

However, some students such as junior Mohammed Oosman have their own theories about the unofficial “holiday.”

“The day is called Black Friday because of the chaos that ensues from long lines and short tempers,” he said. “Also, I think days in history that have had huge financial impact are called ‘black,’ such as the Wall Street crash that happened in the 1920s.”

In 2005, shoppers spent $27.8 billion on Black Friday weekend, when more than 145 million shoppers purchased merchandise from both brick-and-mortar stores as well as internet retailers. These statistics from the National Retail Federation’s website www.nrf.com show an increase in profits from the 2004 Black Friday weekend, when shoppers spent $22.8 billion.

Black Friday can either make or break a company’s fiscal quarter, according to Reyes.

“This one day is when we make tons of profit,” she said. “If things go well, we’ll meet our projections for this quarter. If things don’t go well, we probably won’t.”

Because stores traditionally open earlier than usual on Black Friday, eager consumers such as Oosman have already made preparations for the Nov. 24 shopping day—he doesn’t plan on getting a good night’s sleep on Thanksgiving.

“My family and I already have things planned out for Friday,” Oosman said. “I probably won’t get any sleep and I’ll be at Best Buy really early because the store opens around five or six in the morning. We’ll most likely camp out in front of the store with everyone else.”

Consumers are also preparing by viewing Black Friday advertisements online. Traditionally, ads for Black Friday aren’t released until Thanksgiving, when they are circulated in newspapers and posted on the stores’ websites. However, crafty insiders have already uploaded scans of these ads.

SO YOU KNOW

BLACK FRIDAY SURVIVAL GUIDE

- Pack ready-to-eat lunch items that can be used as projectiles
- Stay hydrated to avoid passing out and being trampled on
- Bring lawn chair to use as a seat and/or shield
- Use smoke bombs to distract opposing shoppers

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Grace Chu-Ming Wong Fiscal Director — University of Miami Graduate Business Office

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Thanksgiving sales. According to premature availability of their post-recently taken steps toward limiting BLACK FRIDAY, page 7
onto websites such as bfads.net and fatwallet.com. Retailers such as Wal-Mart have
taken steps toward limiting their scheduled date. Other retailers such as Linens ‘n Things<br>understand why stores are so aggressive about preventing their ads from being released before their scheduled date. "I usually check out those websites before Black Friday, and they help me plan accordingly," he said. "It's confusing to me why stores would try to stop this kind of thing if it helps the consumers figure out what they want before-hand so they go withdraw money from their bank accounts sooner than later." Despite the various sales available solely on Nov. 24, freshman Marea Perea will be staying home. "I don't plan on going out on a day because the lines will be way too long, and people are going to be overly aggressive," Perea said. "I've done it before, and once is enough.

To give thanks is not easy. It requires being satisfied with what you’re given. The mental and emotional uncertainty of your late teens and early 20s barely allows room for that. You grow up to want salary vs. hourly, video vs. camera phone, and know eventually your lease with this boyfriend will expire. To upgrade is life. At one point, and usually around this time of year, you need to repent. It’s ironic that a desire to be non-materialistic comes during the busiest shopping quarter of the year. However, we’ve got to try. Those constantly happy monks with three blades of grass to their names must be doing something right, right? Here’s a guide to getting through your holiday season as close to the season’s intent as possible:

THE WIND-UP
The holiday season officially kicks off with Thanksgiving. This is a great opportunity to practice hanging out with family members before the drunken atrocity that is Noche Buena. It’s more than likely you’ll be getting the same “catching up” questions both times, as the relatives will be too drunk to remember they asked the first time. A good way to prepare yourself is to hang out with your sick cat – whiny meows and sporadic vomit are things Whiskers and Tiu Lourdes have in common.

THE PITCH
Now that you’ve practiced responses to “Ah, still no boyfriend?” and “I thought FIU was a four-year school,” you can focus on setting an example for the inevitable gift exchange. Instead of gift baskets from Hickory Farms or gift certificates to Best Buy, you may want to try giving to a charitable organization. PETA and St. Jude’s Foundation are a good way to go. Just be prepared to answer to your abuelita when she asks, “Y que es el N-doble-A-C-P?”

HOME RUN (OR HOME FREE)
Once the gifts have been distributed and the looks of delight and/or horror have subsided, you can explain your actions. Stand on your soapbox proudly and declare how the season is about giving. Drop the word “Jesus” in there for Holiday street cred.

Just know that it is more likely for Jesus to come down and give you a high-five than to have someone listen to you. Plus, kiss any future expensive gifts goodbye. Then, again, who cares? You still did the right thing, and being morally superior to your family is what the holidays are all about.

In college, we are taught to be “critical thinkers” – questioning what has been accepted as unexamined truth during our entire young lives. Mundane routines and everyday hassles turn critical thinking into criticism, which yields to cynicism. Too much of that and you’ve got ungratefulness, which results in straight up bitterness and feeding your 22 cats from your leftover “soup for one” packages.

With that said, I know come Christmas morning, I’ll wear my ugly blue sweater with pride. I’ve got a donation for National Starving Artists ready, anyway. Good luck.

Consumers brave crowded stores, long lines for discounts

BLACK FRIDAY, page 7
onto websites such as bfads.net and fatwallet.com. Retailers such as Wal-Mart have recently taken steps toward limiting premature availability of their post-Thanksgiving sales. According to a CNNMoney.com article dated Nov. 15, Wal-Mart is aware that its Black Friday ads have already leaked and is planning on hiding other deals until Thanksgiving, when the discounts will be posted on the company website. Other retailers such as Linens ‘n Things have taken more drastic measures, including sending cease-and-desist orders to certain websites, according to the article. Junior Ameer Juman doesn’t understand why stores are so aggressive about preventing their ads from being released before their scheduled date. “I usually check out those websites before Black Friday, and they help me plan accordingly,” he said. “It’s confusing to me why stores would try to stop this kind of thing if it helps the consumers figure out what they want before-hand so they go withdraw money from their bank accounts sooner than later.” Despite the various sales available solely on Nov. 24, freshman Marea Perea will be staying home. “I don’t plan on going out on a day because the lines will be way too long, and people are going to be overly aggressive,” Perea said. “I’ve done it before, and once is enough.”

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DO YOU...GET ENOUGH?...GET TOO MUCH?
Welcome home Chandler Williams and the rest of the 12 players who returned to the field after being suspended for their actions in the brawl at the Orange Bowl.

Everyday’s exactly like you left it – well, almost: same struggling offense and another wasted effort by the defense.

Welcome home, guys. Feels great, doesn’t it?

Unfortunately for Williams and company, their first game back couldn’t stop FIU’s downward spiral as they lost 17-7 to Louisiana-Lafayette (5-5, 2-3) at FIU stadium.

Well it sounds like a broken record but we had problems with protection again offensively and had to settle for field goals once again, but didn’t cash in on them,” said coach Don Strock, who announced Nov. 15 that he would not return to the sidelines next season.

“I didn’t even know he did that until they announced it. When he heard, he didn’t really want to celebrate. He just wanted to get back to playing and that’s the thing I like about him,” said senior defensive end Antwan Barnes.

Though the Ragin’ Cajuns put up 17 points in the third quarter, they still couldn’t overcome the Golden Panthers defense ranked No. 17 in the nation in total defense, you can’t blame the offense for that.

However, you can blame an inept offense that can’t make a play here and there. The offense managed to score for the first time in 13 quarters and seven overtimes since the 25-22 loss to North Texas on Oct. 26.

But it’s on the field for 36:14 of play and to no surprise, Padrick finished with one touchdown and interception, completing 17 of 31 passes for 137 yards.

The trend this year for the Golden Panthers (0-10, 0-5 Sun Belt) has been to let them down as quickly as they lose for the first time in 13 quarters and seven overtimes since the 25-22 loss to North Texas on Oct. 26.

However, senior quarterback Josh Padrick couldn’t replicate his first quarter success in which he completed 6 of 8 passes for 43 yards and a touchdown.

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Boston Red Sox, was a Collegiate Baseball Freshman All-American in 1993, a three-time All-Trans America Athletic Conference selection, the League's Student-Athlete of the Year and an Academic All-American in 1995.

Professionally, Lowell is a three-time MLB All-Star and Gold Glove winner. He was a member of the 2003 World Champion Florida Marlins.

During High School, Lowell transferred from Columbus High School to Coral Gables High because his coach at Columbus said he wasn’t good enough to play at the High School level.

“The year I arrived, I found my first real friends right here on the FIU Basketball court,” Nagy-Rowe said. “The years passed, my English improved and the team became like a second family to me as I forged friendships that would last a lifetime.”

Dwight Stewart (1988-93) is the most prolific scorer in FIU men’s basketball history and the only player to reach 2,000 points. He is the only player to have his jersey retired. He missed only one collegiate game and led his team to a TAAC regular-season championship in 1992-93.

Stewart acknowledged his parents’ devotion to him as they attended every single game he played since he was 8 years old.

“Words can’t express the gratitude that I have for these two people,” said Stewart. “They have given me everything I need to be a successful person in life.”

RUNNERS UP

FIU lost in straight sets to top-seeded Middle Tennessee State Nov. 18 in the championship round of the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. Freshman outside hitter Yarimar Rosa led the Golden Panthers with 12 kills, while junior setter Keila Oliveira (above) added 28 assists. Rosa and Oliveira were named to the Sun Belt’s all conference first team, while Rosa won Freshman of the Year honors and Oliveira won Newcomer of the Year. Also, coach Danijela Tomic left the conference tournament with Coach of the Year honors. The No. 3 seed Golden Panthers defeated Western Kentucky 3-1 (30,26, 22,30, 30-14, 30,24).

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Men’s basketball edges out Western Illinois for tournament championship

RENAILO SMITH
Staff Writer

Coach Sergio Rouco was raving about senior guard Johnsen Villegas just minutes after the Golden Panthers hung on for a slim 62-60 win over the Western Illinois Leathernecks at Pharmed Arena Nov. 18.

“He is doing great and he is playing through bad plays,” Rouco said. “He knows that I have all the confidence in the world in him and if he makes a mistake, I will leave him out there and he is going to make a play.”

With the win, the Golden Panthers won the championship of the FIU Tip-Off Classic and leveled their record at 2-2 on the young season.

Villegas, the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, finished with 11 points, four rebounds and two assists. He said he was happy with the effort his team gave.

“We were going through the motions sometimes and in the second half we started playing defense and attacking the boards,” he said. “The most important thing is that we were able to get the win and now we have to stay aggressive.”

The Golden Panthers opened the game on a 7-2 run led by junior Dejon Prejean. However, the Leatherbacks had a talented junior of their own in David Jackson, who also made a statement.

The Leatherbacks pulled within 11 points and Prejean delivered a three pointer to give his team a 53-49 lead.

The two teams traded baskets the rest of the way. A series of turnovers still gave the Leatherbacks a chance with 5.2 seconds remaining. But fortunately for the Golden Panthers, WIU forward Troy Okeson, who was 3-4 from behind the 3-point line at the time, threw up an air ball in his final attempt as time expired.

Prejean, who was named to the All-Tournament team with 15 points and four rebounds in the win.

“This is our house and we have to protect our house. I am just trying to be about the team and trying to help out the seniors,” he said. “We just need to work on our rebounding and if we do that we won’t have anything to worry about,” he added.

Jackson, who also made the all tournament team, led all scorers with 19 points and seven rebounds.

The Golden Panthers will now look to continue their winning streak as they embark on a four-game road trip, starting Nov. 21 in Tampa against South Florida.

Bouie sets career record for all time tackles in loss

FOOTBALL, page 12

touchdowns in the second half.

The running back gave the visitors the lead with 5:51 to play in the third quarter as he rumbled through the FIU defense and into the endzone from seven yards out.

The Cajun’s back then capped off his night late in the fourth quarter with a two-yard touchdown with just 3:30 to play, putting to rest any hopes of an FIU comeback.

ULL quarterback Jerry Babb had a quiet half, completing just seven of 16 passes for 76 yards and an interception.

Jeremiah Weatherspoon intercepted a poor pass in the first quarter that led to the only Golden Panther points of the night.

Linebacker Alexander Bostic III and defensive end Antwan Barnes joined Bouie in double figures with 14 and 11 tackles respectively.

FIU came into the game leading the nation in tackles for a loss and extended that streak managing to bring down the Cajuns behind the line of scrimmage eight times.

The Golden Panthers now have two more chances to find a win as they face rivals FAU Nov. 25 at Dolphins Stadium before ending their season at home against conference leaders Troy Dec. 2.
The Graham Center Ballroom was full of co-workers, old friends and five people whose names are now linked by blue blazers and honorary plaques. The Inaugural FIU Athletics Hall of Fame honored Dr. Judith Blucker, Pat Bradley, Mike Lowell, Andrea Nagy-Rowe and Dwight Stewart for setting precedents in FIU athletics in their respective fields.

Blucker was the catalyst for FIU women’s athletics in 1972, which was also the University’s inaugural year.

“The older you get, the more you realize that life’s journey is full of highs and lows. I must tell you that this recognition tonight is definitely one of the highest highs for me,” Blucker said.

When Blucker arrived at FIU there were no intercollegiate women’s teams. Blucker helped establish the women’s volleyball, softball and golf teams. Women’s volleyball enjoyed early success, despite practicing in dismal conditions.

“All of our practices had to be in what we called the famous Tim Gym. It was one of the old airport hangars. It had concrete floors and resident pigeons dropping poop on the floor,” Blucker said.

Blucker was also the academic adviser, athletic adviser and professor to inductee Bradley (1972-74), who is one of the 23 members in the LPGA Hall of Fame. When she arrived at FIU in 1972, she was the only player on the golf team.

“It was just me,” Bradley said. “We had no team. I went to golf tournaments, but I couldn’t high-five anybody else.”

Bradley attended Miami-Dade North for two years and then transferred to a school on Florida’s west coast. She spent one short semester at a school there before returning to New England to play summer golf.

She had missed one semester and was on the verge of missing another when Mary Dagerot, the women’s golf coach at FIU and her former coach at Miami-Dade, called her about an opportunity to continue her education at a brand new university in South Florida.

“I’m saying to myself ‘God in Heaven, you’ve sent me an angel,’ because I did not know what I was going to do,” Bradley said. “And I knew if I didn’t get back to school soon, I may never get back.”

During her senior year at FIU, Bradley was informed that her semester out west was considered a full year of golf and she was no longer eligible to play.

Bradley sat down with her Blucker about her golf ineligibility.

Her adviser informed her that the LPGA tour was having their qualifying school at Kendale Lakes. The result was a 30-year LPGA career in which she won 31 tournaments, including six majors.

Lowell (1993-95), a current member of the Hall of Fame, page 10.

**Hall of Famers**

Inaugural class inducted into Athletic Hall of Fame

Ragin’ Cajuns spoil FIU’s Homecoming

**Sergio Bonilla**

Contributing Writer

The rushing game was once again nonexistent as sophomores Julian Reams and Amad Ned combined for 49 yards on just 13 carries.

Chandler Williams led all receivers with seven catches for 77 yards in his first game in almost a month.

“It sounds like a broken record but we had opportunities that we couldn’t cash in on,” Strock said.

FIU took a 7-0 lead with 2:49 to play in the first quarter as Padrick topped an eight-play 41-yard drive with a one-yard touchdown pass to fullback John Harritan on the all-time career tackles list with 299.

Bouie was once again a menace on defense, leading all tacklers with 18 stops.

“We played hard defensively but there are areas we just need to improve,” Strock said. “We would make some plays and then we would give up some big plays. It takes a full team effort to win games.”

Quarterback Josh Padrick had glimpses of the success he’s had past seasons but threw a crucial interception in the fourth quarter that ended the Golden Panther’s chances of a comeback.

He finished the night 17 of 31 for 137 yards with a touchdown and the deciding interception.