Three-day class schedule official

JOSE DE WIT
Opinion Editor

It’s official: beginning Fall 2007, FIU will switch to a Monday/Wednesday/Friday class schedule, according to a Nov. 27 University-wide e-mail from Interim Provost Ronald Berkman.

Under the current class schedule, classes meet twice a week, either Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday, for 75-minute class periods. The schedule change will shorten Monday/Wednesday daytime class periods to 50 minutes and add a third weekly class meeting on Fridays. Tuesday/Thursday classes, as well as classes that meet on Saturday or on Monday and Wednesday after 5 p.m., will not experience any schedule changes.

According to Bruce Hauptli, the Faculty Senate chair, administrators and faculty had been contemplating the change for the past two to three years as part of an initiative to improve the efficiency of classroom use, which also includes giving classrooms technological upgrades and making available an annual class schedule.

SPC president steps down from office

JOSE PAGUIERY
Staff Writer

Due to his own conflicting interests, Student Programming Council President Bill Buchanan stepped down Nov. 21, after completing a one-year term in which he bore witness to a number of structural changes that many have improved the program.

“I didn’t want the organization to suffer because of my inability to sacrifice time,” said Buchanan. “I’ve been involved since I’ve been here but it’s about time.”

Buchanan, a senior who is double-majoring in both political science and religious studies, came to the decision while registering for Spring semester classes. He chose to step down that same day, considering it “a good time” for SPC; but program leaders were caught off guard.

“SPC was down in structure,” Buchanan said, about his first impression of the program.

Buchanan, who studied at West Point for two years before transferring to FIU after sustaining injuries from an academy football game, seems to have brought some of his martial training with him.

SPC chairs recognized the need for a strong and dedicated leader, and therefore chose him as a candidate for the SPC presidency. At the time, Buchanan was not only the American Heritage Week and therefore chose him as a candidate for the SPC presidency. At the time, Buchanan was not only the American Heritage Week and therefore chosen as a member of the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Camilo Silva.

According to Corrine Webb, SPC Vice President Micaela Ancewicz, who is currently acting as president, “I needed time, I put all my life into FIU, and it’s my turn to take time for myself. I mean, I graduated high school at the same time as my adviser,” said Buchanan, who plans to attend law school.

Under Buchanan’s tenure, SPC saw a number of changes including the revision of the council’s constitution and the restructuring of its organizational hierarchy.

SPC Treasurer Jaime Martinez remembers that only a year ago, the program wasn’t in such great condition.

“SPC was down in the slums,” Martinez said. “But he brought it up with his iron fist.”

“Buchanan was the only student member on the departmental committee that includes, along with representatives from different administrative departments, two faculty members, three deans and one student representative — Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Camilo Silva.

According to Corrine Webb, SPC will continue to improve the efficiency of classroom use, which also includes giving classrooms technological upgrades and making available an annual class schedule.

SPC president voted in favor of these measures Oct. 24, and Berkman’s announcement that he accepted the Senate’s recommendation, he made it official. Now that it has been decided that FIU’s class schedule will change, what remains is to determine how that change will come into effect.

“All it is is a new schedule for the new semester. Will it start with freshmen? Will it start with everyone at once?” Berkman said.

The job of answering these questions is in the hands of an implementation committee that includes, along with representatives from different administrative departments, two faculty members, three deans and one student representative — Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus President Camilo Silva.

According to Corrine Webb, SPC, SCHEDULE, page 2

Preparations begin for AIDS Day

EDDITH SEVILLA AND ANGELINA TROFF
Beacon Staff

Though World AIDS Day is not until Dec. 1, FIU has already started promoting AIDS awareness for students.

With World AIDS Day right around the corner, University Park held two separate events, the Be HIV Educated Project and the Voicing Opinions and Cultural Equality Fashion Show Nov. 28, to educate students on the facts concerning AIDS.

B-HIVE, as the project is popularly called, offered students a chance to learn about the virus through speakers, skits and testimonials.

“The personal stories really made it real — it’s not just people trying to scare you,” said Aarti Chhatlani, a junior at FIU.

Although the testimonials were not given by students, Matthew Parisi, a senior and co-chair of B-HIVE, was grateful for those who did speak.

“It’s tough to find people who want to speak. The Center for Positive Connections was kind enough to provide us with three of their regular clients and I felt that was a good option for us,” Parisi said.

The Project also offered free HIV testing, with results available in 20 minutes. Rachel Olmedo, a sophomore, found it a simple and non-threatening procedure.

“I got tested. It’s the easiest thing you can do. It’s just a swab in the mouth,” said Olmedo.

Ileana Hernandez, a senior, attended because she felt it would further her career.

“I want to be a sex therapist, so this is good. I need to tell patients how important testing is,” Hernandez said.

In 20 minutes, Parisi said, the testing was complete.

Another student-run event, the V.O.I.C.E. Fashion Show, took place at 8 p.m. in the Graham Center Ballrooms, in which HIV facts were presented.

AIDS, page 2
Frost Art Museums co-hosts Breakfast in the Park event

For the fourth annual Breakfast in the Park event, the Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum and The Martin Z. Margulies Sculpture Park are offering guests an outdoor breakfast, an informative art tour, and art at the park.

The event will feature a lecture by acclaimed American sculptor Deborah Butterfield, Dec. 10 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and a guided tour of Martin Z. Margulies collection, which features sculptures by such artists as Willem de Kooning, Louise Nevelson and Isamu Noguchi.

Buses will pick up riders at the Miami Beach Convention Center Hall D. For more information, contact Amy Pollack at (305) 348-0410 or pollacka@fiu.edu.

FIU among top 25 places to work in Miami

Living Real Miami magazine recently declared FIU one of the 25 best places to work in Miami. In LRM’s October issue, what set FIU apart from the others was the 41-page employee benefits handbook, which includes access to free education for all FIU employees and their families and medical benefits for faculty/staff with same-sex partners.

In August, the Division of Human Resources announced a plan to extend full FIU benefits to temporary employees. Also, earlier this semester, FIU announced it would hire outsourced custodial workers with 50 percent higher pay and full benefits.

As part of its research, LRM turned to the Job Satisfaction Survey for 2006, the Great Place to Work Institute and the U.S. Department of Labor to create a list of criteria to rate local businesses.

Other winning companies on the list included Baptist Health South Florida, Washington Mutual and The Container Store.

Faculty research deadline fast approaching

Faculty members yearning to get started on research may receive up to $25,000 this year. In LRM’s October issue, what set FIU apart from the others was the 41-page employee benefits handbook, which includes access to free education for all FIU employees and their families and medical benefits for faculty/staff with same-sex partners.

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Financial Times ranks FIU’s Executive MBA program among world’s best

FIU’s Executive MBA program ranks No. 78 in a recent Financial Times survey of EMBA’s programs. This is the first year FIU is included in the annual ranking, which also ranks the top EMBA program No. 1 in Florida and No. 5 in the South.

The Financial Times ranking is based on the quality of the EMBA’s alumni, school and program quality, as well as the research capabilities of the faculty.

Education professor cited as one of ‘America’s Best Leaders’

Robert Moses, eminent scholar in FIU’s Center for Urban Education and Innovation, was named one of “America’s Best Leaders” in U.S. News & World Report.

Moses, a civil rights activist and educator, was singled out along with national luminaries as retired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, jazz trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and Broad Institute Director, David Lander.

The magazine teamed with the Center for Public Leadership at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government to identify leaders “who are making a difference”.

The recognition cites Moses’ advocacy for the poor and innovative Algebra Project program, which provides math instruction to minority students in the form of kindergartners’ high-school curricula guides, teacher training and peer coaching.

Compiled by Betsy Martinez and Maria Chercoles from FIU’s Weekly Faculty/Staff Newsletter
Club helps international students adjust to new life

GEORGE HAYES

Born and raised in Peru, sophomore Gabriella Santos came to Miami to study at FIU Spring 2005, without knowing anybody in the University. As an international students orientation session, she learned about a club that programmed events specifically for international students. On a whim, she attended the club’s formal dinner and found out that the organization existed. Santos eventually became the 2005-2006 secretary of that very group — the International Students Club.

To Santos, the club provided a sense of belonging that helped her connect with FIU’s international student population. “The main reason I joined was the people,” Santos said. “The students I met through the club shared the same experiences as me because we were all international students. We’re all attending a school in a different country than the one we were from.”

Overseen by the Student Organizations Council, the governing body of more than 200 clubs, ISC at University Park strives to create a fun environment for international students such as Santos. According to ISC Vice President Jose Boubou, the club has more than 200 members but admits not all of the members are active.

“We have over 200 members signed up to our e-mail list, but obviously not all of them come to our events or attend the meetings,” Boubou said. “We’re students, and some of the club’s efforts don’t work.”

Although some members fail to partake in the club’s events, other members participate in the activities, which include movie nights, every month, from beach trips to intramural games, Carrillo said. “There’s been a rise in participation, and we try to have three to four events every month, from beach trips to intramural games,” Carrillo said. “And we have a big variety for the club because of the collaboration involved.”

“That party was a big success for our department of international relations, hopes to raise awareness on a variety of issues concerning the Middle East through lectures and events,” Dinar said.

BY BRINGING DIFFERENT SPEAKERS TO CAMPUS, MES’ ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO HELP SECURE FIU’S PLACE AS A CENTER OF DEBATE AND LEARNING ON MATTERS CONCERNING THE MIDDLE EAST. “The lack of experience hurt the club’s organization and attendance but we still had the events to keep students entertained,” Boubou said.

Sophomore Antoine Carrillo, current president of ISC, says this year is an improvement and more events are in store for students this school year. “There aren’t really any clubs that cater to the entire international community at the University, and a lot of current clubs don’t really offer much programming dedicated to international students.” Boubou said. “ISC wants to unite that whole community and give it something to do in terms of fun events and making friends.”

More information about the ISC at UP can be found at the Graham Center, room 355.
Students worry gay initiatives ignored

JESSICA SOUSI
Contributing Writer

For students like sophomore Danny Anzueto, being gay in college has been a positive experience. He is a leader on campus, taking part in events like Diversity Day. He is also a resident assistant at Bay Vista housing at the Biscayne Bay Campus, and often organizes events for residents.

“I haven’t really been a problem. I have found my space in school with my group of friends that all share the common bond of understanding and openness,” Anzueto said.

Anzueto admits, however, that the reason he has not met with any negativity about being gay at BBC is because the lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender only makes happens to be gay, or lesbian, or another’s experiences.

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Draft would diminish support for war

Christopher Gribil

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Faculty and administrators have been discussing this change since Spring 2005, when a committee was formed to find ways to increase classroom space more efficiently. The committee presented a set of recommendations, which included the schedule change, to the Faculty Senate. The senate turned it down. After more than a year of discussion among faculty members, the senate recently voted in favor of the schedule change.

Throughout the course of such a long process, shouldn’t students have been asked to participate in making this substantial decision, which will affect them as much as it will affect faculty and administrators? In fact, they weren’t. In the last year students have been asked to participate in making this substantial decision, which will affect them as much as it will affect faculty and administrators. The faculty senate turned it down.

SGA did little to inform of class schedule changes

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**OUT OF IDEAS?**

Some thoughts for the thoughtless gift giver

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**A. THE MEAT ENTHUSIAST FATHER**

Possessive carnivores everywhere can appreciate a personalized branding iron bearing their initials to remind everyone that they prepared every part of your meal—with the exception of actually slaughtering the animal. Not recommended for vegan dads.

$39.95 by Personalized Creations

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**B. THE IPOD INFATUATED FRIEND**

You know the guy: he's got the leather case, the converters, those tiny earbuds that produce an amphitheater of sound. But does he have the accessibility of music and two-ply all in one place? This iPod dock assures he can.

$180.99 on amazon.com

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**C. THE SOCIALLY MALADJUSTED BROTHER**

Ok, so not all Star Wars fans are maladjusted ... but if you need Darth Vader to hold all your term papers with the proofreading power of the force, then this galactic USB flash drive is for you.

$79.95 for 1 GB by Mimoco

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**D. THE OVERLY ATTRACTIVE SISTER**

She's 18 now, but you don't have to like it. This sweater is both stylish and tells her warmth and full coverage can be sexy. It also tells that to your increasingly interested friends.

$88 by lux on urbanoutfitters.com

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**E. THE SPIRITUAL MOTHER**

There's nothing like solid pewter to remind you that success is a journey, not a destination. These inspirational paperweights will remind her of her favorite mantra—and hold down her mail.

$30 by Sunday Company

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**F. THE SPOILED PET**

Once you left home, that little rascal got your room, your bed and your parents' love (and money). The Ralph Lauren cashmere dog sweater will make your parents' dog almost the furry child they never had.

$95 from polo.com

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**G. THE ALWAYS WORKING LATE SIGNIFICANT OTHER**

No law office is open at 2 a.m. Fuel your insecurity and distrust with the Shocking Liar electronic game. If she lies, she dies—or at least receives slight discomfort in her dominant hand.

$10.99 by Perpetual Kid

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**H. THE GADGET-LOVING UNCLE**

This “Ambient Stock Orb” connects wirelessly to the internet and changes colors based on how well the stock market is doing. When it crashes the market or the internet you can also use it as a projectile.

$149.95 on gifts.com

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**I. THE ARE-WE-RELATED? COUSIN**

You don't know what side he's from, or how he got his taste, but he sure liked that singing fish from last year. Indulge him again with “Santa Buck Christmas—The Animated Trophy.”

$59 at walmart.com

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With the season of yuletide buying in full swing, there's a very common trend in Miami where the gift recipient already has your well-intentioned gift. To your left, you'll find an assortment of offbeat items that are more than likely not on your relatives' gift lists.

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The experience was horrible mainly because of my aching feet. The mere sight of one iPod after another didn't help either.

---

**7-hour shift nearly kills seasonal employee**

So this is the price I pay to make an extra couple of dollars for the holidays.

The Friday that follows Thanksgiving is infamously known as Black Friday, one of the busiest shopping days of the year where stores usually offer some of the best sales of the holiday season.

If the prices for televisions, clothes, shoes, toys and all sorts of fancy gadgets are lowered for this particular day, then what’s there not to love about it?

Just ask the guy standing behind the register that day. Better yet, ask me.

That day, I worked a 17-hour shift (4 a.m. – 10 p.m.) in the MP3 players section at the Circuit City in Pembroke Pines—it felt like an eternity plus four hours.

---

**What’s a good last-minute Christmas gift?**

Jean Roseme:

“An FIU sweater because it’s getting cold outside.”

Anthony Munyaka:

“Either a PlayStation 3 or a money order.”

Nicolas Orrelli:

“A romantic, home-cooked dinner.”

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Black Friday turns editor into electronics store doormat

Instead of selling iPods, I felt like throwing them against the nearest wall. Twice.

My morning or night (whatever you want to consider 4 a.m.) started when I pulled in through the back of the plaza so I could avoid any long lines.

Talk about false expectations. There was a line of people that stretched all the way to the back of the store at 3:45 a.m. Unfortunately, I didn’t go to sleep the previous day because I was forced myself to wake up the next day, I chose to pull an all-nighter before heading out to Circuit City for work.

The whole time I was thinking, “How hectic could it be, right?”

As soon as the doors opened at 5 a.m., a wave of people flooded my section, which was manned by my coworker Willy and me. Watching dozens of people rush me simultaneously, I realized what a mistake I had made by not getting any sleep. I really could have used those three or four hours of rest prior to this impending onslaught.

I must have answered a million questions about MP3 players and billions more about the iPod (I hope Steve Jobs knows he ruined my life that day). Did I mention how bad my feet were hurting?

But whenever everything seemed to overwhelm me, some customer managed to brighten my day with some dumb question or comment that made me smile for a split second before realizing I had 15 hours left until my shift finished. Despite the long lines, there were some memorable moments.

The funniest thing I heard all day was someone screaming at another Circuit City employee that he had been waiting in line for three hours to buy a computer even though we had just opened the doors half an hour ago.

And then there were those customers who loved to lecture employees when an item was out of stock.

Some old man started preaching to me: “How are you going to sell something with no accessories? It’s like buying a car with no tires.”

Thanks for the analogy sir, but we just ran out, so get over it.

Despite the long lines, there were some memorable moments. But unfortunately for me, I got lucky:

Once I was back at my post, I had to deal with the most annoying part of my job: the broken sliding glass door to the MP3 case. Talk about embarrassing: a line of agitated and impatient people, and you can’t open a simple sliding glass door.

It’s almost like they want me to look like a seasonal untrained employee.

But it wasn’t all that bad, I made a couple of people smile that day and made some extra cash.

Scratch that last sentence; my feet are starting to hurt again.

VETERANS, page 1

PHOTOS BY CHRIS CUTRO / THE BEACON

FUNDRAISING

We are still looking for dedicated columnists, writers, photographers and graphic artists.

Apply over the break and be published by Spring 2007!

E-mail beaconlife@yahoo.com or apply in person in GC 210 or WUC 124.
**Join Our Staff!**

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices at the Biscayne Bay or University Park campuses to pick up an application. All majors are accepted.

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124
Men’s basketball falls to 2006 Final Four team

RENAルド SMITH
Staff Writer

Despite a strong start to the game, a series of scoring droughts handicapped the Golden Panthers’ basketball squad in their effort to upset 2006 final four participants to George Mason University on Monday.

Versatile junior Chris Fuller had a season high 13 points and five boards, but it wasn’t nearly enough on Monday.

George Mason University final four participants to their effort to upset 2006 men’s basketball squad in capping the Golden Panther scoring droughts handed to the game, a series of consecutive points out of the gates.


The Golden Panthers took an early 7-6 lead off a three-pointer from sharp shooting sophomore guard Elvis Lora.

Unfortunately, it would prove to be Lora’s only three-point hit for the game on just two attempts and it ignited the Patriots to respond with a resounding 9-0 run.

For the Patriots, it was their 6’5” senior guard Gabe Norwood who got things going with three consecutive buckets in the early run for them.

With the possibility of an early blowout already on the minds of the Patriots, Fuller began to become more aggressive on the offensive end and it paid off. After converting a lay-up, Fuller swished a jumper to pull the Golden Panthers within five at 17-12.

However, the Patriots had another run in store this time it was an even more explosive one.

In just seven minutes the lead ballooned to 18, as sophomore point guard Dre Smith orchestrated his team’s offense to the tune of 13 consecutive points.

At halftime, the Golden Panthers trailed 33-17, as they put up their second lowest point total in an opening half since being held to eleven against South Alabama way back in February.

In the second half, the Golden Panthers seemed poised to get back in the game as they put up six consecutive points out of the gates.

Unfortunately for them, the first half trend would continue as the Patriots answered with a 12-0 run of their own to put the Golden Panthers in a deep 47-23 hole, one that would prove to be too deep to get out of.

The Golden Panthers had a good chance to pull off the upset as they were within striking distance for much of the game, but the Patriots just unleashed their offensive attack when it mattered most.

The Golden Panthers got little from their bench as they were outscored 41-19 in bench points.

Athletic junior guard Dejon Prejean continued to make his presence felt in his first season with the Golden Panthers as he contributed eight points and two boards in the losing effort.

However, other than Fuller and Prejean, nobody else was even near the double digit mark.

Senior guard Johnwen Villegas, who is the team’s leading scorer, was held scoreless for the first time this season as he had a forgettable 0-5 night from the field in 23 minutes of action.

Sophomore forward Alex Galindo, who has been impressive early on in the season, was a woeful 1-9 from the field, as he finished with just four points and two rebounds, and senior forward Facundo Giorgi didn’t even attempt a shot in just 14 minutes of action.

Ironically, both Villegas and Galindo were coming off their arguably best performances of the season in their previous game, a 70-68 win at Kennesaw State. In that game, Villegas led all scorers with 23 points, and Galindo put up 14 second half points to propel the Golden Panthers to the slim win.

For the Patriots, it was Smith who did the bulk of the damage as he finished with a career high 20 points on 8-14 shooting.

Darryl Monroe chipped in with nine points and a-game-high eight rebounds to help his team improve to 3-2 and pick up their first home win of the season.

At 3-4, the Golden Panthers will look to get back to the .500 mark with a win at Wisconsin on Saturday before returning home to face junior talent EJ Murray and Florida Tech on Dec. 5.

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It wouldn’t take long for the FAU defense to show their superiority over FIU as they constantly stopped Strock’s defense and, 52 seconds into the second quarter, used their offense to strike again.

This time, fullback Aaron Sanchez capped off an eight play, 76-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown run. Backfield teammate and starting tailback Charles Pierre, a red shirt sophomore, put the game out of reach with 5:01 to play in the first half as he scampered untouched from four yards out to make it 21-0 heading into the break.

The Golden Panther defense really missed leading tackler Keyonvis Bouie – out with a sprained MCL – and couldn’t stop the hosts as the rain started to fall in the second half.

Though the Golden Panthers did move the ball better in the second half offensively, the defense was unable to stop the Owls and place kicker Warley Leroy made it a 24-0 lead with 12:57 to play in the game with a 29-yard field goal.

B.J. Manley capped off the night for FAU with 6:28 to play on a two-yard touchdown run that capped off an eight play, 60-yard drive that put the score at 31-0.

“W e played better in the second half and made some plays,” Strock said, “but the same thing hurt us tonight that’s been hurting us all season: protecting the quarterback, misrun routes, missed tackles – all the same things.”

Antwan Barnes led the way on defense for FIU with 11 tackles, three and a half for a loss, and a sack. Freshman Michael Dominguez, stepping in for the injured Bouie, had nine tackles. Florida Atlantic racked up 361 yards of offense and went a perfect five-for-five in the red zone. They converted nine of 14 third downs compared to FIU’s two of 10.

Time of possessions was once again a deciding factor for the Golden Panthers as their defense was worn out, having to control the Owls for over 34 minutes. The Golden Panther offense managed to have the ball for just 22:41 and move the ball 203 yards.

On a positive note, the Golden Panthers did not turn the ball over for the first time this season. However, they were shutout for the second time in three games.

The Golden Panthers will close out their season against conference leaders Troy at FIU stadium Dec. 2 at 6 p.m. If Troy beats FIU, coming off their win over previously unbeaten Middle Tennessee Nov. 25, the Trojans would win the Sun Belt Conference and play in the New Orleans Bowl Dec. 22. A loss would hand the title to MTSU.

FIU looks to leave Duke (0-12) as the only winless team in the country.
Football handed 11th straight loss of season

ANDONI GONZALEZ-RUA
Staff Writer

After handling Florida Atlantic last season 52-6, the Golden Panthers thought that the Nov. 25 date at Dolphin Stadium in the annual Shula Bowl could be the night they got their first win of the season.

Head coach Howard Schnellenberger and his Owls squad had other ideas.

FIU (0-11, 0-6) was dominated from start to finish in front of 9,655 fans as rival FAU (5-7, 4-3) finished their first Sun Belt season with a two-game winning streak by handing the Golden Panthers their third shutout loss of the season, 31-0.

“I told our team every day this week that FAU would come in here tonight ready to play and they must not have listened,” said FIU head coach Don Strock. “FAU came in ready to play and we thought we came in ready to play, but there was a difference. That group came out and had something to prove”

Over the last five games dating back to the infamous Oct. 14 match-up with the University of Miami, Strock’s team has been outscored 156-10, including three shutout losses.

The Golden Panthers’ inability to move the ball on the ground once again proved to be their crutch as they managed just 50 yards rushing on the night.

It hurts.

That’s all that can be said after Florida Atlantic defeated FIU 31-0 at Dolphin Stadium in the fifth annual Shula Bowl.

Not the losses, resignation of coach Don Strock, hits by defenders or the pain felt the next morning. This hurts deeper than a bruise.

Quitting hurts the soul. That’s what several FIU players said following the loss to the Owls, saying that many of the teammates quit on them.

“A lot of people didn’t come out to play,” said senior defensive end Antwan Barnes. “A couple of us came to play, but the majority ain’t come to play. They’re looking forward to next year.”

The “they” Barnes is referring to are