Universities develop exchange program

FIU and the University of Miami have decided that it’s better to work together at least off the football field.

The two universities have entered into a new exchange program that will begin in the fall of 2007. Administration from both universities had positive things to say about the new program.

“This agreement magnifies the effective- ness of the curricula at both universities by building on each other’s strengths,” said FIU Provost and Executive Vice President Ronald Berkman in a press release.

“This partnership will allow students at UM and FIU to take advantage of the educational and research opportunities at both institutions,” stated Dr. Thomas J. LeBlanc, executive vice president and provost at the University of Miami in a press release.

According to Douglas Wartok, FIU vice president of academic affairs, the exchange program has been in the works for six years and will be available to doctoral students only. The exchange came into being as a result of trial run programs in Latin American studies, Caribbean studies and tropical biology.

Once it was determined that the exchange program could work in other areas, both administrations went ahead with implementation in all academic areas.

Currently, there is no limit to the number of students who can participate in the exchange program, according to Wartok.

“One of the long run we want an equal number of exchange students at both universities,” he said.

By executing the exchange program, both universities will increase the number of available courses for their students. For example, since FIU has a larger nuclear physics program than UM, students at UM would have more luck enrolling for classes at FIU, according to Stephan Mintz, the associate dean of the graduate school.

To participate in the exchange program, students would sign up for a generic class such as 0000 UM Exchange - exact course names and registration numbers are available on the website.

Students urged to suggest, pick lecture speakers

In past years, FIU students have seen a wide variety of speakers visit; including Pope John Paul II, civil rights activist Reverend Al Sharpton, former White House Chief of Staff Andy Card and acclaimed film director Spike Lee.

The Student Government Association Lecture Series, which works in collabora- tion with the president’s office and other departments on campus, is responsible for bringing these speakers to FIU, and is currently looking for student suggestions for this year’s lecture series.

Charles W. Needed, student government council and current director of Campus Life at Univer- sity Park, said that the Student Govern- ment Councils at the Biscayne Bay Campus and at UP adopted the responsibility of organizing student participation in the lecture series for the benefit of the FIU community. This allows the public to have the opportunity to gain insight from the experiences of the visiting guests.

“It’s something different and out of your routine that gives you a chance to hear someone speak [who] you would normally see on television,” said Anthony Rionda. SGA’s newly appointed lecture coordinator. “It makes them tangible; bring- ing the work students are doing here for their careers into perspective.”

According to Rionda, the student voice helps decide who is invited to speak and he encourages students to get involved with the committee by attending meetings, partaking in discussions and voicing their opinions.

“We really want students to take advan- tage of this opportunity to listen, learn and ask questions,” Rionda said. “Our goal is to increase awareness of these events and attendance at the lectures, and through that, increase involvement in SGA.”

According to Vivian Jordan, SGA’s director of legislative affairs, lack of student participation is a major set back because the series depends on student interest and input for direction.

“I believe that these lectures enhance students’ cultural and political awareness, and serve to motivate students and encourage them to think about and discuss cultural and social issues that can serve to enrich our discourse both on and off campus.” Jordan said.

In the past, visiting speakers have been selected by the members of the Lecture’s Committee and based on various factors. According to Jordan, cost is one of the top variables. Some speakers are expensive, and their combined budget of $31,000 must be used effectively to bring in as many as possible throughout the year.

Individually, UP has a budget of $66,000, while BBC has $44,000 to spend according to Rionda.

The funds necessary to pay guests are collected through the Activity and Service Fee.

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University
Events promote Greek recruitment

FIU-UM agreement expands class options

Corrections

Lectures, page 1

FIU-UM, page 1

Crist reverses tuition cap

Committee brings speakers to campus

Police Beat

Sledgehammer threat

Golf carts vandalized

Burger King vandalized
Although I am a student majoring in print journalism, health is something I take very seriously, especially as a model.

Having danced ballet, flamenco, salsa and hip-hop, I like maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Here are three reasons: my activities demand it, being healthy makes me feel good and my mom said so.

Aside from placing me in extra-curricular physical activities, my mom also taught me to eat well. As tryouts are now over, I know what is best. She taught me to eat three meals a day with two snacks between each meal; eating five times a day but in smaller portions.

PORTIONS, WHAT ABOUT THEM?

According to Yolanda Santisteban, a nurse practitioner from the student health services department at the Biscayne Bay Campus, meals should be taken in measured portions.

“You need to have breakfast as a king or queen, then have lunch as a prince or princess and end the day having dinner as a homeless person,” Santisteban said.

Long starvation slows your metabolism causing weight gain, while digestion helps burn calories and keeps the metabolism going, Santisteban said. If you are satisfied after finishing your meal, you are not going to overeat later. This is an important rule that justifies why many diet programs try to include the foods you like, so you are satisfied and not feeling like you are missing out.

“Today we talk about high and low density foods. High-density food is the one we need to avoid. [Although] it is a small portion in size, [it’s] big in calories like a hamburger. A low-density food is a big portion in size but low in calories, like a salad,” Santisteban said.

LET’S GET PHYSICAL!

Exercising also plays a big part in a healthy diet. According to the American Heart Association, you need to burn as many calories as you consume and be physically active. It recommends 30 minutes of physical activity per day. If you think about it, 30 minutes is not that much.

If you watch any of today’s reality shows, it would take you 30 minutes to maybe an hour. If you watch a baseball game, it could take at least three hours of your day, and if you watch “24” you can be sitting down in front of that TV the whole day!

There are no excuses for failing to live a healthy life. Money shouldn’t be a problem. Exercising does not mean having to join a gym and pay a monthly fee. You can wash your car, walk your dog, clean your house, swim while getting a great tan or enjoy the gym the University offers.

Each campus has features such as a fitness center, pool, tennis and basketball courts. You can also join any of the team sports events like volleyball, baseball, basketball, soccer, etc.

DOLLAR DAYS NO MORE

If you think the dollar menu, the value menu and the super value menu are the best inventions ever, you are not on the right track.

You can always buy grocery items beforehand and prepare your meals; it will be less expensive and healthier.

I also suggest buying fruits when they are in season; they taste better and cost less. Yogurts, cereals, dried fruits, whole grain breads and energy bars are also great snacks.

USE THE FOOD PYRAMID

How much should we eat from each group? Proteins should be the size of a deck of cards. You should always eat it baked, boiled, roasted or steamed. Proteins are meat, poultry, fish, dry beans, eggs and nuts.

Carbohydrates like breads, cereals, pasta and rice should be whole wheat or whole grain. You can have anywhere from six to eleven servings a day and avoid soft drinks and keep an eye on the amount of sugar in the juices you consume. Drinking eight glasses of water a day is very beneficial as well.

ANTI-COUCH POTATO

Sometimes we do not have the time to prepare our own food or hit the gym because of everyday things like work, family and our significant other, but the truth is that living a healthy lifestyle is essential to our well being.

Now, if you want to fit into that bikini or simply have more energy, get off that couch and get to work!

Read the Model of Health column every other week this summer.

GREEK, page 2

The organizations. This gives the members of fraternities and sororities a chance to preview and evaluate the applicants and then decide whether or not they are compatible with the values of that particular organization.

The Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity, also known as Pike, will be returning to host social events in their house this year for the first time after a two-year suspension.

Kenny Golek, Pike president, believes that not being one of the only other fraternity with a house at University Park is one of the many reasons why male students should rush for Pike.

“We can provide these students with a real fraternity experience. Having a house is a huge advantage, although I don’t think the fraternities without houses are at a disadvantage,” he said.

“Not having a house is sometimes a disadvantage. We would like our own house, our own space, because it represents our symbols, but we manage. We do pretty good,” she said.

According to Pete Cabrera, President of Sigma Phi Epsilon, his fraternity invites potential candidates to events throughout rush week such as going out to dinner.

For Biscayne Bay Campus students interested in joining a Greek organization, traveling to UP might have to be a necessity, since most Greek organizations are located at UP.

As of last Spring, however, the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity did hold a recruitment event at BBC, something most fraternities have yet to do.

“We have considered setting up a rep table but we feel that it might be harder for students that go to BBC to commute to UP,” Cabrera said.

Collazo said sororities have begun orientations at BBC and have recruited about nine female students so far.

“That’s a lot considering a lot of people don’t go to BBC,” he said.

As far as requirements to join a Greek organization, potential candidates must maintain a 2.5 GPA, but according to Victor Manuel Penedo, president of the Latino-based Lambda Theta Phi fraternity, there is no mold that candidates must fit in order to be accepted into an organization.

“Our fraternity is open to anybody: anybody who wants to excel in school, people who are confident and people who join for the right reasons, not just to party,” he said.

For a schedule of fraternity and sorority pre-recruitment events to go www.beaconnewspaper.com.
New registration policy far from flawless

With the Fall semester on its way, there are many new concerns and gripes with the changes being made to registration. The upcoming three-day class schedule looks to be pretty good, with one big exception.

My issue is not with the three-day schedule itself. Actually I love coming to FIU. Many times, I prefer to be here rather than at home.

No, my gripe is with certain aspects of the new schedule’s implementation — namely, being able to register for classes more than a semester in advance.

Starting in Fall 2007, students will be able to register not only for that semester, but for the Spring 2008 semester as well.

“Students at commuter schools like FIU need two things: they need predictability and they need to have a sense that they’re making progress toward their degrees,” Provost Ronald Berkman told The Beacon last November.

While I agree that predictability is a good thing, when it comes to registering for classes, predictability is only possible for robots.

For example, let’s say I register for all the classes I am going to take during the Fall 2007 and Spring 2008 semesters. Fall goes well and I get A’s in all my classes. Then comes Spring 2008 and all of a sudden my overall schedule has changed.

So I go and drop the class that I know I will not be able to attend. Then to my displeasure I learn that all of the other times at which the course is offered are closed. I just lost a necessary class.

I predict that this will be a real problem when the Spring 2008 semester approaches. Life’s circumstances change too often to be forcing students to register for classes so far in advance.

Besides schedule changes, there is the possibility of failing a prerequisite class. If a student signs up for a class in the spring but fails its prerequisite in the fall, that will lead to a real mess with having to retake classes or waiting to retake classes.

But the new three-day class schedule ... it scares me. I mean what about those really small upper division classes?

Right now, if a student runs into any kind of problem that changes their schedule from the fall to the spring, they could be forced into taking another semester at FIU.

For example, if a senior lost just one upper division class due to their schedule changing, they would have to wait until the following semester to register for it. In other words, a semester of time lost or that could have been used for another required course.

“That unfortunately is the danger,” said Alex Collins, an associate university registrar in an interview published in The Beacon July 2, 2007.

Registering for classes months in advance is really going to cause a problem.

It’s just so competitive. Depending on what grade level you are at determines how soon you can register for classes. I don’t really understand how that’s fair. I say that you open registration at the same time for everyone, so that everyone gets an even shot at registering for a class.

As much as being in college is great, I can’t afford to be a student forever.

I know I’ve been talking a lot about “what if,” but they are not some minute possibility. Everything I said is likely to happen because in my experience, if something can go wrong it will.

The only way to solve the problem is to not allow students to register for classes a semester in advance.

It will not only be easier on the students but the administration as well; it can’t be easy for any department to plan out classes that far in advance.

Though it is not a mandatory policy for students to register early for the following semester, many will do so in hopes of guaranteeing a spot due to the limited number of spaces in many classes.

At least one schedule that’s been planned way in advance will work out: Burger King will remain open past 5 p.m. on Fridays. I can drown my sorrows with a king size diet coke after missing out on a class with a limited number of seats.

Florida’s public universities are strapped for cash. With the state government dealing with its own financial problems, raising tuition is becoming an increasingly attractive option for our state public institutions of higher education.

After initially vetoing a 5 percent tuition hike a few weeks ago, Gov. Charlie Crist recently approved raising tuition for three universities. The University of South Florida, the University of Florida, and Florida State University will all be raising tuition prices — for now FIU has been spared.

Yet while few students are ever enthusiastic about tuition increase (and understandably so), such raises are justifiable.

The presidents of all 11 public universities in Florida advocated tuition hikes, and while the pain of paying more for college stings, it is a necessary and inevitable occurrence.

Limited and gradual hikes in the cost of education are an important part of improving Florida’s universities.

Of course, the need for these increases must be coupled with a healthy consideration for the consequences of raising tuition too drastically.

Furthermore, tuition hikes should also be combined with increases in financial aid. Florida students should not be priced out of their own education system. Our state’s public universities are among the most affordable in the nation, and that is a good thing.

However, when a major state university (FSU) threatens to freeze enrollment for lack of sufficient funds to support continued growth, a tuition hike seems more than justified.

It is important for Florida’s students to get an excellent education at stellar universities. Hiring quality faculty members and constructing and maintaining top quality facilities are all vital processes in making Florida’s schools among the best in the nation. However, all these things do come with a price.

There must be a balance between cost and quality, low prices and high values. It is not inconceivable for Florida to have great universities without stratospheric prices.

FIU President Modesto A. Maidique is among those advocating tuition hikes, having supported the proposed and rejected 5 percent rise in tuition at all public universities in Florida. In light of this, some wonder if FIU will be next.

And when that occurs, it is important that the increase not be too drastic. As being said, moderate increases are inevitably necessary in order for FIU to become one top tier school we all would like it to be.

After all, the consequences of lacking sufficient funds would be dire for students and professors alike. Those who remain overcrowded classes, the state government dealing with its own financial problems, raising tuition is becoming an increasingly attractive option for our state public institutions of higher education. 

• Yes – my education is most important. The cost is not an issue.

• Yes – FIU could improve in certain areas.

• Sure – I really don’t care.

• No – I’m satisfied with the education I’m receiving as well as the cost of tuition.

• No – There is no way the University is getting anymore of my money!

Cast your vote at www.beaconnewspaper.com
The world's first Internet-based plagiarism detection system was created in California, Berkeley. In order to detect when research papers were being recycled in their large undergraduate classes, they created Plagiarism.org, the world's first Internet-based plagiarism detection service. The site eventually spawned Turnitin.com and iThenticate, which automatically scan documents for any copied passages.

"I use Turnitin.com to prevent plagiarism," said Devrim Altinoz, an adjunct faculty member of the history department. "I also use it to teach students not just to use the Internet as a source."

Altinoz says Turnitin.com has helped her find several cases where students' papers were completely or partially plagiarized. "It becomes such a dilemma," Altinoz said. "They didn't think they were plagiarizing or claimed they didn't know what they were doing."

The use of such programs and the severity of the violations are at the discretion of the professors. Altinoz, who teaches world civilizations, looks at each case of plagiarism on a case-by-case basis. If she determines a student unintentionally plagiarized a small portion of his or her paper, she will allow them to rewrite it.

In the cases where students completely plagiarized their entire paper, however, she follows FIU policy and reports them to the administration. Altinoz also commented that some professors fail students even if they unintentionally plagiarize a small portion of any paper and they report said students to the administration. Although it may seem harsh, it is completely within the authority of professors to fail students who plagiarize, even if they do so unintentionally.

"It becomes such a dilemma. They didn't think they were plagiarizing or claimed they didn't know what they were doing." – Devrim Altinoz

Suspensions due to plagiarism usually last a semester to a full year, according to Johnson. Despite the usefulness of Turnitin.com, many professors, like English professor Christina Machado do not use the system for several reasons such as disliking the interface, keeping grading at a more personal level or simply disagreeing with the availability of their students' papers to the public and the rules that are carried out by Turnitin.com that state that all essays that are reviewed on the web site for plagiarism become the property of the web site. "I don't like it," Machado said. "You can detect plagiarism yourself."

According to Machado, a student can refuse to turn in a paper to Turnitin.com in order to maintain their ownership, although, in such a case, could be forced to switch to another class.

When asked, Turnitin.com's phone support said that when students submit their papers to the web site, the site does not retain ownership of the paper, but will keep it cataloged in its database.

However, one section from the user agreement policy found on the web site suggests otherwise, stating, "All services, content, data, information and other materials on or directly accessible from the site are owned by iParadigms, its subsidiaries, affiliates, licensors and/or vendors."

With that said, a student can, hypothetically, plagiarize themselves if they submit a paper to Turnitin.com and choose to make references to that paper in a second assignment.

Even though these web sites could strike fear in many students, others such as freshman Cristina Loreto feel that the website is effective in curbing the copying of others' ideas. "I think it's a good way to create original work," said Loreto. "The fact that you know a teacher could fail you or be kicked out of school is a great incentive not to plagiarize."

For more information on the rules and regulations of Turnitin.com, check out www.turnitin.com/static/usage.html.

### Student employment available in heart of University

#### Kassandra Pool
Contributing Writer

With fuel prices on the rise and a Monday/Wednesday/Friday schedule looming, students looking for a flexible job schedule can find numerous opportunities on and around campus. Equipment needed for events on and around campus. Equipment such as projectors, laptops, microphones, screens and the audio system has to be set up by the time the event begins. Afterward, they speak with the customer to make sure all their needs were met.

**Current A/V employee Jephren Perez has been able to manage work as both a computer lab assistant and as an A/V employee.**

**Computer Lab & Audio Visual-Starting Salary:** $8 per hour

The computer lab, where students go to study or simply pass the time between classes, requires that their employees have basic experience and knowledge with computers as well as a friendly disposition in order to help other students. According to Sanyo Mathew, coordinator of computer applications, during a typical semester a computer lab assistant works 20 or fewer hours per week. If the lab's employees need more hours, they are allowed to do more than the standard 20 hours during the summer.

According to Andre Rodriguez, the coordinator for audio/visual services, an A/V employee primarily sets up the equipment needed for events on and around campus. Equipment such as projectors, laptops, microphones, screens and the audio system has to be set up by the time the event begins. Afterward, they speak with the customer to make sure all their needs were met.

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Halo 3 Beta

KEVIN CASTRO
Contributing Writer

This past May, developer Bungie Software and publisher Microsoft released the most anticipated, Xbox live-play-only game this year, Halo 3, a public beta, for the highly anticipated Halo 3 being released Sept. 25, 2007.

The beacon – July 2, 2007
www.beaconnewspaper.com

In the beta, some of the new weapons introduced include: a quick boost skyward and the portable Grav Lift that allows for a quick boost skyward and the possibility of an attack from an unexpect- ed angle. The weapons introduced include: a quick boost skyward and the portable Grav Lift that allows for a quick boost skyward and the possibility of an attack from an unexpected angle. The weapons introduced include:

- Phozons have multiple uses from strengthening your weapon to powering spells and even aiding in the growth of plants for recovering items. Combat must also be handled with care as attacking too much or at the wrong time can leave you exposed, especially in large groups of foes.
- Graphic ally, Odin Sphere is beautiful to admire. The exquisite full orchestral score of Hiroshi Sakimoto; musical arrangements range from grand regal processions to thunderous war marches. The fully-voiced dialogue is offered in both English and Japanese and both are handled very well, further adding life to the character.
- While the game is easy to pick up, it can be quite a challenge even early on. Bosses are large and the enemies gather in mobs that can overwhelm in short order. The lim- ited inventory space and occasional in-game slowdown from so much activity onscreen can be a hindrance to the player – load times are frequent and at times lengthy across all transitions, from new-areas to scripted scenes.

Take Advantage of Life!
The Life! section is looking for moti-vated students to fill the following positions:
- Assistant Life! Editor
- Writers

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Bookstore, computer lab among campus sites for job prospects

JOBS, page 5

"I do primarily audio/visual work, so my first event was a Vocal arrangement of the piece, which is a Memory of the Life. One of the goals the GC has in mind when hiring their employees, according to Hamilton, is to meet everyone from Gloria Este- many fields. As they are now, Odin Sphere shows the possibilities of how far 2-D art in video games can go if developers and others are willing to embrace it.

"I get recognized by a bunch of people on campus. People come up to me and are like ‘Oh My God! the hub of the map. Out of all of the maps, this one offers the most versatile and abundant collection of battle space, weapons, equip- ment and vehicles. In the beta, some of the new weapons introduced include: the portable Grav Lift that allows for a quick boost skyward and the possibility of an attack from an unexpected angle. The weapons introduced include:

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2007 NBA Draft full of trades, surprising selections

DRAFT, page 8

have selected him. Durant is an offensive machine that handles like a point guard, rebounds like a dominant center and has unlimited range on his jumper. You can build strength, but you cannot teach the killer instinct that Durant has.

Joining Durant in Seattle next season will be Jeff Green – the combo forward from Georgetown University.

Green, who is an exceptional passer for a big man, was elected 5th overall by the Boston Celtics, but was the key part of a draft trade that sent former Sonics All-Star Ray Allen to Boston.

For the past five seasons, the Atlanta Hawks have consistently gone after forwards in the draft, and this year was no exception.

With the third overall pick, the Hawks selected Al Horford from the two-time defending champion University of Florida Gators. At six-foot, 245, Horford has an NBA ready body. His tenacity on the boards, soft touch around the rim and maturity should blend well with a young, athletic cast in Atlanta – who used its 11th pick to grab six-three scoring guard Acie Law from Texas A & M University.

Horford wasn’t the only member of the Gators to catch the top ten in the draft. Corey Brewer, whose game is a blueprint of Scottie Pippen’s, was selected 7th by the Minnesota Timberwolves, and the energetic Joakim Noah will join a rising team in the Chicago Bulls after being selected ninth.

With the sixth pick the Milwaukee Bucks took its chances with seven-foot Chinese forward Yi Jianlian.

The Charlotte Bobcats used its eighth pick to grab forward Brandon Wright from North Carolina and the Sacramento Kings picked up versatile center Spencer Hawes from Washington to round out the stellar top ten.

After an embarrassing exit from the playoffs last season, the Miami Heat traded both of its picks. With the 20th selection overall the Heat selected Jason Smith – a smooth power forward from Colorado State University, who was traded to Philadelphia minutes later for Ohio State guard Daequan Cook.

Smith, in my mind, was a wise choice for the Heat frontline with the aging pieces of Shaquille O’Neal and Alonzo Mourning. With their 39th pick, the Heat grabbed Russian center Stanis Barok but then traded him to the Indiana Pacers.

For a team that didn’t even have a draft pick, the New York Knocks still managed to make draft day headlines.

The Knicks and Blazers cut a deal that sent big man Zach Randolph along with Dan Dickau and Fred Jones to New York for guard Steve Francis and Channing Frye. The Knicks finally have a dominant offensive force on the front line to complement guard Stephon Marbury.

Look for the 12th overall pick by Philadelphia, Thaddeus Young; Julian Wright, the raw forward from Kansas who went one spot back to New Orleans; the newest Los Angeles Clipper in Al Thornton, who had a dominant senior year at Florida State; for New Jersey; for the 39th pick, the Heat grabbed Robert Horry.

The 2007 NBA draft class has more potential stars and impact players than any draft preceding it.

Garcia should not assume blamed for FIU’s past mistakes

SCHOLARSHIPS, page 8

for slacking in the world of academia and not exactly Ivy League caliber.

The newcomer in the athletic department shouldn’t, however, be held accountable for the sins of the former administration. While they put forth effort in the classroom.

At least a moderate attempt must be made by the players in order to succeed. If they don’t, then it is up to Garcia and the rest of the coaches to hold them accountable for grades. Garcia should not assume blamed for FIU’s past mistakes.
After a disastrous season for the football team resulted in a winless year, the firing of the head coach and a brawl that landed FIU onto national news for days for all the wrong reasons, the NCAA has swept through with an academic evaluation and left destruction in its wake. The damage imposed onto not only football but basketball and baseball as well.

The Academic Progress Rate is a study done over the past three years of NCAAt teams that evaluates the graduation rates and academic standings of student athletes.

FIU’s performance is one to be forgotten as they will eventually lose 12 scholarships: nine scholarships in football, two in men’s basketball and one in baseball. The NCAA currently has retrieved nine scholarships from FIU. The remaining three scholarships will be lost in the Fall semester.

FIU also finished in the bottom fifteenth percentile as a whole and the bottom 10th percentile in baseball. Add it up, and FIU has nearly lost as many scholarships as any other Division I school.

The damage imposed onto not only football but basketball and baseball as well.

Although nine of the first 13 picks taken in the draft were forwards, the biggest buzz was undoubtedly around Greg Oden – the dominant center from Ohio State University. As expected, the Portland Trailblazers selected the seven-footer with the first overall pick. The 19-year-old stud posted modest averages of 15.7 points, 9.6 rebounds and 3.3 blocks per game in a freshman season while recovering from wrist surgery.

Oden can be a game changer on both ends of the floor right away and as long as he improves his footwork, offensively; he should be a star in the league for many years to come. I look for his game to flourish as he improves his footwork, offensively; he should be a star in the league for many years to come.

The Academic Progress Rate, which measures how well student-athletes are staying on course to graduate, was released recently by the NCAA. The NCAA rates teams over a three-year period and determines graduation rates and academic standing of student-athletes.

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