Some Things Never Change

There are no cuts allowed: Students wait in a long line outside the FIU Bookstore Sept. 4, on the last day they can return textbooks they purchased Fall 2007 for a full refund.

Christina Veiga, Asst. News Director

Women's mentoring program provides guidance

Christina Veiga
Asst. News Director

Living in what seems to be a man's world, the Women's Center at FIU is working to give female students an upper hand through their Mentoring Partnerships Program.

The program is meant to provide female students at FIU with a sense of belonging at the University, networking opportunities, as well as provide guidance and support for the student with their current schooling and future career choices.

"The value of a mentor relationship is that it differs from one with a professor, advisor or friend," said Browne Barres, coordinator for the Women's Center and the Center for Leadership. "You can get friendly [with your mentor] but you can also gain experience in things that interest you."

The program matches students to mentors based on the student's career goals, the mentor's experience in a career that interests the student and life experiences.

The pairing also takes into account technical factors, such as convenience to meet at the University Park or Biscayne Bay campus. Pairs are required to meet at least once a month, but can meet as often as the couple deems necessary.

"Once we get the pairs together, it's really up to them. We just facilitate the matching," Barres said.

There will be an information session for UP participants on Sept. 21 and a Mentoring Gala on Sept. 26.

The events are for students to meet with their mentors, discuss their goal and to network. ABC will not be holding any formal events, but are welcome to attend the events at UP.

Though not new, the program is gaining attention according to Raquel Wright, a graduate assistant for the Women's Center. There is no application for the program because everyone is accepted and there is no capacity limit.

Mentors will include chief financial officers, FIU professors and more, according to a press release. There will be more information available at www.fiu.edu/women.

The deadline to return forms is Sept. 14 at 4 p.m. For more information call the Women's Center at 305-348-1506.

Andrew Leins
Staff Writer

Not only is Howard Rock an American History professor, he has brought about change as a member of the Faculty Senate. He has most recently taken part in a lawsuit against the Florida Legislature over the control of the state's public universities.

"The tuition increase that was vetoed by Governor [Charlie] Crist amounted to $10 per course, that's like one trip to McDonald's. The universities in Florida are under-funded and a tuition increase will help students," Rock said.

Aside from serving on the Faculty Senate for 25 years, Rock was also on the FIU Board of Trustees and the Florida Board of Governors from 2003 to 2004. He did this because he wanted different focuses throughout his life. Rock will be retiring after this Spring; he plans to spend his retirement writing another book on the history of New York in the time of Jefferson, among other things.

"I have the greatest respect for what Professor Rock has done. He has been an extremely effective spokesperson for the faculty and universities at the local, as well as the statewide level," said Bruce Hauptli, chair of the Faculty Senate and professor of philosophy.

Rock also founded the Faculty Club in the Graham Center where all meetings are held.

Andrew Leins
Staff Writer

FUU is not cutting anything during Financial Aid week, according to the Office of Financial Aid.

"It's a period during which the Office of Financial Aid will be in touch with every student. We're not cutting anything," said Raquel Wright, a graduate assistant for the Office of Financial Aid.

"There is more information available at www.fiu.edu/financialaid.

Andrew Leins
Staff Writer

No cuts allowed: Students wait in a long line outside the FIU Bookstore Sept. 4, on the last day they can return textbooks they purchased Fall 2007 for a full refund.
Exhibit reveals propaganda in children’s books

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO Contributing Writer

It’s hard to believe that books with passages such as, “any person who tells us that this war isn’t any of our business doesn’t know what he’s talking about,” can qualify as propaganda. The content of a couple of books at the Wolfsonian’s library presents a variety of books, such as an encyclopaedia before. “I look forward to the exhibition,” Modesto A. Maidique, the director of communications for the BOG State University System. A statement released Sept. 6 from the Office of the Chancellor said that the university was able to make an option, according to Jordan.

By the content in the exhibition is Professor Brian Peterson from the History Department at FIU. An expert on Nazi Germany and Soviet Communism, Peterson explained that propaganda was a big thing during the Nazi and Soviet totalitarian regimes, which he said tried to control everyone’s thinking and life. “They especially wanted to get to children while they were young,” Peterson said. He mentioned that youth programs like the American Boy Scouts were also popular ways of fostering nationalist sentiments in the children. The Nazi version of the Boy Scouts was called the Hitler Youth. While there were similarities between American, Nazi and Soviet propaganda, Peterson added that the dividing line seems to be setting the children against their parents, something that was encouraged in totalitarian states.

Peterson mentioned a famous story from the Soviet Union involving a peasant boy who reports his father for anti-communist sentiments to Soviet authorities. The boy was considered a hero by the community.

While the exhibit at the Wolfsonian only has 23 books, it can be considered a preview to an enlarged exhibition that will open December at the Green Library on Campus Park and which will also include a wide range of contemporary books, war games and three-dimensional propaganda pieces from the Boer War, WWI and WWII.

“It will be a different look at propaganda and censorship. Posters and usual advertisement make [propaganda] seem more adult,” said Althea "Vicki" Silvera, the department head and university librarian of the Special Collections section of GL.

“A. I am for ADO!: An alphabet book displays Hitler, Goring and Goebbels in stocks on its cover.”

Distributed courtesy of the Wolfsonian/Bacigalupo

**NEWSFLASH**

Student claims to have been assaulted in Graham Center

A female student said she was assaulted while she and a male student were talking for their organization at the Graham Center Sept. 5.

According to the female victim, she was promoting her organization, A.S.W.E., as a counter-recruiting against the armed forces group in the GC that day.

While she and the male students were speaking to a representative from the armed forces group, a male student with tattoos and a camouflage backpack, approached their table and ripped down one of the victim’s posters while passing by.

According to the victims, the man proceeded to push the female victim and insult her but eventually walked away after the male victim succeeded in pushing him away from the female victim.

Later on, both victims went to the Green Library after they had finished talking and saw the man again. Afraid he was following her, the female victim said she called Public Safety to file a report at about 2:38 p.m. because the male victim had left at 3 p.m. class. She said she called Public Safety again at 3:15 p.m. to see if someone had been dispatched to her location and was told someone had been dispatched at 3 p.m. A Public Safety officer did not arrive at the scene until 3:25 p.m. according to the female victim.

According to Public Safety’s 2007 Case Log, the crime was filed as an information crime. No one from Public Safety would comment on the incident, saying the case is still under investigation.

--- Compiled by Nicole Acosta

**UNIVERSITY BUDGET**

**Berkman: We hope Legislature honors budget commitments**

**BUDGET, page 1**

Gov. Crist’s plan and go back on its agreement, FIU will not be able to afford the College of Medicine on schedule and the University would not have any legal recourse. “We’re hoping the Legislature honors their commitment in the budget,” Berkman said.

Although the Legislature has made no mention on whether the development of either school will be postponed indefinitely, Maidique has faith that both are still top priorities.

“I’m absolutely convinced we have the support from the College of Medicine,” said Maidique. “I’m absolutely convinced we have the support from the Legislature to continue.”

Director of Communications for the BOG State University System.

FIU has already hired a faculty and signed an affiliation agreement with Jackson Memorial Hospital to provide care to the indigent. FIU has also received approval for an accreditation site visit by the Liaison Committee for Medical Education, the accreditating agency in medical education for the College of Medicine, according to Maidique. "We have the first of our two proposed cuts equal $227 million or 28 percent of all of Gov. Crist’s proposed cuts. "We didn’t expect to be in a special place [where we would not receive any cuts]," Edmonds said. "But we don’t see this as our fair share."

A special session of the Legislature to address the budget was scheduled for later this month but was abruptly cancelled after agreements could not be reached as to how the cuts should be handled accordingly to Berkman.

"While no plans have been made, a proposed trip to Tallahassee for the next Legislature meeting has been made an option, according to Jordan.

Of all the Universities that have specific line item cuts proposed by Gov. Crist, FIU has the most. The University of Central Florida and Florida State University have two.

From the direct proposed cuts, FIU would have stood to lose approximately $10 million.

In the Sept. 6 press release, Maidique encouraged those students who wish to voice their concerns or opinions directly, to contact their elected officials at http://government.fiu.edu.

**ATM contracts up for bidding**

**BANK FEES, page 1**

director of Business Services at University Park campus, the contract for all banking services at FIU are being put on bid through a Request for Proposal. The RFP is sent by the University Credit Union to potential vendors to specify what services the University desires, such as banking, credit cards, etc. The bids will be put out to potential vendors to respond and allows the University to decide whether or not to start negotiations with the potential vendors.

"We’re doing research to determine what is out there," said Jordan.

"We will be putting the credit service out to bid along with banking services such as credit cards, etc. The bid itself will be more attractive to investors."

The Office of Business Services declined a second interview and referred questions to the Office of Mediation.

According to Media Relations, although business services was first trying to compose the RFP in-house, the task has been outsourced.

"[Business Services] has abandoned the effort to put together an RFP in-house and are now in the process of hiring a consultant who specializes in that area." Media Relations said in an e-mail.

Townsend was on vacation and was not available to answer follow-up questions on what this meant.

Currently, the bank that FIU affiliates with and promotes for student use is the University Credit Union while Bank of America offers banking services to FIU. The lease for the space the University Credit Union occupied was up in September 2006 and is currently operating on a month-to-month contract that can expire at any time.

Marbely Hernandez, president of UP-Student Government Council, who represents the student body communicator for the state University, has already worked on some ways of improving the services available through the Panther Card.

Hernandez is interested in offering services such as meal equivalency and the ability to use the card as a debit card outside of the University.

"It would be good to have a way of making it available around town so students could be able to use banks at the mall or other areas around town without worrying," Hernandez said.
The recording Industry Association of America sent 433 pre-lawsuit letters to university students in late April. Sixteen of the letters were sent to FIU.

The RIAA figured out the 16 students’ Internet Protocol and MAC addresses that they used on FIU’s wireless network. The RIAA approached FIU with the addresses and the university turned over the students’ identities after a subpoena was issued.

There’s certainly room for debating whether file sharing should really be illegal, and even whether it’s right for the RIAA to collect settlement money on behalf of artists. But it’s not really up to FIU to arbitrate that debate. FIU’s actions in turning over the students’ identities to the RIAA were appropriate. As a public institution, it must comply with copyright laws, regardless of any philosophical debates on file sharing.

As far as the 16 students who received the letters go, they got what was coming to them. Illegal file sharing is wrong, plain and simple. What makes it even worse is that these students were using public resources to engage in illegal activities.

As a public university, FIU is an extension of the state - the same state that makes the laws and enforces them.

If you carry out illegal activity using a state-owned network and you get caught, well, you asked for it.

Football team’s success should be measured in future, not present

Penn State welcomed new head football coach Mario Cristobal and his staff with a 59-0 loss Sept. 1.

Though the loss was a hoopla, Kansas and the University of Miami were a few more students waiting in line for the same reason. Students at a disadvantage from the standpoint of fans, students, faculty and alumni should expect; especially coming from a young team with an inexperienced coaching staff.

The following three games should offer no different outcome since they come against established football programs: Maryland, Kansas and the University of Miami. When witnessing the struggles and shortcomings of the team this year, one should look to the glimmers of hope that each game produces because the success of the program hinges on the future, not the present.

It’s obvious that Athletic Director Pete Garcia and Cristobal are building this team for the future. With success comes not only glory and veneration, but money; Athletics gives a university a face and platform, as well as a means of generating profit for a university that’s already tight for money.

Money received from alumni donations can help fund other programs and schools, not just Athletics.

With such a heavy emphasis being placed on football - $31 million dollar stadium, new coaches and better training facilities - students, faculty, administration and alumni will be looking for the investment’s return immediately. Hopefully it will come sooner rather than later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Do you think the Office of Financial Aid is doing a good job?

Yes – They are reliable when it comes to notifying students about deadlines and helping meet financial needs.

Yes - It is not their fault some students cannot get their papers in on time. They disburse funds in a reasonable amount of time.

I don’t care either way.

No – They consistently fail to notify students about deadlines and missing documentation.

No – They take forever to disburse left over funds and ignore the needs of the student body.

Financial aid falls short in notifying students of problems

The lines, the wait for reimbursement and the urgent need to pay tuition in fear of being dropped from classes can become a nightmare for students who deal with the Office of Financial Aid.

Away on vacation and lacking access to the Internet, Jonny Garcia, a junior, was unaware his application for financial aid was unprocessed and incomplete.

Since the Office of Financial Aid never told him he was missing paperwork, Garcia was dropped from all his classes.

The damage to his schedule was irreparable and it was up to Garcia to pick up the pieces. He was left with no choice but to re-enroll in all his classes, which by then were all full.

It seems the Office of Financial Aid is doing just about everything wrong: flawed customer service, poor communication with students, over-complicated application processes, and long waits to fix problems.

For example, why make students wait in line just to turn in a few sheets of paper with some signatures?

According to Garcia, there were a few more students waiting in line for the same reason.

Rather than having students make the long line, they could have an inbox where students can simply drop their documents, to be collected and processed throughout the day.

Lines would be shorter and students who have been dropped from classes can instead use the time they spend waiting to fix their schedules.

No e-mails were sent to notify Garcia about his situation.

He had to dig into Pantheorsf to find out what was going on with his tuition payment.

“If someone has never been to Pantheorsf they would never know about the ‘To Do List’ [feature in the software].

“People might think they can create an agenda for themselves or something” he said.

But as far as sending students e-mails goes, it seems the Financial Aid office is inconsistent with its methods.

I remember receiving an e-mail from them sometime in the Spring semester telling me what papers I had to turn in for my money to be disbursed for the fall.

But why didn’t Garcia receive a similar e-mail?

It’s because the Office of Financial Aid doesn’t stick to one consistent method of notifying students of the status of their financial aid application.

There’s not one consistent place where students can go to find out if their application’s missing something.

Students can’t know if they have a hold on their account unless they’re persistent enough in periodically checking Pantheorsf.

Most FIU students work either part time or full time while managing to study full time.

Students need to design their schedules in advance and resolve any conflicts that arise between school and work.

The Office of Financial Aid may or may not be aware of this, but they can do serious damage to a student when they decide to drop all of his or her classes.

It wouldn’t hurt to figure out a way to work with, and not against, students when it comes to resolving financial aid issues.

As Garcia suggested, there are better ways to handle these cases.

“Can’t financial aid give you the option to hold your classes until you pay either your tuition in full or a certain amount to keep those classes?”

We are all here to get an education to start a career in the near future.

But to get an education at FIU, students must also invest their efforts on jumping bureaucratic hurdles while managing to not drop their baton, or in this case, their classes.

The amount of red tape there is to trip over at FIU puts students at a disadvantage from the race’s start.

Classes are hard enough. Administrative red tape shouldn’t make getting an education even harder than it already is.

DISAGREE?

PUT YOUR OWN OPINION ON OUR PAGE.

Stop by our offices at GC 210 at University Park or WUC 124 at the Biscayne Bay Campus and fill out an application.
LUCIA SASTRE PATTARINO
Contributing Writer

With summer vacation over, most students forget that hot days still linger on until the end of September. Finding a cool spot at FIU may seem like a pretty hard task, but if one knows where to look, avoiding those hot and sticky moments can be a lot easier.

CAMPUS POOLS

Located in University Park’s housing quad, the Panther Hall Pool is open to all FIU students and staff. Although it may seem difficult at first to juggle classes and find time to walk over to the pool, students such as Sara Lopez find the trek rewarding.

“Since I’ve been going to the pool during my free time, I’ve noticed a shift in my moods,” Lopez said. “All of a sudden I feel happier and less uncomfortable. The horrible heat usually made me cranky and left me feeling like I needed to shower three times a day.”

The Biscayne Bay Campus has a pool of its own: a 50-meter Olympic-sized one adjacent to the Wolfe University Center. According to the FIU Recreation Services website, www.fiu.edu/~camprec, that pool is currently closed for repair and renovation.

Panther Hall Pool hours are Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. on Sundays.

STARBUCKS

For students who are tired of running to the water fountain, Starbucks is one option when seeking a flavorful drink.

With two Starbucks located on UP (one on the second floor of Bookstore and the other on the first floor of the Green Library), hundreds of students line up throughout the day to grab a Frappuccino or iced coffee to stay cool and awake.

“As soon as I walk into Starbucks, the smell of freshly brewed coffee and the cozy atmosphere instantly comforts me,” said student Juan Mendez. “I love having a place to relax after a long day. Even the people that work there are friendly and efficient. The line always goes fast and I never have to wait too long.”

ROCKING TABLES

Hiding from the sun while still being outside is not impossible. The rocking tables located near the fountain between Primera Casa, the Graham Center and GL, are open to anyone regardless of time of day. The tables are highly popular, however, so students have to be in search of an empty one. Because of their covered roofs, the tables are an ideal location for students such as Carlos Ninao, who uses them for a daytime break.

“I usually take a 15 minute nap in these rocking tables – that gets me through the day and relaxes me,” said Ninao. “The weather there is perfect.”

A breeze usually swings by making it a perfect spot for having lunch or doing homework.

GREEN LIBRARY

“Every time I walk into the Green Library, I can’t help feeling alleviated,” said student Felicia Rodriguez. “It is like jumping into a pool or strolling in the rain after a walk in the desert.

With spacious commodities, Green Library is the place to be when heat overpowers the air. With numerous computers and seating arrangements, Rodriguez names the Green Library as her destined spot for a hot summer day.

“When I’m in a hurry to get some reading done, and I can’t seem to find a spot outside due to the weather,” she said. “I quickly stroll to the seventh floor of the library. The view from up there leaves you speechless, and the environment is perfect for studying.”

WATER FOUNTAINS

Water is essential for survival, and it’s especially helpful for these hot summer days.

In nearly every building on campus, there are water fountains for thirsty students on the run.

Business major Laura Menard finds the fountains useful because they are everywhere and allow her to refill her water bottle throughout the day without having to buy a new drink each time she’s thirsty.

“I love the fact that water is free,” she said. “I don’t want to be paying for water when you can actually find it free as you walk FIU ground. I just bring my bottle from home and refill it every chance I get…can’t get easier than that.”
Internships key to finding job

SHANNON FALLON Contributing Writer

It’s back to school time and many students are thinking about classes and enhancing their experience within the work field. According to business magazine Forbes, one of the best ways for college students to succeed and advance their careers is to work as an intern, which allows students the opportunity to build up their resumes, gain hands-on work experience and network.

Lorenzo Rodriguez, a Communication major, interned for a semester with the Walt Disney World College Program in Orlando. "My favorite part of my job was that I got to introduce the ride and give a little speech before the ride began...it was never boring. I mean, I would look next to me and Pluto was my co-worker. I got to live on my own and experience a real work life."

Although internships might not always involve working with your favorite cartoon character, they could be used as a stepping stone for an ideal job. Here are some ways college students have been landing internships and jobs.

Career Services, located in Graham Center Room 230, offers a variety of resources including resume critiquing, interview coaching, and opportunities to intern with prospective employers. The office provides students with two types of services: basic services and career success services; the latter requires a one time fee of $20 and provides wider access to resources for finding an immediate job. Career Services has particularly proven useful for those students who live in the residence halls with no means of transportation. "I live on campus and don’t have a car this year," said freshman Daniel Martinez. "My financial aid barely covers my housing, so I need to make some extra cash. My peer advisor told me to look into career services for on-campus work. So, right now they’re helping me to get a job...".

Aside from visiting Career Services, talk to students, professors and family members who may be able to recommend you for an internship or help you find one -- you might be surprised by the people you know.

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"Love of the game" brings columnist to Las Vegas

Lives of Experience

Las Vegas. We all think of going there, taking in the sights and winning it all on the strip. That wasn’t why I was there, though.

Not for the slots. Not for the roulettes or 3D placeholders such as Will Smith. Of course, the trip wasn’t all just for the thrill of digital combat and the $5000 pot for 1st place. I finally had the chance to meet people I’ve talked about with others. I’ve seen matches on Youtube. But this year, it was different.

I was finally able to experience the Ninth EVO Championships in person: I had the opportunity to compete in EVO for Virtua Fighter 5, even if it was just to see how I’d fare compared to the rest of the world.

Just waiting for a match to start was enough to make me uneasy about my skills as a player. I qualified for the semi-finals but didn’t last too long after that. Considering some of my competition consisted of some of the top players from the United States and Japan, I had no regrets. At least I could say I did my best and I have all the reason to come back next year even better.

Of course, the trip wasn’t all just for the thrill of digital combat and the $5000 pot for 1st place. I finally had the chance to meet people I’ve talked to through the internet for years face to face and play casual matches in games that only few have even heard of and exchange stories.

This is what it was about. These were people like me who saw video games as more than just a fad or a pasttime. It was something understood on another level that few can relate to.

Some have come to this very event for years to either face victory or defeat in a matter of minutes that could seem like an eternity with thousands of eyes watching every move. As fun as the environment is, just about anything can happen.

You name it. Close calls. Clutch plays. Upsets. It’s all there and why?

For love of the game and victory. I didn’t know what to expect when I first came to Vegas and my 1st EVO, but now I can only wonder when and if I’ll ever get to come back to fight next year, providing my game of choice is offered as a major tournament and not just about anything can happen.

‘Love of the game’ brings columnist to Las Vegas.
Panthers host Maryland

DARREN COLLETTE
Staff Writer

Coming off the worst margin of defeat in school history, a 59-0 drubbing at the hands of Penn State, the Golden Panthers will come home to take on yet another formidable opponent, the University of Maryland Terrapins. Despite last week’s poor performance, the Golden Panthers’ defense managed to find success to begin the game. The defense played well on first and second downs and on offense Wayne Younger did pass for over 100 yards. However, the Panthers turned the ball over five times, gave up 549 total yards and rushed for negative three yards.

Despite what happened against Penn State, the Golden Panthers can come into the Maryland game with more confidence. This game will be played at the Orange Bowl against a familiar team who FIU almost defeated last season. In last season’s game, the Panthers saw the Maryland Terrapins lead by quarterback Jordan Steffy, who completed 19 of 24 passes and passed for 178 yards. Steffy also gained 45 yards rushing on eight carries, including a 10-yard touchdown run. After turning the ball over five times and fumbling six, the Panthers must avoid more turnovers.

Cornerback Lionell Singleton was responsible for three of these fumbles and must protect the ball better in the future. The ground game will also need to gain a lot more than negative three yards if they hope to win. The secondary needs to get on the same page because against Penn State they gave up over 300 passing yards. Offensively, the Panthers will be facing a defense that only gave up one touchdown last week.

After the loss to Penn State, head coach Mario Cristobal went on to say, “We made the typical young team errors. We gave the ball up in our own territory when we showed early on that we could do some things to kind of irritate their offense. We have to go back and make sure that we coach better, that we play better, make sure that our young guys play like they are older guys.”

According to Cristobal, the Panthers need to defend better. Miami, Florida

FOOTBALL NOTEBOOK

Despite last week’s poor performance, FIU will need to shutdown Maryland’s offense. We have to go back and make some things to kind of irritate their offense. We have to go back and make sure that we coach better, that we play better, make sure that our young guys play like they are older guys.”

The Panthers will be facing a defense that only gave up one touchdown last week. Offensively, the Panthers will be facing a defense that only gave up one passing touchdown last week.

With the Canes gone, this will likely be the last season of football played at the Orange Bowl after 70 years of storied football. Opened in 1937, the Orange Bowl has hosted five Super Bowls, the Miami Dolphins from 1966 until 1987, and the Miami Hurricanes to this day. The stadium seats 72,319. The FIU players will call “home” the same field that football legends Joe Namath and Franco Harris have once played on. That eyecare, however, is a drastic upgrade for the FIU faithful, who have once played on the same sidelines that legendary coaches Bear Bryant, Joe Paterno and Lou Holtz have roamed.

Take away the history of the Orange Bowl and you have a decaying mass of rusted metal that many MIami residents consider an eyesore. That eyecare, however, is a drastic upgrade for the FIU faithful, who are proud to call the Orange Bowl grounds into a baseball only facility for the team. With the Canes gone, this will likely be the last season of football played at the Orange Bowl after 70 years of storied football.

The stadium is in the heart of Miami and will be imposing for opponents coming in from cities like Lafayette, Louisiana and Denton, Texas. It’s not like the OB has to travel to the Gables and set up shop on UM’s campus. It is possible that the Orange Bowl will be destroyed after the college season ends. If so, the OB and UM will play on a temporary facility. Whether the OB is destroyed or whether it is an upgrade from “The Cage” is an uncertainty. One thing is sure, the OB is the Golden Panthers’ home this season.

THE LAST HOSTS: FIU and UM players scramble for a loose ball during last season’s game in the Orange Bowl. While they were rivals last season, the two teams will share the stadium for their home games during the stadium’s final season.

Orange Bowl a better home for Panthers than ‘Cage’

OB, Page 8

“advantage” has simply never existed. FIU had the 10th lowest average attendance in all of Division I-A football over the last two seasons according to the Indianapolis Star. In fact, the 2005 and 2006 two-year attendance average of 15,170 (15,147 and 15,193 respectively) was just a shade above the requisite 15,000 that each school needs to keep Division I-A eligibility.

With nothing to lose after a wireless 2006 campaign and a $31 million football facility on its way, new head coach Mario Cristobal and his football team have an opportunity to win some games in a football stadium ripe with history – even if that stadium is the home of the Canes.

The Orange Bowl is well past its prime as a premier football venue. The University of Miami has decided that the 2007 season will be its last season at the historic stadium. The Canes will begin play at the newly renovated Dolphins Stadium in 2008, as the Florida Marlin and the city of Miami are in the planning stages to convert the Orange Bowl grounds into a baseball only facility for the team.

With the Canes gone, this will likely be the last season of football played at the Orange Bowl after 70 years of storied football. Opened in 1937, the Orange Bowl has hosted five Super Bowls, the Miami Dolphins from 1966 until 1987, and the Miami Hurricanes to this day. The stadium seats 72,319. The FIU players will call “home” the same field that football legends Joe Namath and Franco Harris have once played on. Head coach Cristobal will walk the same sidelines that legendary coaches Bear Bryant, Joe Paterno and Lou Holtz have roamed.

Take away the history of the Orange Bowl and you have a decaying mass of rusted metal that many Miami residents consider an eyesore. That eyecare, however, is a drastic upgrade for the FIU faithful, who have been relegated to “The Cage” since the inception of the football program. FIU should be proud to call the OB “home.”

And in a strange turn of events, FIU will be the last team to call the historic Orange Bowl “home,” as UM plays their last home game of the season on Nov. 10, and while FIU continues to play there until the season finale against North Texas on Dec. 1.

Second, the players should relish in the fact that they are playing in a true college football stadium even if it lacks the modern amenities found in most stadiums around the country.

The stadium is in the heart of Miami and will be imposing for opponents coming in from cities like Lafayette, Louisiana and Denton, Texas. It’s not like the OB has to travel to the Gables and set up shop on UM’s campus.

It is possible that the Orange Bowl will be destroyed after the college season ends. If so, FIU and UM will play well to the college football relic. Whether the OB is destroyed or whether it is an upgrade from “The Cage” is an uncertainty. One thing is sure, the OB is the Golden Panthers’ home this season.

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STUDENTS VONLUNTEERS NEEDED to work the press box at the Orange Bowl during FIU home football games. For more information, call Ivan at 305-348-6666
Men's Soccer

Team fails to win home-opening series

SERGIO BONILLA
Sports Editor

Men’s soccer opened their 2007 campaign at home against Bowling Green State University Falcons (1-0-1) Aug. 31 and Missouri-Kansas City Kangaroos (2-0-0) Sept. 2 at University Park.

Both games were defensive droughts fueled by missed scoring opportunities. New head coach Munga Eketebi did not coach the second game due to a funeral service.

FIU, BGSU 0-2 (OT)

The men’s team began the season making numerous inaccurate passes coupled with a lack of conditioning.

Early on, new head coach Munga Eketebi made substitutions to keep his players fresh. For the most part, the Golden Panthers’ passes were too slow and inaccurate. The rusty play from both teams resulted in a defensive struggle, and neither team could capitalize on the few scoring possibilities.

The closest the Golden Panthers came to scoring was when freshman midfielder headed the ball inside the penalty box and did not make contact with the ball. Following his initial miss, he was not able to recover in time to score.

The Falcon's twin brothers Ryan and Alec Perea nearly connected on a pass and shot that hit off the left crossbar. The two teams continued to apply defensive pressure into double overtime, when fatigue dominated the players' offensive game. The second overtime concluded with a 0-0 tie.

The Golden Panthers once again failed to produce enough offense to overcome two opposing goals.

Freshman David Stovall had a clear path to the goal before he stumbled and tripped on the ball. The goal would prove to be essential to the offensively starved club.

On the other hand, the Kangaroos took advantage of two penalty kicks awarded to them in the first half.

The Golden Panthers responded in the second half with sophomore midfielder Juan Guerra setting up in the box and scoring his first collegiate goal.

The team's energy increased after the goal, but not enough to penetrate the Kangaroos' defense to tie the game as the Golden Panthers suffered their first loss of the season-2 to the undefeated Kangaroos.

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Club finds success after second tournament away from home

RENALDO SMITH
Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team is the first fall sport to win a game for FIU this season. The team recorded a 24-8 record in 2006, and have begun their 2007 season away from home until Sept. 14.

The team is currently riding due to a come from behind upset victory over hosts Missouri at the Tiger Invitational this past Sunday. After dropping the first two sets, the Golden Panthers rallied for a 3-2 (18-30, 22-30, 30-24, 30-27, 18-16) victory against a Missouri squad providing the team with a gloriﬁ ed high school football stadium. The first fall sport to win a game for FIU this season.

TOMAC: “We were not consistent at all, and we didn't look like the team we were last year as well. We played one game like we had six All-Americans out there for us, and then in the other game we had a let-
down,” said Tomic. “Championship teams play at a high level all of the time and you can’t have let downs if you want to get to that level. We are working on building that consistancy and we will continue to do so throughout the season,” she said.

Picking up right where she left off last season, sophomore All-American Yarimar Rosa was named the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, and sophomore Olga Vergun joined her on the all-tournament squad.

Against Missouri, Rosa put in a season-high 31-kills, and collected 15 digs for her second double-double of the young season. Vergun was no slouch either as her 22-kill performance cemented her spot on the all-tourney team.

Newcomer 17-year-old freshman setter Natalia Valentin was unflappable in her first career start with 64 assists and 19 digs. Another freshman, Ines Medved also showed that she is ready for the collegiate game with 14 kills and 14 digs of her own.

Anita Szymanska did her part with 12 kills and Senior Alyse Santisi had a team-season high 21 digs in the win.

Tomic says she expected both for her star players to show up and for the supporting cast to have her back.

“Yarimar is a coach’s dream. She is a true team player, and a gifted athlete that always rises to the occasion for us. We know that when we need somebody to make a difficult play we can go to her,” she said.

“We played the best three games so far for the season and I am very happy to see the level of desire and teamwork that our players showed. All of the starters are back from last year and it is a big advantage for us,” she added.

Although all three teams finished with identical 1-1 records, Missouri won by virtue of total games won and lost at a 5-3 mark. The Golden Panthers were 5-5, and Notre Dame finished under .500 at 3-5.

Next up, the Golden Panthers will take the Stetson Invitational on September 8th in Deland Florida, with games slated against Stetson and Oral Roberts. Look for the Golden Panthers to handle Stetson, but the game against the defending champion Oral Roberts, will be anything but easy.

Coach Tomic may continue to toy with the starting lineup a bit, interchanging the young Valentin, and veteran setter Keilia Oliveira to see what works better against different defenses. But stay tuned, if history is an indicator, anything could happen in the quest for consistency.