The Beacon, April 7, 2008

Florida International University

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Painting a cooler globe is possible

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
Staff Writer

Students for Environmental Action is known for protests against the University’s recycling program, but now they can also be recognized as budding artists.

Participating in an innovative project called “Cool – Planet – Earth” and inspired by environmental problems, 15 students have spent a week painting images on crystal glass globes in hopes their brush strokes will depict their impressions of the negative impact of global warming on Earth.

“I’m going to do the typical Earth and chip the paint off so that the ocean is blue and paint bones on the continent to symbolize how the Earth is drying out and dying, sort of like exposed bones,” said Tony Brown, a sophomore.

“Cool – Planet – Earth” is an environmental art contest that aims to bring awareness of environmental issues through an artistic medium. Students attend a class where they are informed about global warming and then asked to express their ideas by painting on crystal globes. SEA is participating in the pilot project. However, like Brown, many students involved in the project are not part of the Environmental Studies Department, nor are they professional artists.

On Friday morning, junior Ali Dutton was huddled on top of her globe, spraying transparent paint-primer that covered it in a milky-white liquid.

“It’s hard. I’m not an artist,” she said.

The students will be judged on three criteria: relevance to the global warming topic, artistic ability and the information reflected on the globe.

Still, Dutton should not worry that her globe might not be ready for an art gallery. The main point of the project is to attract SEA, page 3
An astral affair returns with Saturn, music

STAR PARTY, page 1

to me. We have looked at Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, binary stars, Venus, galaxies, nebula, you name it,” Webb said.

Besides music, this Star Party will focus on the planet Saturn. According to associate professor Caroline Simpson, the ringed planet is a sight to behold.

“Saturn is spectacular though a telescope,” Simpson said. “If you have never seen Saturn through a telescope, you should make an effort to do so.”

Simpson also said in the past, when Saturn was seen through telescopes at the Star Party, viewers accused party hosts of placing a picture of Saturn in front of the lenses.

Everyone who attends the party will have a chance to use 12-inch telescopes and view the gas giant and its famous rings, weather permitting.

Hall commented that Saturn is usually within a good view every two years, but every so often, it will be out of sight for longer periods of time due to its positions behind the Sun.

Telescopes will also be pointed toward the planet Mars, star formation regions and star clusters.

Webb has been hosting two parties on campus every semester since 1995.

“Star parties came about when people got together to look at the stars and planets through telescopes, and just have a great time,” Webb said.

Refreshments for the party will be served in CP 145 where Webb will also be making a brief presentation.

Raffles for various astronomy-related material and Anderson’s music CDs will also be held in CP 145.

The Star Party is open to anyone, according to Webb.

“[Webb] tries to make each Star Party different,” Hall said. “We get a lot of people from the local astronomy clubs.”

For more information on Anderson you can visit her Web site at www.murielanderson.com.

James Webb can be reached webbj@fiu.edu.

STAR-STUDDED EVENING: Artist Muriel Anderson will perform during the Star Party April 11 in the Chemistry and Physics building, room 145.
THIS WEEK ON CAMPUS

MONDAY • APRIL 7
Panther Rage General Meeting:
4 p.m., GC 140

SPC UProar - Listening Party:
6 p.m., GC Pit

Greek Week - Brain Bowl:
6:30 p.m., Lakeview North Lounge

TUESDAY • APRIL 8
Greek Week - Take Back the Night:
7 p.m., GC Ballrooms

SPC UProar - Movie on the Lawn: National Treasur- er:
8 p.m., Housing Quad

WEDNESDAY • APRIL 9
Greek Week - Luau Party:
8 p.m., Soccer Field

GSA Scholarly Forum: 8 p.m. - 9 p.m., GC Ballrooms

SGA General Meeting:
3:30 p.m. - 5 p.m., WUC 155 (BBC)

SGA General Meeting:
4 p.m., GC 140

THURSDAY • APRIL 10
SPC UProar Concert Blowout: OneRepublic & Fabolous:
7 & 10 p.m., GC 140

Activism Awareness Weekend - Discussion:
3 p.m., GC 140

Friday • April 11
SPC UProar Concert Blowout: OneRepublic & Fabolous:
8 p.m., Soccer Field

Activism Awareness Weekend - Concert:
8 p.m., Graecie's Grill

This week on campus.

BUDGET, page 1
The uncertainty that is looming over administration and faculty is creating a nervous atmosphere as many wonder what areas of the University will be affected. Hauptli said, “I must get a rumor a day that such and such is closing, but we’re not going to know just how much we’re going to have to cut yet,” Hauptli said.

The University won’t know how much it will have to cut from its budget until the end of Legislative session in May. As of March 27, the University may have to cut anywhere from 4 to 7 percent of its budget.

Art competition helps shed some light on global warming

The attention of students on campus, said Mildred Real, CEO of Common Ground for Conservation, the non-profit organization that developed the project and who sponsors the event. “Students will ask themselves questions and that’s enough, because for one moment in their lives they’ll be occupied with global warming and the fact that other people are doing something about it,” Real said.

Student attention will be piqued on April 7 when a midday launch into the Green Library lake will present the colorful globes to the University. There, they will bob up and down for the rest of the day. The ceremony will also serve to kick off Earth Week.

At the ceremony, the judging panel will be present, which includes a mix-match of panelists – Regina Bailey, the Wolfson’s Special Projects Coordinator; Joe Martinez, Miami-Dade County’s District 11 Commissioner and Nancy Maidique, University President Modesto Maidique’s wife, among others.

Karen Pannocchia, co-president of SEA, hopes to donate the globes to the exhibit section at GL to continue to generate attention after the globes are removed from the lake. She thinks the diversity reflected by the students participating and their globes is what makes this SEA project unique.

“It’s not only environmental students, its all students. We have students from physics, environmental studies, international relations, business, architecture school – they are all involved and painting a globe,” she said. “It’s beautiful.”

CORRECTIONS

In the issue dated April 4 2008, the graph titled “BBC Lower Division Rep” misspelled Laura Torres’ name.

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

LUNCH WITH MOTHER JONES: A puppet representing child rights activist Mary Harris Jones on display at the Labor Center rally.

TOTAL BUDGET CUTS STILL AN UNCERTAINTY

T oday on the same day of the rally, University Park’s Student Government Council passed a resolution to make the reviewing process for deciding what areas of the University will be affected by the budget cuts more transparent and allow more student input.

“There is a need for transparency, uniformity and student feedback in the decision making process,” said Johnny Betancourt, Arts and Sciences House Representative and sponsor of the bill.

During the Faculty Senate Meeting on March 31, a proposed process for evaluating centers and institutes was explained. The proposal didn’t pass, but is still being deliberated.

• Graduate student support and graduate student productivity
• Average per capita faculty scholarly productivity rates
• Revenue production
• Return on investment as a ratio of external funds to E&G funds, if E&G funds are provided
• Demonstrated interdisciplinary activities
• The degree of congruence of the mission of the center or institute with the University’s strategic themes

The further a center or institute is from full congruence with FIU’s stated missions, the higher the expectation that the center or institute will fulfill the quantitative indices listed above.

Compiled by Kassandra Pool

GIO GUADARRAMA/ THE BEACON

GIO GUADARRAMA/ THE BEACON

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GREAT CAREERS BEGIN AT VICTORIA & ASSOCIATES.
Online survey puts plans for campus child care on hold

PAMELA DUQUE
Staff Writer

Day care at Biscayne Bay Campus has been a need for students who struggle to manage child care between classes and children.

In Jan. 2007, the Student Government Council at BBC took the first step to provide a solution for these parents.

SGC-BBC, with the help of the vice-provost’s office and Office of Student Affairs, created an online survey at the beginning of the Spring 2007 semester. The survey targeted parents in need of a day care service in their area.

This was the first step to find out what the demand for a day care was, according to Camilo Silva, former SGC-BBC’s president.

“The survey was extremely successful. It was performed by a company with a third-party company which compared the results,” Silva said.

Because the results showed that there was not enough need for these services, plans were put on hold.

However, those who depend on child care to be able to attend class still have hope, according to Silva.

“In a future time, if there is a need for the service, SGA will have the opportunity to bring back the initiative and perform another survey and evaluate if a stable demand is present for the service to be implemented,” said Silva, who ended his SGC-BBC presidency in 2007.

Current SGC-BBC president Katiana Saintable agrees there is a need for a day care.

“In my class system, one of the students had to leave immediately to go pick up her children because they are on spring break, and my professor had to come in with her baby. The problem needs to be taken care of now,” Saintable said.

Rachel Badilla, a returning student pursuing her degree in International Relations, is a mother of two who has no choice but to miss class when she can’t find anyone to care for her children.

“It is not just a need while you are in class, but sometimes a parent does not have support or a place to leave their kids when they need quiet time to study.

“If I had a day care on campus that I could resort to when my children are not in school for me to attend class or study, I would gladly use it and pay for it, if needed,” Badilla said.

Faculty and staff also are affected.

Dr. Juliet Pinto, assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication, is a mother of two who would love to have a campus daycare to be closer to her children in case of an emergency, or even to visit them whenever possible.

“I would be very open to [using it] if they started offering child care at BBC. We would certainly consider it,” Pinto said.

While students, faculty and staff who have children would benefit from the use of a day care service at BBC, these parents don’t have time to express their needs, according to Saintable.

Targeting parents directly is the key, according to Saintable.

“The students and faculty who really need the day care are not on campus enough to let people know that it would make their lives easier to have a day care on campus because they are running somewhere to class, and from class to pick up their kids,” Saintable said.

Kayak Club expands adventure to ‘Beer Can Island’

The salty backyard lagoon of the Biscayne Bay Campus has much more to offer than a scenic view.

Kayaking provides students with an alternate workout and a sense of camaraderie.

“Think about this: you had a stressful day at work, so you get to relax and kayak, and spend time with your friends,” said Kayak Club President Matheus Moraes. “It’s a good physical activity and it’s fun.

In conjunction with the Recreation department at BBC, the FIU Kayak Club held a meeting last month at the boat ramp at student union BBC’s dried up pool.

I arrived late and without a partner, but Moraes was happy to accommodate.

I sat in a kayak and waited for my new partner Alex Sergov, a lifeguard at the FIU Recreation Center, to get on board. After our departure, we paddled toward Oleta State Park and took a short break once we reached the mangrove-lined kayak trail.

This allowed enough time to bask in the sunny atmosphere, where the surrounding water was clear and unaffected by the wind.

Jonathan Torrey, recreation specialist for BBC, led the wind kayakers through the narrow trail, instructing them to leave space between one another to minimize collisions.

However, Torrey later revealed the upside of such disasters: "That’s the fun part of it. You get to crash.

One team of kayakers kept colliding with trees and went through the trail’s tunnel bridge backward; they laughed it off.

"When we’re inside the mangrove trail of Oleta Park, I think that’s where the students have the most fun," Torrey said. “They get to bump into the shore and each other, and explore and learn the different fun fundamentals of kayaking like steering."

The group moved quickly through the short, snake-like path and enjoyed observing wildlife such as iguanas, herons and fish. Experiencing the mangrove canopies in this atmosphere imparted a lasting memory of the park’s natural beauty.

At the trail’s end, Torrey halted us for another break and since we had extra time, suggested extending our trip to "Beer Can Island"—something that neither Torrey nor Moraes had done before with the group.

“We wanted to try something new since the trail gets repetitive so we said, ‘Hey, let’s take them to the island,’” Moraes noted.

So for the first time in FIU’s Kayak Club history, Torrey led the kayakers to a small barrier island notorious for being riddled with beer cans.

Throughout the 15-minute paddle to the island we battled sporadic head winds. This was the hardest part of the trek and made for a great workout.

When we arrived at ‘Beer Can Island,’ it was not littered with beer cans, as its name suggested, but rather with kayaks.

At this point, we beached our kayaks and took a 20-minute break to enjoy nature and water in the surrounding water.

We even saw a few fish become lunch for a voracious predator as others jumped out of the water to flee their foe.

"That was the first time I deviated from the original trail to Oleta. I think I’m going to incorporate that into my program because I had a lot of positive feedback," Torrey said.

Leaving the island felt bittersweet as our relaxing trip and upper-body workout came to an end.

Our journey back to campus, though, was much easier with the wind at our backs and well worth our sunburns.

Torrey, with two years experience leading the kayak expeditions, noted, "Today was awesome. Out of ten people, four to five have never kayaked before so they come away with the positive experience.

The next Kayak Club event will take place at noon on April 11. The club will set another benchmark by kayaking to the Historic Blue Marlin Fish House, an outdoor restaurant in Oleta Park.

Those attending should bring drinking water, sun screen, shorts and sandals, and especially their sense of adventure.

“We are surrounded by the beautiful Biscayne Bay and not every school has the pleasure of being able to kayak at any time of the day,” said Torrey.
Asst. Opinion Editor

Contact Us

BBC skybox, an aspect of the athletic campus. Students volunteered to clean up well as spearheading the “Day of Service” movement. Saintable was instrumental in these initiatives, constitu-
tional changes in particular, are signifi cant and will have lasting effects on both the structure of SGA and future generations of students. For this, President Hernandez and her surrogates can ship programs for students, as

These initiatives, constitu-
tional changes in particular, are significant and will have lasting effects on both the structure of SGA and future generations of FIU students. For this, President Hernandez and her surrogates can claim much pride. Across the county, the SGC-BBC administration of Katiana Saintable was marked by several environmental initiatives aimed at the “greening” of the campus. Saintable was instrumental in pushing for the installation of water conserving shower heads at the Bay Vista Housing as well as spearheading the “Day at the Bay” initiative in which students volunteered to clean up the campus.

SGC-BBC was also steadfast in their opposition to the SGC-BBC skybox, an aspect of the athletic partnership that The Beacon strongly opposed. However, the Saintable administration did fail to live up to their campaign prom ise: the opening of a new entrance to the campus on N.E. 135 St.

which previous administrations also failed to accomplish. Both Saintable and Hernandez leave their respective governing councils with a number of chal-

The current administrations from both campuses leave with a record of several notable accomplish-

ments. The outgoing SGC-UP council, headed by Marbely Hernandez and Meyer, can boast that they were the architects of a new SGC-UP constitution which passed with overwhelming student support. They successfully implemented the Panther Tram service, though it was a signifi cantly scaled back version than the one they initially promised.

The Hernandez administration, Meyer especially, was also a strong advocate for the partnership with Athletics which included the use of several athletic venues for on-campus events, but also a contro-

versial skyline box. Hernandez and Meyer also helped implement an on-line voting for SGA elections, a move which no doubt increased voter turnout.

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tional changes in particular, are significant and will have lasting effects on both the structure of SGA and future generations of FIU students. For this, President Hernandez and her surrogates can claim much pride.

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The bananas that helped to pay off this group are the same bananas students happily use for many reasons, including use as potassium supplements.

In mid-March Chiquita, formerly United Fruits, admitted to paying $1.7 million between 1997 and 2004, according to The Associated Press, on March 15 to the United Self-Defense Forces of Columbia – more widely known by the acronym AUC, in exchange for the group’s assurance of stability in the heavily contested area surrounding its most productive banana fields.

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panies like Chiquita because protection payments” are usu-
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Fabolous speaks out about college tour, future plans

University Park is currently in its own version of the music business, as students are gearing up for the annual campus tour. The Beacon had an exclusive interview with Fabolous to discuss the concert tour and his future.

The Beacon: Fab, with all the new acts coming up, how do you stay relevant?

Fabolous: I don’t know how I stay relevant, but I just do. I’m a big fan of the music and I try to work with that. That’s how I find direction with the track. The reaction from my friends or other people that listen to the music helps me too.

The Beacon: Fab, do you own a pair of Crocs?

Fabolous: I do not own a pair of Crocs. It’s the funniest thing, though. I was playing poker and one of the guys next to me had a pair on and it said Crocs, and I was like ‘Oh s—...’ They’re bigger than I thought they were. Now whenever I go, I can’t walk without seeing a pair of Crocs.

The Beacon: What do you think of what’s going on with Britney Spears?

Fabolous: I’m going to be working on the album and my clothing line will be having a big launch in the fall. Also, we’re working on a compilation album with my crew, so that should be out by the end of this year or 2009.

The Beacon: You know, I’ve been talking to a lot of people about this concert and FIU is pretty hyped about it. How did it come together?

Fabolous: It came to me and I thought it was a pretty good thing because it has a different feel than the average tour, being a college tour toward the end of the year. Also, the fusion of OneRepublic and myself where I’m in rap and they’re more of an alternative rock, or pop-rock, whatever you want to call it, I think that’s cool. It brings together different influences and it gives them a chance to enjoy both.

The Beacon: What do you think of what’s going on with Britney Spears?

Fabolous: Of course I haven’t lived in Britney’s shoes but I would just let her know that people are praying for her, supporting her. I’ve come from that same space, knowing the pressures of being in the public eye—maybe not at the level of a Britney Spears, but sometimes that support is enough to help somebody out.

The Beacon: Well Fab, I just want to give you an opportunity to give a message to the Golden Panthers.

Fabolous: I definitely appreciate that support, thank you. Keep looking out for that new material and hopefully everyone will enjoy the show.

The Beacon: I know finals are coming soon so everyone is going to want to get off of that for a minute.

Fabolous: Oh yeah man, we’re going to get some of that stress out.

FREE RUNNING, page 8

PHOTOS BY: VICTORIA LYNCH /THE BEACON
R.E.M. has reached a very interesting place. Following a critically panned album, “Around the Sun,” the band has reached a place that is generally reserved for aging rockers and songwriters: praise when they release an album that isn’t terrible.

It isn’t quite the return to form it will likely be labeled as by most critics, but it is at least a conscious attempt by the band to return to the sound that made them one of the most important and popular bands of their time.

Take the opening track, “Living Well is the Best Revenge.” It features that same driving bass and punchy guitar tones that made songs like “What’s The Frequency, Kenneth?” and “Stand” some of the most popular rock singles of the ‘90s.

What is interesting about R.E.M.’s critical reputation is that it usually takes a lot longer for bands to reach the point R.E.M. has.

Paul McCartney and Bob Dylan spent most of the ‘80s being panned by critics before finally regaining their reputations in their ‘50s and ‘60s.

While R.E.M. isn’t a young band, contemporaries U2 are still making music that is relevant and popular.

All aside, the operative phrase when discussing this album has to be “not terrible.”

It is doubtful R.E.M. will ever be able to match the critical or commercial success of late ‘80s and ‘90s output, but it is nice to return to making the pop-rock they are best at.

Lead single “Supernatural Superserious” is classic R.E.M., with lead singer Michael Stipe’s vocals right up front in the mix and Mike Mills’ familiar backing vocals echoing Stipe during the chorus.
Free Running conditions body

It’s like play. People were meant to run jump climb and run. It’s only in today’s world of office buildings and desk that people don’t get exercise.

Mark “M2” Toorock, owner of Primal Fitness, a Free Running gym.

“Free running is a sport that’s been around for hundreds of years. In today’s world, it’s become more popular as people seek a more natural way to exercise.”

Toorock, who has been involved in the sport for several years, says that free running is a great way to stay healthy and fit. “It’s a way to exercise that’s fun and challenging,” he says.

Free running is a sport that involves using a variety of techniques to move from one point to another. This can include running, jumping, climbing, and even using tools like ropes and harnesses.

“Free running is not just about running,” says Toorock. “It’s about using your body to its fullest potential.”

Toorock runs a gym in which he teaches people how to free run. “I want to share my love for the sport with others,” he says.

Free running is a growing trend in many cities around the world. The sport has even been featured on television shows like The Amazing Race.

“Toorock says that the sport is a great way to stay healthy and fit. “It’s a way to exercise that’s fun and challenging,” he says.

New R.E.M. album gains acclaim for not being terrible

R.E.M., page 7

This could have been a single in the early ’90s. It would be easy to call this a return to form, but a more accurate thing to say is that it represents a band realizing that they did something really well, and there isn’t much more that they can do.

R.E.M. has been around for over 30 years, and they’ve never been afraid to experiment with their sound. “Accelerate,” their latest album, is a case in point.

It’s only in today’s world of office buildings and desks that people don’t get exercise.

“Accelerate” features a variety of styles, from rock to country to folk. The result is an album that’s both familiar and fresh.

“It’s a great album that shows that R.E.M. is still one of the best live bands in the world,” says one music critic.

R.E.M. fans are already hailing “Accelerate” as one of their favorite albums. “It’s just what we needed,” says one fan.

For more information on the sport of Free Running and Parkour, visit www.americanparkour.com or www.mpark.com.
Many hidden gems, stories throughout sports season

With every Spring sport more than halfway through its respective season, each team still has a chapter left to complete the 2007-08 season storybook.

Three chapters of the 2008 Spring semester have been stapled together and unread by FIU fans. These hidden chapters chronicle FIU Athletics’ untold stories, including the most skilled, unheralded athletes of 2008.

Here are the best kept secrets of the 2008 spring semester:

**TRACK STAR**

If fans were asked who was the best athlete so far this year, they would probably search the names of players in a football or baseball depth chart. In order to find the year’s best athlete, one would have to search the names of players on a much less recognized team: the men’s track and field team.

Senior Ronald Forbes became FIU’s only All-American Athlete this semester. He holds the school record of 7.28 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle. Forbes, just in the circle of University Park Campus•11200 SW 8th Street•Miami Dade College South Campus•11200 SW 8th Street•Miami

He set the school record in the 50-yard freestyle.

Forbes also holds the school record in the 100-yard freestyle.

Forbes is a four-time All-Sun Belt Conference selection.

Forbes is a record holder.

He is a member of the 2007-08 Sun Belt Conference Champions.

Forbes is the best athlete at FIU.

Forbes is the best athlete at FIU yet due to the national competition he needs to keep up to par with.

However, Forbes has more potential than any other FIU athlete, because she has more accolades and records this year, and she is only a freshman. Forbes is baffling how such a high-caliber student-athlete could be so concealed so well.

There is one common denominator the unknown athletes and teams share: they come from college sports that are not football, basketball or baseball.

**TEAM EFFORT**

Although a 9-6 record pales in comparison to the volleyball team’s 19-8 season, the women’s tennis team has faced stiffer competition than its volleyball counterparts.

This team has faced five top-20 teams this season and is currently ranked No. 39 in the nation. The women’s tennis team takes the spot as the best program in 2007-08.

The one-win football team obviously can’t claim the best team at FIU, the lone-ranked team in FIU Athletics and is currently on a four-game winning streak.

The tennis team the best team at FIU, the tennis team is on the same boat as Ronald Forbes. They are not widely known around the University, just in the circle of athletics department.

**SWIMMING RECORDS**

The trials for the 2008 South African Olympic team featured an FIU representative, freshman swimmer Trudi Maree.

She was already a member of the 2007 South African National Team when she helped propel the team to a gold medal at the All-Africa Games.

She transferred that experience to FIU and it didn’t take long for Maree to get used to competing for the FIU swimming team.

The freshman set school records during her FIU debut in the 500 and 100-yard freestyle competition.

One month later, she outdid herself by breaking her own school record in the 50-yard freestyle.

Throughout the course of the season, Maree has set the 100-yard freestyle record four times.

Maree has more accolades than any other athlete, even more than Ronald Forbes, but she is not the best athlete at FIU yet due to the national competition she needs to keep up to par with.

**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**The Beacon – April 7, 2008**

**www.fiusm.com**
JOHN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Editor

Coming off a pair of walk-off, emotional victories against Florida Gulf Coast, the Golden Panthers (22-23) will begin a three-game series against Florida Atlantic (25-8) on April 5th at University Park.

As much as coach Beth McClendon would like to let her team regroup, they cannot avoid the challenge the Owls will be.

“We would like to take a day off, but we just can’t,” McClendon said. FIU will be facing an FAU team with the most overall wins in the Sun Belt Conference and also the best conference record.

Against FAU, the Golden Panthers will have to prep for a balanced offensive attack that is in the middle of the conference statistically, but has scored timely runs when it has been needed.

The Owls hit .254 on the season but are second in the conference in stolen bases as they have robbed a base 44 times in 48 chances.

FAU has managed to score the third most runs in the Sun Belt due to a consistent effort all season long.

The Golden Panthers have a team earned run average of 3.82, which is last in the conference, and the Owls will look to feast on it.

The talented Owls also get it done on the mound as they are third in the conference in team ERA.

The Owls will try to cool FIU’s bats, who are not far behind Louisiana-Lafayette for second in the Sun Belt, hitting .291.

With a series win, FIU can get comfortable down the stretch knowing that they can defeat a top-tier conference foe.

LANDAU’S BIG DAY

Junior Jessica Landau had two game-winning hits in the series against FGCU. With all of the hits she has had on the season, none were as important as those two, which have given the team new life.

Landau had nine RBI over the two-game series and two home runs to lift her team.

It was the first time this season that a Golden Panther had walk-off hits on back-to-back nights. If the team continues to win more consistently, Landau’s big series will be looked at as a turning point.

SUN BELT SOFTBALL STANDING

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*All records up to date as of April 3

SUN BELT LEADERS

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MAKING A PLAY: Monique White looks to get an out during a recent game. The team has won seven of its last ten.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO

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SECOND CHANCE

CALL UP: Freshman Steven Cabas has been selected to the US U-20 Men’s National Team for the second time. Cabas scored five goals last season for FIU.

SOFTBALL, page 12

standout catcher Tabitha Embry.

Third baseman Jessica Landau tied a program record with six RBI against FGCU.

In the second game against the Eagles, she wrapped up the game with a walk-off three run home run.

Basically, opposing pitchers have to pick their poison when facing the heart of the order.

If outfielder Kim Rodriguez doesn’t deliver, shortstop Monique White will.

If for some reason she doesn’t come through, don’t sleep on Landau, Falk or first baseman Carolina Rojas.

The offensive identity for the Golden Panthers is pretty clear. They can and will out-hit you, and they also have the players that will continuously drive in runs, that’s why they have a team batting average of .291.

Defensively, however, they need to get some things together.

Consider the formidable .291 team batting average. It can be compromised when opponents are allowed to hit .300.

White is great offensively, but she can be just as helpful to the other team when she takes her position out on the field.

She is the only player in the Sun Belt Conference to lead her team in both batting average (.403) and errors (21).

There is more than enough time for the team to address its defensive issues, but time is of the essence.

The team’s 12 remaining regular season games are against Sun Belt Conference opponents.

Solid defense throughout is the only way these Golden Panthers can create some separation between them and the other teams in this highly competitive conference.

Not even spectacular defense is necessary, just enough to take pressure off pitchers Kasey Barrett and Holly Satterfield.

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Softball

Carlos Garcia/Beacon File Photo

Fernando Garcia/THE BEACON FILE PHOTO
Ryan Abbey
Staff Writer

For FIU, losing five out of the first six games of the season with four shutouts thrown in the mix could be a discouraging way to start a season.

An offensive surge and winning seven of their last 10 games has those same Golden Panthers fighting for the top spot in the Sun Belt Conference.

The team that showed up against the Mean Green of North Texas on March 29 was not one that was moping over one of its worst outings of the season against UCF; it was a team that was resilient throughout the first game and infielder Jasmine Parra came within about five feet of tying the game.

No matter what happened, FIU gave North Texas a fight. In the second game, they took the fight to them coming from behind to score 11 runs.

It was the sixth time the Golden Panthers scored 10 or more runs in a game this season.

After picking up two more wins against Florida Gulf Coast, it became official, the team had picked up some steam.

They had also become a viable alternative to the baseball team, who embarrassed themselves by getting pounded 13-2 by the University of Miami.

That match reminded me of a scene where we've been losing, but when you come in, you just come in to attack,” Horstmann said. “I just try to minimize the damage and I don't know... It's just that every time I go out there I try my best.”

Horstmann currently has a 2.89 ERA, the lowest of any Golden Panther pitcher. He has pitched 28 innings, allowed 32 hits and 15 runs. He has struck out 15 batters and walked eight.

More importantly, with senior starter Steven Stewart struggling with an 0-3 record and a 7.58 ERA, Horstmann realistically could be a regular weekend starter if he keeps it up.

“My goal since it’s my last year is to go out there and make the best of everything. I try to enjoy every moment I get out there,” Horstmann said. “If I make it to the rotation, I make it to the rotation. That’s fine. I just love playing the game.”

He hopes to have more of an impact for the remaining games of the season.

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