Paul McCall, making just his second career start, was intercepted twice as the No. 14 ranked Kansas Jayhawks handled the FIU Golden Panthers easily, 40-10, on opening day for both schools, in Lawrence, Kan.

It was the second meeting in as many seasons for the schools, and the Jayhawks (1-0) have outscored FIU (0-1) by a score of 95-13 in the two games.

Wayne Younger, who started last year’s contest between the two for FIU, and who was embroiled in a quarrel with McCall this summer for the starting job, saw limited action, but as FIU managed just 139 yards of total offense on Aug. 30.

“Kansas is a great football team,” FIU head coach Mario Cristobal said. “They were one of the best teams in the country last year and I think they will be this year, too. When you get out here and the speed is turned up about two or three notches, it’s not as quite as slow of a game as it was on the practice field.”

After a sluggish start to the game, the Kansas offense moved up and down the field with the steadiness of a metronome, as junior Jayhawks quarterback Todd Reesing found his rhythm in the second quarter and put together a very solid effort, going 37-of-52 for 256 yards and three touchdown passes, all of which were to Dezmon Briscoe, who hauled in nine passes for 55 yards.

“It was unbelievable,” said Todd Reesing, who threw three touchdown passes to Briscoe. “To play the first game of the season and have the place fill up and have the crowd loud and behind you is something special. I don’t think there’s been a first game here at Kansas in a while that sold out.”

Jeremiah Weatherpoon, intercepted Reesing once, in the fourth quarter, and it was returned for 20 yards.

This was not the only bright spot for the Golden Panther defense, which allowed just 3.8 yards per rush to the Jayhawks, and forced two turnovers, the other coming on Kansas’ opening drive.

Linebacker Scott Bryant forced a fumble on a Kansas territory, but came up empty on a fourth-and-10 punt on the next possession, following the takeaway was a quick three and out.

Linebacker Michael Dominguez as he runs the ball during the first quarter.

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Linebacker Scott Bryant forced a fumble on a Kansas territory, but came up empty on a fourth-and-10 punt on the next possession, following the takeaway was a quick three and out.

After forcing a Kansas punt on the next possession, FIU advanced the ball into Kansas territory, but came up empty on a fourth-and-10.

Officials debate drinking age limit

Binge drinking can kill, and so can an alcohol policy with a high drinking age limit, say 129 university presidents and chancellors.

In a debate with Mothers Against Drunk Driving member Barbara Harrington at the University of Vermont in 2007, John McCardell stressed this point again and again.

“We need to acknowledge that more lives are being lost each year to alcohol among 18 to 24 year olds than have been saved, allegedly, by [making the legal] age 21 in the 23 years that it has been on the books,” McCardell told the crowd.

McCardell, president emeritus of Middlebury College, is the founder of Choose Responsibility, a nonprofit organization created to inspire young adults from 18 to 20 to make responsible decisions concerning alcohol.

McCardell’s latest move to reopen the debate over the effectiveness of the 21 drinking age is his Amethyst Initiative, a movement aiming to rekindle the debate on the national stage.

Fueling the initiative is the National Minimum Drinking Age Act, passed by Congress in 1984, which imposes a penalty of 10 percent of any state’s federal highway appropriation that sets its minimum drinking age below 21.

According to the Amethyst Initiative’s Web site, some of the 129 signatories include presidents and chancellors from Ohio State, Syracuse, Dartmouth and Duke.

The current minimum age of consumption is not only ineffective, but over time has created a dangerous subculture of binge drinking among college students, the Web site said.

The Office of Media Relations did not respond to multiple contact attempts, however, University President Modesto A. Maidique’s name is not on the list of signatories.

“Binge drinking is a disease, not a choice,” McCardell said in a university statement.

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“Binge drinking is a disease, not a choice,” McCardell said in a university statement.

By supporting the Amethyst Initiative, the presidents and chancellors agree that the current drinking age only leads younger college students to disregard the law and invest in fake IDs, which in turn erodes their respect for authority.

At FIU, there have only been eight
Students travel to Peru, modernize community

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
IGNACIO ALBISTU
Beacon Staff

Deep in the Peruvian Amazon, a group of machete-wielding school children welcomed FIU students this summer.

The class of 11 students conducted research for an Honors College seminar course by spending Summer B with the secluded Yagua tribe in Peru without any modern comforts.

“We were basically out of civilization as we knew it for three weeks but came back with an immense sense of tranquility,” said Karina Rodriguez, a senior majoring in social science education.

Open to the whole University, the Honors class had over seven majors represented.

Working with the secluded tribe, they researched engineering, educational, social and musical elements of the tribe.

“It was surprising how well everything came together, and how great everyone got along and helped one another,” Jim Riach, the class’s Honors College professor, said.

David Bush, an engineering major, and Tira Hanawast, an environmental studies major, conducted water filtration research. The students helped the tribe construct their own water filtration system that covered over 35 homes and showed the residents the importance of clean water.

“Words can’t describe how great the trip was,” said Thanawastien. “My project was to reach out and educate local people on hygiene, sanitation and the importance of clean water.”

Bush hopes to build a hospital boat to serve the Yagua’s tribe area in the future, Rodriguez stated.

Rodriguez and Catalina M edina worked in the tribe’s schools with students, parents, and community leaders. They painted a mural in a school and introduce laptops to children who had never seen computers before.

Other students surveyed the surrounding jungle for medicinal plants, danger ous animals, and issues the animals are facing.

Their work culminated with the financial support of several tribal children and plans to work on publishing a children’s book series about their research findings. All revenues will be donated back to the tribal community.

The students arrived on Jun. 29 in Iquitos, Peru, in the northeast of the country.

A five-hour flight, they arrived in the field station of Project Amazonas, an FIU organization that works in conjunction with the Honors course.

Devon Graham heads Project Amazonas, which is dedicated to humanitarian...
Trip leads to new ventures

PERU, page 2

HEY, MR. DJ

BOOGIE DOWN: Anthony Sabers, an FIU marketing major, DJ’s the Camboulay event held Wednesday Aug. 27.

The students learned the Yaguas’ traditional way of life. They drank the tribe’s signature beverage, M asato, made from a chewed yucca (a native plant) that is left to ferment before converted into the drink.

The students left Peru on July 26 with goals to start a new student organization on campus called Pathfinders, in which they plan to maintain ongoing projects and work on new initiatives for the Yaguas.

Bill will combat lending abuses, provide more aid

JUAN PRADO
Staff Writer

A new bill that aims to protect college students from lending abuses, as well as expand scholarship aid, was approved by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 31.

The bill is directed toward overhauling the student loan industry by banning lenders and colleges from offering or accepting payments and gifts in exchange for making loans.

“All federal and private student lenders will be required to provide full and fair disclosures about the terms and conditions of the loans they offer,” said Rep. George Miller, who is also the chair of the House Education and Labor Committee during the debate on the bill, reported The Chronicle.

Some of the major student lenders include JPMorgan Chase, Sallie Mae, Bank of America Corp and Citigroup, Inc.

If passed, the bill would increase Pell grants given to low-income students from $4,800 to $6,000 for 2009. It would also include new scholarship programs and support centers for veterans and an increase in funding for graduate study at institutions that favor minorities.

“We got rid of cronyism, kickbacks and sweetheart deals,” said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, in an interview with Reuters.

Not only would the bill be directed to colleges and lenders, but also to the Department of Education. The department would be required to publish a list of colleges with the largest student percentage increase over three years; colleges that have increased their tuition the fastest; and require lenders and colleges to adopt new codes of conduct that would be more strict.

Current FIU student and Duke alumnus Marianne Suarez has taken out student loans, and she feels students need more help when choosing a loan.

“Lenders and colleges should be more student-friendly and help them decide which loans to use,” Suarez said.

If more students opt to take out loans, they should be aware of their options and learn to avoid taking private loans, said Robert Shireman, executive director of the Project on Student Debt.

“Notification about private-loan borrowing would wave a red flag and help colleges better counsel students in danger of taking unnecessary financial risks,” Shireman said.

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However, Sandy Baum, economics professor at Skidmore College and College Board’s senior policy analyst, said that Congress’ recent action does little to make college more affordable.

“Any provisions of the bill are likely to add to institutions’ operating costs. The numerous new regulations and reporting requirements can only increase the bureaucracy and the concomitant expenses not associated with instruction,” Baum said.

The bill was passed in the House 385-49, and in the Senate 83-8. President George W. Bush has to approve the bill for it to become law. Although several attempts have been made, it is the first time in a decade that a bill has passed in Congress to reauthorize the federal law overseeing higher education.

Think this CD is worth $30,000?
The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America) and other organizations do!

The RIAA and other production companies are suing individuals including Students and settling violations at $200-$3000 per violation, meaning that a single full CD of illegal downloads could result in a lawsuit with the minimum settlement amount for 10 illegal downloads for the total of $30,000. There have been many cases that result in higher totals. To date, FIU has received subpoenas demanding information on 32 FIU students for possible RIAA lawsuits.

Downloading and illegal file sharing from the FIU network will also land you in the Office of Student Conduct. Generally the following sanctions are assigned, depending on the violation, to the individuals found responsible: Conduct Probation for one semester, The student is not in good standing with the university, Ethics and Personal Decision Making Workshop. Reflection paper after the workshop, Loss of privileges or access to the internet for a short period of time (until you meet with Office of Student Conduct).

Illegal Downloading is stealing! Don’t do it! It can cost you money and more!!! You are responsible for what happens on your computer!

security.fiu.edu/misuse
Club explores spirituality

DAVON JOHNSON
Contributing Writer

Aside from the varied clubs that the Biscayne Bay Campus hosts, there is a different kind of organization that helps people with their relationship with God.

InterVarsity is a global organization that draws students and faculty alike to “develop a living student ministry that is growing stronger as it goes. A ministry for God, God’s Word, God’s people and God’s purposes in the world.” According to its Web site, www.intervarsity.org.

InterVarsity is inter-denominational, so it is open to all students, regardless of their religious background. The organization also provides camps and conferences all year long for spiritual formation training, as well as all international mission trips and urban projects during the summer.

Urban projects are run each summer and spring, and range from one to eight weeks. Each project gives service opportunities, worship, and scripture study, but are different in arrangement.

“InterVarsity is inter-denominational, which makes it a great way to be exposed to the whole Christian experience,” said alumni Juan Pablo, a technical engineer major who was a member of InterVarsity at University Park and became president during his senior year.

The majority of the members share a common commitment to teaching certain values and exploring issues such as justice, poverty, racism, racial reconciliation, violence, lifestyle, biblical community and the ministry of the urban church, according to the club’s Web site.

Membership is free and open to the public. The organization also provides leadership opportunities.

“The club is for anyone with an open heart and a willingness to learn,” Doozan said.

For more information, contact Mary Beth Doozan at mbdoozan@gmail.com.
Phrasing causes a ‘Tropic Thunder’ among advocates

CHARLIE GRAU
Editor in Chief

“If we stand up here and we laugh, everyone says, ‘You shouldn’t do this, you should say that.’ You see, fun is fun, jokes are jokes. This is just expression.” – B.J. Novak, actor and stand-up comedian.

Whether they’re watching a movie or a comedy show, people enjoy the laughter and joke, everybody says, “You shouldn’t say this, you should laugh.”

In their opening week, the war spoof, which recount a military account of a battle between two sides, has incited controversy. The novel even includes a similar furor in 1988 when the Satanic Verses published. The book, which recounted a part of Muhammad’s life, was seen as blasphemy, and a death sentence was issued against its author.

Satanic Verses

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DANCING ROYALTY

‘Anyone who can walk and count to three can learn salsa’

LUCIA SASTRE
Staff Writer

You are standing in the middle of a crowd in a nightclub, surrounded by your friends and having the time of your life. You hear the beat of drums and Celia Cruz shouting “Azucar.” If only you knew how to dance salsa.

This is a common situation encountered in the Miami party scene, and since dancing is a popular stress reliever for some, learning how to dance it is a plus. Sitting down when the salsa blasts from the speakers is no longer an option. Nevertheless, if one is interested in learning the casino rueda, it is offered at 9 p.m., while one-on-one lessons with a partner are offered at 8 p.m.

During the day, the GC atrium is like any typical cafeteria, but in the late afternoon it shifts from a seating area to a dance studio. From outside the high glass windows, students and teachers learning and instructing salsa is a common sight.

“I always thought salsa was hard to learn and perhaps not my thing. The only place you’ll see me dancing is in a nightclub and only when it is dark and crowded,” said fresh prince of Salsa Kings Andres Fernandez.

The Salsa Kings meet Monday through Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. in the Graham Center atrium. Along with the beat of the drums, they bring great dancing techniques that students adore and enjoy after a long day of classes.

“My any of the salseros of Miami that learned with us will tell you first-hand that the atrium is their second home,” Fernandez said. “Students and instructors from years back will stop by and dance a couple of songs. We officially decided to be the first and only salsa school in Miami to offer Cuban-style salsa lessons as a couple, as opposed to the traditional casino rueda.”


Fall movie season shows promise, opens with all-star casts

STEVE MESA
Staff Writer

School is in session once again, and there are many things in September we can look forward to besides the start of the Panthers’ football season. Here are a few movies from this month that will give you a taste of fall movies to come.

BURN AFTER READING (SEPT. 12)

A cademy Award-winning directors Joel and Ethan Coen follow the success of No Country for Old Men with a dark comedy featuring an ensemble cast that includes Oscar winners George Clooney, Frances McDormand, Tilda Swinton, along with Brad Pitt and John Malkovich.

A dim-witted gym employee (Pitt) finds a CD that contains information on a retired CIA analyst (Malkovich). He plans to blackmail the CIA analyst with a fellow employee (McDormand). Meanwhile, a CIA agent (Clooney) is hired to retrieve the CD by sleeping with the analyst’s wife (Swinton).

This is not the first time Clooney has worked with the Coen Brothers; they worked together on O Brother, Where Art Thou and Intolerable Cruelt.

RIGHTEOUS KILL (SEPT. 12)

Robert DeNiro and Al Pacino play two veteran New York detectives searching for a vigilante serial killer who targets criminals not sent to jail. The last time DeNiro and Pacino were on screen together was 13 years ago in Michael Mann’s crime-thriller Heat.

CHOKE

From the mind of Chuck Palahniuk, the man who wrote “Fight Club” comes this black comedy which won a Special Jury Prize for its cast ensemble at this year’s Sundance Film Festival. In Choke, a sex-addicted medical school dropout (Sam Rockwell) works hard at a colonial theme park in order to take care of his hospitalized mother (Anjelica Huston). When that money is not enough, he pretends to choke at upscale restaurants so he can con the people who save him.

MOVIES, page 7
Shia LaBeouf reunites with Disturbia director D.J. Caruso with a larger-than-life thriller Eagle Eye. LaBeouf plays a slacker who is framed as a terrorist and told via cell phone what to do by a mysterious woman. He is not alone, however. Michelle Monaghan plays a young mother who receives the same orders. In order for them to live, they must become pawns of a mysterious and diabolical plan.

**MIRACLE AT ST. ANNA (SEPT 26)**

Two years ago, Spike Lee had his biggest hit in years with the release of Inside Man. Miracle at St. Anna, based on a novel by James McBride is set during World War II and inspired by true events. Four African-American soldiers fight for their lives as German forces take over a small Tuscan town where they are stationed. One soldier risks his life to save an Italian boy.
Rock out with your cross out at Universal Orlando

ERIC FELDMAN
Opinion Editor

Many consider discovering faith to be a roll-coaster, but Universal Orlando will be taking visitors on a more literally religious ride at Rock the Universe 2008.

In the 11th year of Universal's ever more popular Christian rock extravaganza, attendees of the two day event taking place on Sept. 5 and 6 will be able to see a diverse range of bands and artists headlined by Switchfoot and Reliant K, as well as twelve other performers.

More than just a concert, though, Rock the Universe entitles ticket-holders to attend inspirational speeches by a Total Nonstop Action Wrestling superstar and a former Korn guitarist.

"When we created Rock the Universe, we wanted to host a Christian music event that was bigger, better and different from the rest," Universal Orlando spokesperson Alyson Lundell said in an e-mail interview. "We selected bands that helped us create an event with its own personality." "Edgy and diverse" is what defines the event's personality, according to Lundell.

"Unlike any other Christian music event, our musical and entertainment lineup guarantees that there will be something for everyone," Lundell said. Some of the other performers include Third Day and Jars of Clay, a band which has snagged Grammy awards for several of their albums in the past decade.

The event even concludes with a Saturday night candle lighting and Sunday morning worshipping service which is non-denominational, led by pastor Gary Morgan. Concertgoers are asked to divide up which bands they want to see by dividing up on the Rock the Universe concert at Universal Studios on Sept. 6.

When Welch left Korn, he didn't stop making music; instead, he took his music to another direction by becoming a Christian artist. For the first time, he wrote his own lyrics, which he said were given to him by God. The recording process for his latest solo album Save Me From Myself was therefore radically different than what he was used to.

"When I was in Korn, we went to the studio bringing beer, bongs, pipes and pills and wrote music. This time I just prayed and said, 'Lord if you want me to write, give me the music.' So I made guitar melodies and drumbeats that I programmed in my head while lyrics came out of me within 40 days," Welch said.

After Welch left Korn and made his solo debut, he was not welcomed by the Christian community.

"They could tell that I was a member of Korn, and it was not what they expected. I wanted to go back to older Korn 'sounds' with my new music, but I was also inspired to talk about spiritual changes," Welch said.

Welch has not only been keeping busy with his new music, but he has also become a published writer with his New York Timess best-selling book titled, Save Me From Myself, where he recounts his experiences and the lessons learned.

"I've gone on a roller-coaster ride and expressed what I felt inside of me on paper," Welch said.

Welch summed up exactly what it was like to live a fast life as a member of Korn and wanting to make a change by saying, "after being in the candy store too long, you start to get sick and I just got sick of it."
MY PERFECT SATURDAY?
IT STARTS WITH
GOOEY CEREAL, HUNKY
CARTOON HEROES,
AND ACTING LIKE
A MOUSE POTATO
IN MY JENNI PJ'S
'IL ERIC CALLS.
OR STEVE.
MAYBE GREG.
ALEX, FOR SURE.

JENNI
Only at Macy's 3-piece cotton
pajama sets. $27-$36. 
Shown:
Camouflage set with tank,
boy shorts and pants. $36. 
Apple print set with shirt,
shorts and knee-hi socks. $36.
Team adapting without departed stars Taylor, Thomas

DOLPHINS, page 12

The Flywheel was on display all night at the Louisiana Superdome, with Miami allowing just 39 total yards to the Saints in a dominating defensive performance that featured many backups.

Next up: Brett Favre and the New York Jets in the regular-season opener Sept. 7. Can Miami’s defense do it when it counts?

“If we don’t get complacent and stay driven, we can be really good this season,” Dolphins defensive end Vonnie Holliday said. “I’m not going to lie, we have a lot of depth this season and I don’t think guys are going to be able to roll over us like last year. When guys get nicked up next season, we didn’t have much behind them. That’s not the case this year.”

The surprising Dolphins defense has led Miam to three straight exhibition wins for the first time since 2000, when the team was 11-5 and made the playoffs. The Dolphins, coming off an embarrassing 1-15 season, can only imagine such riches.

But that doesn’t stop them from aiming high.

“We’ve been getting better and better,”

Kansas is distant memory, time to focus on the future

MESSINA, page 12

ues to struggle adapting to the new offensive scheme, it will be another season of heavily relying on the defense, which was the team’s downfall last season.

The defense did everything they could against a team that not only had a quarterback, but could be contending for the Heisman Trophy but an offense that can attack from different angles.

Jayhawk quarterback Todd Reesing had no problems picking apart the Golden Panther defense as he was 37-for-52 for 256 yards and tossed three touchdowns.

His only mishap was the interception by junior Jeremiah Weatherpoon. The running game was also not an issue for Kansas as they accumulated 128 yards on the ground.

The end result of this game is what matters the most and that was a 30-point loss that put the Golden Panthers record at 0-1.

While skeptics are going to claim that the team is still a bottom feeder in the FBS, realists are going to have the understanding that this is a team that is heading in the right direction and this first game was an indicator.

Yes, the deficit was by

Volleyball upsets Clemson

JONATHAN AUPERT
Staff Writer

The volleyball team captured the championship in the Orange Bash on Aug. 30 in Clemson, S.C.

To clinch the pre-season tournament title, the Golden Panthers upset No. 19 Clemson 3-1, as they were 23-22, 23-25, 26-24.

Yarian Rosas was named MVP of the tournament. The junior dominated the title match with 27 kills, and 3 double-doubles overall in the tournament. Junior Isadora Rangel (13 kills, 11 digs) and sophomore Natalia Valentin were named to the All-Tournament Team. Rangel and Rosas have notched double-digit kills in every game this season.

“This was a total team win” head coach Daniela Tomic said. “We [the coaches] told the team that you have a mission and if you play the same as in practice and if you compete and believe in yourself and in each other, than we are going to win.”

FIU won the first two sets 25-21 and 25-22. Clemson held off the Golden Panthers to take the third set 25-23. Facing adversity, playing in their first set of the season, the Golden Panthers got down 4-1, 10-5, and 21-16. FIU clung back to that set at 22, took the lead at 24-23 and finally clinch the Big Orange Bash Tournament title with a 26-24 fourth-set win.

“We were able to come back, which is a characteristic of a very good and mature team,” said Tomic. “I am pleased that they can compete with any team on any level. I am very proud with each one of them.”

This is just the second time ever that FIU has started 3-0 in the program’s 23-year history. The Golden Panthers continue their Labor Day road trip on Sept. 1, 2008 at Furman.

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Parker injured in Kansas loss

FOOTBALL, page 1

KANSAS 40, FIU 10

at the 33-yard line, and from there, Kansas began to get in gear.

The scoring began with a 7-yard touchdown run by 2007 National Junior College Athletic Association offensive Player of the year Jocques Crawford, and Kansas took that 7-0 lead into the second quarter when Reesing connected with Briscoe for their first score on the first play of the second frame.

Alonso Rojas for Kansas made it a 17-0 lead with 9:30 remaining in the half, and from there, the special teams took over, for both teams.

Daymond Patterson fielded a Carlos Munera punt at his own 25-yard line and raced up the right sideline, even hurdling an FIU defender on his way to a 75-yard punt return for a touchdown, making the score 24-0 in favor of Kansas.

After trading punts, T.Y. Hilton, a true freshman, nearly mirrored Patterson's return, taking a punt back 74 yards for FIU's lone touchdown in his first collegiate touch.

Following the second Reesing-to-Briscoe touchdown connection, FIU put its two-minute offense on display and came out with positive results.

Paul McColl was 3-for-3 for 33 yards on the short drive that covered 38 yards in just 17 seconds and the junior quarterback made good use of the sidelines and his time outs.

FIU was aided by an offside penalty and Dustin Rivest connected on a 43-yard field goal with three seconds remaining in the first half to make the score 30-10.

In the second quarter, FIU strong safety Ashlyn Parker suffered a knee injury and did not play the remainder of the game. The x-rays were negative, and the team is still evaluating his status.

Kansers were able to continue to move the ball against FIU in the third quarter, as they finished the scoring with the third Reesing to Briscoe touchdown hook-up and a 37-yard Alonso Rojas field goal.

"I just threw it out there in the back of the end zone. I couldn’t really see where he was headed," Reesing said.

"I kind of threw it to a spot and he went up and made an amazing catch. That’s the kind of things he can do for us."

After the contest, head coach Mario Cristobal echoed his feelings from training camp about his team.

"We played tough and obviously we’re never going to compromise. We’re getting better, especially against a great football team," Cristobal said. "There’s a lot of stuff that we can benefit from as a team and as players and as coaches … we have some work to do for.

The FIU head coach remains positive, as his team gets set to travel to Iowa this Saturday to take on the Hawkeyes, as the Golden Panthers Continue their early season non-conference slate. Kickoff is set for noon eastern from Iowa City.

The Associated Press Contributed to this report.
Despite loss to Kansas, Golden Panthers see areas of improvement

With the season just a game old, there certainly is hope for the Golden Panthers. Saturday's 40-10 loss to Kansas may look ugly from afar but when you examine the game in detail, it was a testament to the fact that FIU took a few steps in the right direction. Let's not declare the Golden Panthers' front-runners to claim the Sun Belt Conference now but things could be looking up.

The biggest question that was made a little clearer on opening day was the quarterback situation. As expected, junior Paul McCall started at quarterback and took a majority of the snaps but head coach Mario Cristobal was not afraid to insert sophomore Wayne Younger into the action.

The fact that both quarterbacks were used, shows that rather than specifically name a starter, both will be used since either can be more proficient stronger in different areas.

All of the scoring from FIU on Saturday came from players that made statements. The 10 points that FIU put up against the Jayhawks came from special teams which was a comforting sign after last year's unit struggled at times.

Freshman T.Y. Hilton lived up the hype and promise that has followed him since he was recruited last January with a 74-yard touchdown return off of a punt.

The receiver showed his versatility and flashed great speed; something that Cristobal embraces.

Junior Dustin Rivestat returned to duty from a back injury and notched a 43-yard field goal to wrap up the scoring in the first half.

With the kicking position determined, if Rivestat can show consistency from the long range, it won't be such a bad thing if Cristobal sends the kicking unit out there on 4th and 1.

While special teams showed improvement in the first half, there were other areas that needed to improve and it starts with the offense.

Granted, Bill Legg's first game to showcase the new spread offense came against a team ranked No. 14 in the country, but the offense had difficulty moving the ball.

A area that needed improvement last year and will this year, the offense finished with just 139 total yards.

McCall finished 10-for-28 with 73 yards and two interceptions; he also ran the ball 8 times for 13 yards while Younger was 0-for-1 on passes and had 2 carries for 10 yards.

The running game was held at bay by a stifling Jayhawk defense as senior A'mod Ned led FIU in rushing with 42 yards on 12 carries.

Senior Julian Reams started his season off slow with 12 carries.

The receiving game was nothing special as senior Eric Kirchenberg and junior Jeremy Dickins led the Golden Panthers with 2 receptions for 21 yards.

Going into the game, it was understood that FIU would be facing a talented defensive unit but at the same time, the offense clearly had difficulty moving the ball.

The opponents in the two upcoming games are also strong, maybe not as talented as Kansas was, but can get the job done defensively. If the offense continues to improve on these areas, we will be used since either can be more proficient stronger in different areas.

The confidence FIU gained down the stretch last season, coincides with a favorably located conference tournament (FIU Arena, Nov 20 - Nov 22), which the 5-foot-10, wall decorated junior outside hitter believes will culminate with FIU winning the Sun Belt Conference championship, and she said, on that tournament.

"Oh sure, the conference tournament is here, so that helps because you have your fans, your home court, and that really helps a lot. You know your court, and you've been here for years practicing, and that's a really good thing in favor of us."

FIU is represented twice in this years pre-season all conference team, as Rosa is joined by Senior Olga Vergun as a first team performer, her first time being so honored.

FINS defense shows promise

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
AP Writer

The task: Sack the quarterback or make a big play.

Then, crouch low to the ground, put your hands together and put them in a circular motion to mimic cranking an old car.

The move, named "The Flywheel," is becoming an increasing celebration by the Miami Dolphins defense.

They've had plenty of time to practice it of late, giving up just 24 points during their three-game winning streak to end the pre-season.

"We haven't celebrated in like two years so it's just all coming out now," linebacker Channing Crowder said. "We only won one game last year, and we kind of forgot about having fun. We're just playing like we should and doing it with some attitude this year."

And without Jason Taylor and Zach Thomas.

The departure of the two Pro Bowlers has been no problem for the Dolphins, who had five sacks in a 14-10 exhibition win against New Orleans on Thursday night after five sacks against Kansas City a game earlier.

Rosa, Vergun represent squad on SBC pre-season first team

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

For the second consecutive year, Yarimar Rosa has been named Preseason Sun Belt Conference player of the year in women's volleyball.

Rosa, who has collected a bevvy of accolades since coming to FIU from Puerto Rico, adds a familiar distinction to her mantle to the 2008 campaign.

"I think that's an honor for me. I didn't expect it. I'm very proud of it because that means the coaches from other teams think I have the ability to be that player. I have to be grateful to my teammates for helping me become that player that they think I am."

She adds her second Preseason player of the year distinction, to be joined named Sun Belt Freshman of the year, and being named First-Team All-Sun Belt each of her first two seasons.

FIU Volleyball finished strong last year, winning seven of its final eight regular season contests, and making its way to the tournament championship game where they fell to MIddle Tennessee, who eventually had their season in the Penn State Regionals of the NCAA tournament.

Rosa looks at this season as an opportunity to build on last year's success. "I think that we really learned last year and my freshman year from being very close ... We can take that serious step to get there. This year we have some new people who bring new things to the team, I think we are more confident, to make that small steps to go forward."

"I think we've been practicing really hard everyday, paying attention to the small details we have to get better at to get to that level."

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