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“There was more tailgating, more celebration for being the first stadium game,” said King. “We suspect we may not see that number of violations again and I’m really hopeful that there won’t be. It’s a concern of ours and we will do whatever we need to do to address it.”

King said that ABT works with campus police but at Saturday’s game all write-ups were made solely by nine ABT officers.

According to Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution Director Karen A. Dlhosh, as of pre-publication, 47 out of the 57 charges were given to FIU students.

Still, this number is significantly higher than previous games on-campus and at the Orange Bowl, where all of last season’s home games were played. Charges at the old FIU stadium and Orange Bowl were no more than 10 per game, according to Dlhosh.

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Chief of Police Bill King said underage drinking arrests are not uncommon at FIU football games, although there was an increase in charges because of the larger attendance of about 16,100 participants.

One 21 year old was taken to Miami-Dade County’s Turner Guilford Knight Correctional Center for providing alcohol to a minor; one citation was given to a juvenile and one to an FIU student-athlete.

Contract clause impacts future student-athletes

In an effort to build a dominant athletic program, FIU went on an all out blitz to find the best coach to lead its growing football program.

The man picked to lead the charge: Mario Cristobal.

The cost: $2.2 million over a span of six years, along with some other perks in his contract.

Compared to other coaches like Oklahoma’s Bob Stoops, who earns $6.5 million, Florida’s Urban Meyer who earns $3.4 million and Miami’s Randy Shannon who earns $1.5 million per year, the prize tag may not seem so steep.

But it is not coach Cristobal’s $390,000 base salary that has raised some flags about his contract, but rather a clause that says Athletic Director Pete Garcia will have final say for admissions of Cristobal’s recruits even if they don’t meet the University’s standards.

In the contract under a section entitled “University Dates,” it is stated that the “University shall admit to FIU all student-athletes meeting the NCAA academic eligibility requirement (Division I core GPA and Testing Score Sliding Scale) provided the student-athlete has been cleared through the NCAA clearance house and has been approved by the Athletic Director.”

If a clause is broken, it allows Cristobal to void his leave the football program at any time.

According to a USA Today article published on Dec. 5, 2007, such a clause is not known to exist in any other NCAA Division I-A head coaching contract.

Even if a player he recruits does not meet FIU’s admissions requirements, it allows the player to gain eligibility as long as he meets the NCAA academic eligibility requirement.

“Football coaches want to make sure they don’t want to take a job where they can’t get NCAA qualifying students into school, because it is promised to them when they take the job,” Garcia said. “A lot of coaches want to make sure they are protected.”

The NCAA academic eligibility requirement is a sliding scale for freshman athletic eligibility, based on GPAs in 16 core courses (such as math, English and science) and standardized tests. There is a minimum core GPA of 2.0, which would require an SAT score of 1,010. There is no minimum SAT score required. But the lowest possible score requires

has gone from freshman carrying water jugs across a field and being told to sing in the cafeteria, to sexual abuse and assault,” Weymouth said.

Weymouth came from a small rural town in Massachusetts, where as a high school freshman he played football for Kentucky Regional High School. On the weekend retreat to the lake cabins in New Hampshire, he was subjected to “the most humiliating” acts of his life.

At first, with Halloween music playing, he thought his teammates were just trying to scare him, but unfortunately it was not the case.

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

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DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

Athletics believes the inauguration of the football stadium marks the start of a new era in FIU football.

Public Safety hopes it won’t inaugurate a new era in on-campus underage drinking.

Last Saturday’s inaugural game against the University of South Florida saw a previously unprecedented number of FIU students attend an athletic event but also brought over 50 underage drinking charges.

The State of Florida Division of Alcoholic Beverages and Tobacco agents gave 50 notices to appear in court for underage drinking on-campus and in Tamiami Park, said Alexis Antonacci, press secretary for ABT’s Department of Business and Professional Regulations.

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Kinky Friedman under fire for past racial slurs

Comedian, musician and independent gubernatorial candidate Kinky Friedman defended using a racial slur during a performance at a Houston nightclub 26 years ago after an audio clip of the stand-up routine surfaced. Friedman said it's difficult to find the humor in his joke.

Garcia heads Athletics' admissions

Julie Berg and Assistant Athletic Director of Media Relations Richard J. Kelch said there is no tolerance of any drinking and driving student-athletes.

"We are very strict. Disciplinary action is internal between administration, coaches and student-athletes, but believe me, it’s addressed," Berg said.

Both Berg and Kelch explained that Athletics has no obligation to report legal incidents involving student-athletes to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and that this will not affect the department’s current four-year probation with the association in any manner.

The NCAA was unavailable for comment.

Some students complained that officers were targeting minors while ignoring other drinkers.

Dishoh said some ABT officers were in full uniform and that minors were being especially obvious with their underage drinking.

"Students were just walking up with open containers, open bottles," Dishoh said. "I didn’t have to go looking for it, but I went to a lot of football games and I never encountered police arresting students," she said. "If they want to create a football tradition, arresting students walking with alcohol is not the best tactic."
**Library renovations bring improvement**

**DANIELLE FREYRE**

**Contributing Writer**

Even with headphones on, Gabriela Stanelis finds it hard to block out the construction noise in the BBC library. "It's pretty annoying," said the student currently in the master's program for Spanish journalism.

Director of the BBC Library, Antonie Downs, is looking forward to the building's makeover, consisting of new bathrooms, hurricane-resistant windows and new computer software.

"It's probably a much better place in 1988, is undergoing physical and virtual changes throughout, with all students' best interests in mind," said Downs. "It's the shrine to all bathrooms," said Downs, referring to the third-floor bathrooms.

The bathrooms meet the Americans with Disabilities Act standards for accessible design and were finally opened, according to Downs.

She said that though they still need some finishing touches, such as door handles and specific lighting, the bathrooms are now being used.

Anna Maria Silva, Student Government Council president for the Biscayne Bay Campus, guaranteed that the funds for the bathroom renovation didn't come from the SGC budget. "The funds, as far as I know, aren't coming from the SGC," Silva said.

The second-floor bathroom is under heavy construction and will hopefully be ready by the end of September, according to Downs.

"Every single time I try to go to the bathroom, it's closed for cleaning, and that frustrates me," said Joao Ribeiro, who is pursuing his second bachelor's degree in biology.

Downs said rumors that have surfaced about the work on the second-floor bathrooms resuming soon are not far from reality.

The delay has been due to concerns that traffic and noise will disturb the main entrance of the library, according to Downs.

The renovations to the library aim to improve more than just the functionality of the building on the inside, it also includes new precautions designed to strengthen the library's hurricane resistance.

Under previous hurricane preparation plans, in the event of a hurricane, each computer on the first floor was to be carefully removed by the employees and staff members of the library. Downs saw this as a problem. "If the hurricane never hits, the next morning each computer must be hauled back in and set up before the early morning opening hour," Downs said.

Downs said the original windows surrounding the library were just regular glass, but the panels of glass being placed on the first floor are all hurricane-resistant and impact glass.

The funds for these shutters came from $350,000 in salary savings from unfilled positions in the library.

Shutters are now covering the third floor but getting the funds for the second floor is going to be another work in progress, according to Downs.

Downs said that a system referred to as Lightweight Directory Access Protocol, a web-based access framework, is being placed on a select number of computers for a trial run.

All students need is their panther ID and password to login.

Downs and others are working on new organization systems to improve the rest of the library.

Renovations include relocation of information desks and making the learning center more accessible to aid with students' research needs.

"These changes to the library have been in the books for years but it just so happens we got around to them now," said Downs.

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**Valerie Mull**

**Contributing Writer**

Rewarded with a copious amount of money and recognition for his work, an 88-year-old professor is now able to further international research for his artistic project.

Augusto Soledade, assistant professor of dance at FIU, was awarded the 2008 Guggenheim Fellowship in the Latin American/ Caribbean category through the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship Program in the spring of 2008.

"I am a choreographer who tries to understand and look at the past, my history and my roots and bring that into the work, but I also feel that it is absolutely essential that I look at who I am and how I live in the present in order to create," said Soledade, who is also the artistic director of the Brazz Dance Theater in Miami.

According to the official John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Fellowship Web site, Guggenheim Fellowships are grants awarded to those "who have demonstrated exceptional capacity for productive scholarship or exceptional creative ability in the arts."

Each year since 1925, the foundation has awarded multiple applicants fellowships ranging from $32,000 to $36,000.

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New games, movies have been there, done that

Video games and movies are two components of the entertainment business that rake in billions of dollars every year. These two forms of entertainment used to be very much different from one another, but in recent years, they have become increasingly alike. This “sequelitis” negatively affects new games and movies that release without a previous installment.

Ten years from now, franchises that poke our interests today will not have the same appeal. Even if it is still stellar, will we want to play “Soul Calibur XII” [then]? Every major video game publisher like Electronic Arts in collaboration with “Boom Blox,” a stellar puzzle game published in 2008, and “Lakeview Terrace” have done fairly well at this time of year, when the movie world goes into a kind of overdose after a summer full of blockbuster hits (see: “The Dark Knight,” “Burn After Reading,” and “Lakeview Terrace” have done well in terms of how much money they made, but these are not representative of the majority of quality

products released that never see success. “Gears” launched when Xbox 360 gamers were hungry for “Halo 3,” and “Resistance” launched when the PlayStation 3 had just hit the shelves and had few games to choose from. “Burn After Reading” and “Lakeview Terrace” have done fairly well at this time of year, when the movie world goes into a kind of overdose after a summer full of blockbuster hits (see: “The Dark Knight,” “Spider-Man 3,” etc).

Ten years from now, franchises that poke our interests today will not have the same appeal. Even if it is still stellar, will we want to play “Soul Calibur XII” at that point in time? Will we still be spending $10 on a movie ticket to see “Spider-Man 8?”

The business minds of America do this for a good reason. If a game or movie brings in the big bucks, then logically, a sequel should bring in the big bucks as well. Most of the time, this “sequelitis” negatively affects new games and movies that release without a previous installment.

An example from the game world is “Boom Blox,” a stellar puzzle game published by Electronic Arts in collaboration with Steven Spielberg; the game featured
Dance Marathon committee to host annual charity event

DIANA JORDAN  Contributing Writer

Founded on FIU’s 25th anniversary, the Dance Marathon is approaching its 11th year of fund raising for the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation. Since its inception in 1997, FIU’s Dance Marathon has raised over $500,000, with 100 percent of the proceeds directly benefiting the hospital and its patients.

The event, which kicked off yesterday, has been a success due to the generosity of the FIU community. A typical Dance Marathon includes 25 hours of non-stop dancing in the Recreation Center. All FIU students can participate and are encouraged to bring friends and relatives for support.

In past years, the marathon has attracted various groups – like the Miami Heat dancers, Miami Heat’s Junior Fammers and the Florida Marlins Mermaids – that have provided entertainment to those present. Several DJs, such as DJ Irie and DJ Tracy Young, and radio stations like Radio Disney, have kept the crowd on its feet.

This year, the Dance Marathon committee is also hosting its sixth annual singing competition, Golden Idol: a spin-off of the television show “American Idol” for FIU students. During this event, students will be able to audition in front of judges and perform before their peers in hopes of making it to the grand finale.

The event is open to anyone willing and wishing to display vocal abilities in front of live audiences. The auditions will be held on Oct. 1, 7 and 14 in the Graham Center Pit from noon to 2 p.m.

Guests included Florida representatives, as well as “miracle children,” survivors who have benefited from the fund-raising to thank participants for their support and contribution.

“It’s a great opportunity for students to come together as a school and make an impact on the community,” said Alina Quintana. Dance Marathon special events co-chair.

Participants are not allowed to sit during the marathon, but are permitted to participate in other activities such as basketball, lasertag, karaoke, rock climbing and line dancing.

During intermissions, morale captains – two leaders assigned during the marathon – will be performing line dances learned at the previous year’s marathon.

There will be a charge to all audience members who attend and the money raised will go directly to FIU Dance Marathon and the Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation.

Last year alone, Golden Idol raised $3,000 for the foundation and even more is expected this year.

“Everyone is encouraged to come out of their shell and try something different while helping others,” Quintana said.

Golden Idol is trying to incorporate all students regardless of age or interests. This is a program that was created to involve students with the event in a different way. Everyone on campus can participate, whether it is by entertaining the audience or by making a donation.

“FIU tries to cater to all different kinds of interests and needs, and this is a way to involve those students with a love for music, performing and community service,” Quintana said. “Our main goal is to make everyone feel welcome and a part of the Golden Panther family.”
Disappointing follow-up to a promising beginning

CHRIS TOWERS
Asst. Life Editor

With the release of their debut album, Robbers and Cowards, the Cold War Kids faced criticism of being overly serious, amateurish and heavy-handed.

Lead singer Nathan Willett was roundly accused of too much white guy soul posturing in his pained, scream-y telling stories about death row and army hospitals.

The critics were an album early, it seems. Instead of building on previous successes, the band seems to try and prove critics wrong by attempting to build on the things that didn’t work the first time around.

For the past three years, Will Wright, the creator of “The Sims”, has been enticing the entire PC gaming community with what was held as the most ambitious and innovative game project ever. “Spore” is supposed to simulate the evolution of life itself - the progression of a species from a bacterial cell to its foundation of a galactic empire.

For the past three years, Will Wright, creator of “The Sims”, has been enticing the entire PC gaming community with what was held as the most ambitious and innovative game project ever. “Spore” is supposed to simulate the evolution of life itself - the progression of a species from a bacterial cell to its foundation of a galactic empire.

As a creature, your goal is to either become a peaceful herbivore in this stage, be used to hunt them down to extinction, you are given access to better weapons, musical instruments, clothing and control of more tribe members.

It is a near impossibility to win as a peace-loving herbivore in this stage, because whereas you did not invest time into weapons and powerful creatures, there are many surrounding tribes who did.

As expected, the civilization stage plays like the usual “Civilization” RTS, in which you control cities in order to build mon- ey, culture or weapons. Again, I chose the latter.

You are finally the only remaining species, but there is some hatred within your own surviving species. Therefore, your goal is to take control of all the other cities, buy them or religiously influence them.

The entire game feels like an introduc- tion to the space stage: the juicy pie wait- ing for you at home after a day of boredom at the office. This stage plays like a single-player, massively-multi-player online role-playing game (yes, you read correctly). Here, you are granted every godly power you ever dreamed of: from terraforming and colonization, to abduction, exploration and even galactic warfare. However, it does get a bit repetitive and boring.

To sum up, if you are a casual gamer, then you will love this game. But if you are the hardcore gamer that demands a com- pelling storyline, fulfilling gameplay and a game that doesn’t treat you like an idiot, then don’t even bother playing Spore.

We want little governments” on the album’s opener “Against Privacy.”

Maybe this can be chalked up to Willett being into the hype a little bit too much, trying to take his lyrics to another level, but with the exception of the first single “Something Is Not Right With Me,” there are no lyrics that really jump out and grab you like they did consistently on the first album.

The rhythm section finds itself overplaying far too often as well. Instead of laying back in the song providing a strong backbone, they decide to try to create a groove in every single song, never releting.

Spore

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

For the past three years, Will Wright, creator of “The Sims”, has been enticing the entire PC gaming community with what was held as the most ambitious and innovative game project ever. “Spore” is supposed to simulate the evolution of life itself - the progression of a species from a bacterial cell to its foundation of a galactic empire.

Did it succeed? No, not by a long shot.

The reason “Spore” fails to deliver the transcendental life simulator we were promised is because it tries to be five games at once. Each one of these games is a shallower and simpler version of another game.

Your species then decides to finally settle down and form a tribal village. Like a typical real-time strategy game, you control multiple creatures and have them hunt, gather and grow. As you befriended other tribes, or hunt them down to extinction, you are given access to better weapons, musical instruments, clothing and control of more tribe members.

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Loyalty ultimately fails because it tries too hard. Possibly, in order to make up for subpar songwriting, the band finds itself overplaying to try and cover it up.

Many bands struggle to deal with expectations and move forward on during the second album, but this isn’t the case with this one. They haven’t stayed in the same place for their new one, they just haven’t moved forward.

Sometimes, repeating yourself is better than failing in a new way.
Can you believe a quarter of the NFL has passed by? Three weeks have zoomed by, and after this Sunday, we will be able to figure out who the contenders and the pretenders are.

Fantasy Football starts to get a little bit trickier, with teams getting more experience. Tinkering with your lineup and scouring the waiver wire becomes very important from here on out.

The Lions, Colts, Dolphins, Patriots, Giants, and Saints all have bye weeks this weekend, putting some fantasy owners in precarious situations.

Don’t be discouraged if your team hasn’t performed up to standard, and some superstitions haven’t lived up to expectations. Randy Moss, Chad Ocho Cinco, Derek Anderson, Braylon Edwards, Andre Johnson, Carlos Palmer are some of the players owners were counting on who haven’t come through with big games this early in the season.

Jay Cutler, Julius Jones, and Dwayne Bowe are some players that have fantasy owners jumping for joy with their excellent performances.

I’m not going to tell you who to start and who to sit this week. I’m going to tell you who to be ok with releasing, and which players, if they still are out there, to pick up, because their production will only increase.

PLAYERS TO PICK UP

Pierre Thomas: RB, New Orleans Saints

This touchdown machine has become the "Follow" to Reggie Bush’s "Lightning". He doesn’t muster up a lot of yardage, but consider starting him if you have an opening because of the bye week.

He is owned in less than 30% of leagues, and has a favorable matchup against the 49ers defense this week.

Antonio Bryant: WR Tampa Bay Buccaneers

With Brian Griese now at quarterback, the Bucs are starting the spread the ball around. Griese threw the ball 67 times last week, and Bryant benefited catching 10 passes for 138 yards against a tough Bears defense.

Joey Galloway is injured, what else is new, and Ike Hilliard cannot stretch the field.

Look for Bryant to separate himself as the number one receiver for the Bucs, who will continue to double and triple team him every week.

The Packers on Sunday.

Jason Campbell: QB, Washington Redskins

If Campbell is still a free agent in week 4, look for him to step into the starting role, after the bye week. Santana Moss looks like his old self and his yardage should continue to increase.

Antwan Randle-El is a viable number two, and with Chris Coxy at tight end, a healthy Clinton Portis running the ball, Campbell will flourish.

He is a viable starter if your having problems at quarterback. The most encouraging stat for Campbell is that he hasn’t thrown an interception yet this season.

Le’Ron McClain: RB Baltimore Ravens

McClain is clearly the Ravens number one goal line back, and has passed rookie Ray Rice on the depth chart.

The Ravens play hard nose football, and with Rookie Joe Flacco at quarterback, they want to run the ball in red zone situations. Even though Willis McGahee is almost 100%, the Ravens want him back on the field as much as possible.

Steve Slaton: RB, Houston Texans

Recently named the starting running back of the Houston Texans, Slaton is used to carrying the offense, as he did at West Virginia, and with the Texans passing game not in sync yet, look for Slaton to keep improving on his performance the previous week. A workhouse running back like Slaton only gets better as the season progresses.

FANTASY FOCUS: From left to right, top to bottom: Campbell, Green, and Slaton

Sometimes someone or a group of people just don’t fit.

Whether it’s a short person in a tall crowd or someone who looks and talks but can’t perform the same way, there is always that awkward hole in society.

In this society, let’s go to it.

Fantasy Football fans to volunteer for the part of scum of the football sub-division fan base.

There are 119 teams in the sub-division, and though the 49ers football team came into the season ranked last, they might be last in quality of fans as well.

If the brawl on the field with the University of Miami in 2006 is still fresh in people’s minds, then the Golden Panthers belonged did not fail to disappoint critics and further damage the already fragile reputation the team had.

Though the infamous brawl and loss of scholarships due to failed requirements in the summer was between players, fans now had their time on television to disfigure their audience during the Sept. 20th meeting at home against South Florida.

NO CLASS

For those fans in the stands who did not notice the classless act of a hundred people in the student section, here it is.

During the third quarter of the home opener, Bulls linebacker Jermaine Mcpressions collided with a teammate in a hit in which the player endured an awkward fall and did not react afterward. In what seemed like a neck injury, a very serious affair that can affect the spine, penalties were rushed to the field as Mcpressions could not get up.

This is where FIU fans come in.

During the national television broadcast, fans were heard yelling chants of obersinity mocking the fallen Mcpressions.

Rivals.com reported that ESPN analyst Charles Arbeuckle, who covered the game, proceeded to blast fans on the air for being classless.

Luckily, the incident was not blown up in the national media the next day due to FIU’s lack of relevance in the NCAA scene, but it did leave a stain on a very well played game by FIU’s up and coming team.

The overall group of people associated with FIU failed to support the Golden Panthers as much as they could well.

With an attendance figure reported at 16,717, the fans failed to fill up the building, which holds 19,000.

Once again leave it to FIU fans to leave seats empty on a perfect Saturday afternoon in a brand new stadium that has been advertised since the summer.

With over 30,000 FIU fans overall in the schools database, over 30,000 alumni, and help from a couple of 100,000 alumni, FIU football could not be packed.

On top of that, people could not even stay the whole game, which had an exiting finish. The Golden Panthers scored nine points in the 4th quarter to close the gap and get themselves in the game, but some fans felt the need to exit the stadium minutes before the game was over.

BUILDING

With all of the embarrassment mentioned, students should remember this and learn what being a fan is.

I don’t mean to bring down every FIU fan in the building, because I did see encouraging things at the game. There were people who stayed until the end, cheered the team throughout, and remained silent during Mcpressions’ scary moment.

Those people do not deserve the reputation, but a fan-base as a whole takes on the identity of the indiscretions of the few.

With the stadium only in Phase 1 of its building process, and the team just scratching the surface of college football, there can only be improvement from the team, which is clearly headed in the right direction.

But the Community surrounding the team is the big concern to me.

Mario Cristobal seems to be building his sprog, a strong foundation, but if the fans don’t learn to be a part of it, is hard to see the momentum taking shape.

If things do not change well, FIU fans will just continue to be viewed as that group that just can’t fit.
The Golden Panthers are through with both the hoopla surrounding the debut of their brand new on-campus stadium and the 17-9 loss against No. 13 ranked South Florida.

With an 0-3 record, FIU’s attention now shifts to the Toledo Rockets (1-2) who are thirsty for a victory after also falling just short of upset of their own against No. 25 ranked Fresno State.

The Rockets will look to record their first home victory against the Golden Panthers in the first meeting between the two schools.

After sophomore quarterback Wayne Younger replaced junior Paul McCall in the fourth quarter against South Florida and was responsible for setting up the Golden Panthers first offensive touchdown, it was once again the topic of conversation as to whether or not Younger would finally name Younger the starter after three games.

As of Sept. 23, there was no word as to whether or not Cristobal had made the decision.

Younger finished just 3-of-7 but showed both his speed and his arm strength on a key 61-yard pass to freshman T.Y. Hilton that left FIU’s offense at USF’s own 1-yard line.

Several plays later, the Golden Panthers recorded their first offensive score on a 1-yard run with John Allen and junior wide receiver Stephen Williams.

Allen was particularly reliable last week for the Rockets as he had 8 receptions for 93 yards and 2 touchdowns, one of which occurred in overtime.

The FIU offense this week will be dealing with a defense that is certainly less overpowering than the likes of both the Kansas Jayhawks and Iowa Hawkeyes.

The Rockets’ defense is ranked 78th and has allowed opposing offenses to average 379 yards and 14 touchdowns but this will become a moot point if the FIU offense is nonexistent.

Regardless of who is behind the center on Sept. 27, the Golden Panthers will need to put the ball in the hands of those who have proven themselves thus far this season.

T.Y. Hilton, sophomore Marquis Rolle, and senior tight end Eric Kirchenberg have all been contributors for this offense and it will be essential to get them involved if either quarterback can get into a passing rhythm.

For the second time this season, Golden Panther offensive coordinator Bill Legg will have experience against FIU’s opponent as his former employer, the Purdue Boilermakers, faced the Rockets last season in a game in which Purdue dominated Toledo 52-24.

Legg’s 2007 Purdue team defeated the Iowa Hawkeyes but that success was a non-issue when the Golden Panthers faced the Hawkeyes on Sept. 7th in a 42-0 loss.

In any event, Legg’s experience against this week’s opponent can be viewed as somewhat of an advantage.

The Golden Panthers match up better with the Rockets because the discrepancy in talent is far less than their previous three opponents.

While the Toledo offense is without question better defensively, the Rockets are only ranked 13 spots ahead of the Golden Panthers.

If the FIU offense puts up a tolerable performance and the defense plays the way they did against a very sound USF offense, FIU pullout a win.

Playing on the road has always been a challenge for FIU; they have yet to win on the road in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

The Glass Bowl, however, has not historically been one of the more challenging venues to play in.

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Both losses come after the Golden Panthers won 10 of their first 11 contests and were on the verge of a possible national ranking. The Golden Panthers were set back at the invitationals.

FIU’s aspiration of winning the Sun Belt tournament and getting into the NCAA tourney relies heavily on starting their conference schedule on a positive note.

With winning records, both Troy and South Alabama pose a formidable challenge for the Golden Panthers, who currently lead the Sun-Belt.

Even though FIU is coming off of the consecutive losses, they have the makeup and potential to be a dangerous team in Sunbelt play.

Rosa is coming off back-to-back Sun Belt Conference player of the week awards and is leading the nation in kills per set.

The last player to earn back-to-back honors is Megan Argabright of Western Kentucky during October of the 2006 season.

Rosado has at least 20 kills in all three matches this weekend.

Junior Isador Rangel set a career high in kills with 15 and freshman Natalie Valentin led all players with a career high 55 assists in the loss to Memphis.

The FIU Women’s volleyball team begins conference play at home this weekend hosting South Alabama (6-2) on Friday at 7 p.m. and Troy (9-6) on Saturday at 7 p.m. at FIU arena.

They return home after suffering back-to-back losses for the first time this season at the UAB/Sanford Invitational.

The Golden Panthers have gotten off to great start with an impressive record of 10 wins and 3 losses.

FIU will look to rebound from back-to-back losses for the first time this season.

The last player to earn back-to-back honors is Megan Argabright of Western Kentucky during October of the 2006 season.