Fan Code of Conduct protects against disorderly behavior

David A. Barrios
Staff Writer

Following several incidents of student misconduct at football games, including widespread alcohol use and people rushing onto the football field, questions are arising as to what is acceptable and proper student conduct at school events.

"What constitutes actual unacceptable behavior at events is simple. It is a form of behavior that violates the law or a university policy that is outlined in the Student Code of Conduct," said Chief of Public Safety Bill King.

The Division of Student Affairs has developed the FIU Golden Panthers Pledge of Honor, Fan Code of Conduct, according to Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones.

"The Fan Code of Conduct has been disseminated in the First Year Experience classes and other Campus Life events," Jones said.

The Fan Code of Conduct states: "Unruly, threatening or disruptive behavior such as standing in the aisles, profane and abusive language, smoking, fighting, throwing objects and drunkenness will not be tolerated and can result in ejection, arrest and/or loss of ticket privileges. Should you observe any of this disruptive behavior, please notify your nearest law enforcement officer. Standing on seats or bleachers is strictly prohibited."

According to the policies, signs of a derogatory nature directed toward an individual opponent, visiting team or game officials are not permitted. Artificial noise makers such as air horns, electronic amplifiers, whistles, are also not permitted into NCAA arenas or stadiums and will be removed immediately.

"Stadium policy prohibits fans from entering the field of play unless they are properly credentialed or accompanied by an authorized staff member. Violators are subject to arrest," said Julie Berg, senior associate athletic director.

During the season opener against the University of South Florida, over 47 students were charged for underage drinking, an offense of Student Code of Conduct.

During the last home football game on Oct. 11, four students ran onto the football field seconds before the game was over in celebration of the victory against Middle Tennessee University.

Three of the students were ejected from the stadium and face academic disciplinary action. One of the students, Gregory Mineau, 21, was arrested for disorderly conduct, resisting arrest without violence and trespassing after being warned.

"Yes – we do have some issues with some student behavior... we are aggressively working to educate students about what is appropriate and what are their responsibilities." - Rosa Jones, vice president, Student Affairs

Alumni center in the works

Eduardo Morales
Staff Writer

Several alumni pledged thousands of dollars toward the construction of a new alumni center during this year’s annual Torch Awards Gala.

During the gala, which is held to honor alumni and faculty, an unexpected series of donations began when Betty Perry, a University ambassador, stood up and offered a $10,000 “challenge grant” for a new alumni center.

About a month after the event, the University had collected $120,000 from 12 alumni for the spontaneous project.

“None of this was scripted folks,” said Barry Johnson, master of ceremonies, after hearing the first two donors’ proposal during the event. “What an excellent commitment of Miami to FIU.

Among those making donations was Jose Perez de Corcho, a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

“I said, ‘if this is going to be my number one priority as president, then I have to lead by example and this is the way to do it.’ It’s very easy to generate that feeling of excitement when you put forth a project like this that shows where we came from and where we are going,” Perez de Corcho said.

The alumni center was part of a proposed Main Street development which would have included retail shops, student housing and restaurants.

However, with the budget crisis, the Main Street project was removed as a top priority for the University.

“It’s been taken off our planning process,” said Director of Facilities Planning Robert Griffin. “[We removed it] due to other considerations such as housing demand and retail demands.”

However, the alumni center project is still in full force and Griffin mentions that facilities and the Alumni Association have appointed three possible sites for the construction.

Membership for the Alumni Association boomed from fewer than 1,000 to more than 15,000 during the past five years.

The program ranked first in the country for membership growth in a survey of 76 major universities nationwide.

FIU is the only state university of its size without an alumni center.

The University of Central Florida has the Fairwinds Alumni Center, a 23,000-square-foot building. The University of Miami is currently working on a 70,000-square-foot center for alumni.

Associate Vice President and Director of Alumni Relations Bill Dragl, who joined the division five years ago, has insisted on the idea for an alumni center.

Before he came to the University, he worked at the University of Florida – which contains the Emerson Alumni Hall, a 60,000-square-foot alumni center.

“[It] helps to create an affinity for a university,” Griffin said, when asked about the importance of an alumni center.

The center will include meeting spaces, classrooms for use by alumni and for student events, as well as a gallery featuring items from the University’s history.

On football game days, the center will host events and activities.

Students in the Architecture program will be responsible for developing concept art for the building, while a committee led by Alumni Association members Stuart Appelthorpe and Michael Mendez will begin fundraising for the project.

“An alumni center is an important part of being a major institution. We should have all the best of every institution.”

Stewart Appelthorpe, member Alumni Association

"An alumni center is an important part of being a major institution," Appelthorpe said. "We should have all the best of every institution. I stepped up because it was good for the University, good for the city, good for the state of Florida and good for the country.”

A projected budget hasn’t been released yet, as the project is still in the early phase of acquiring donations for its construction.

FOOTBALL, page 2
Students react to Obama’s historic win

JUJO MENACHE
Asst. News Director

“It’s been a long time coming, but tonight, because of what we did on this day, in this election, on this defining moment, change is coming to America,” those were the words of President-elect Barack Obama as he addressed an enormous crowd of supporters at Chicago’s Grant Park on Nov. 4.

On that historic night, the four-year senator from Illinois gained enough electoral votes to defeat Republican rival Sen. John M. McCain to become the first African American president in the history of the United States.

As news of Obama’s victory spread, students had a variety of opinions concerning the outcome of the election. Many of his student supporters were elated with the victory.

“There’s a wave of energy came over me,” said Kelsea Jones, an environmental studies major.

“Barack Obama as he addressed the enormous crowd of supporters,” Weni Liang, a student of the Hispanic Studies major. “I felt comforted that change had finally come.”

Jones felt the president-elect was the first candidate she felt a personal connection to. “I voted for Barack Obama because I believed he was the first candidate who represented my interests and the interests of the U.S. as a whole,” Jones said.

For many students, it was Obama’s personality and message that led to their decision to vote for him. “I’m very hopeful, I trust him,” said junior Ryan Vogel. “He seems like a genuine person to me. He spoke about spreading peace and was very soft and humble.”

Vogel, also an environmental studies major, stressed that Obama’s positions on the environment and community service are what drew him to this man. “I’m happy to see his stance on education. When you’re spending billions on wars and teachers are not getting paid enough money, you know something is not right,” Rodriguez said.

In the Doral headquarters of the Republican Party of Florida, supporters of all ages for nominee Sen. McCain gathered at an election watch party. But as Sen. Obama grabbed key states in the presidential race, McCain supporters began to see their chances for a surprise win grow thinner and thinner.

“By 9 p.m., we knew it was over.” As soon as we saw Ohio and Pennsylvania go to Obama, the mood became more and more grim,” said freshman Daniel O’Quinn, co-chair of the University group Students for M. McCain.

Yet despite the loss, O’Quinn encouraged McCain supporters to show respect to the new president. “Since he’s our president-elect, our leader and an American, it’s my duty to support him,” O’Quinn said.

After many months of constant campaign coverage, students feel a sense of relief and hope for the future. “I’m just happy this election is over,” said senior Angel Cabrera. “I’m glad I got to see a Black president, now we just need to see a Hispanic one.”

Questions are also being asked about the university’s role in upholding the rules and providing order at games including Public Safety and other contracted security officials.

“The job of Public Safety is to provide a safe atmosphere in the game by providing a visible presence and taking action anytime we see a need for service. We will always react to the rules, but I feel that 99 out of 100 percent of students are very cooperative and follow the rules,” King said.

The security company we hired through competitive bid is Contemporary Services Company. They are one of the premier security companies in the country and are used at other venues such as Dolphin Stadium and American Airlines Arena,” Berg said. King wants to make it clear that CSC does not have the same authority as Public Safety.

“CSC has no arrest powers. As far as I understand, if their safety is involved, they can defend themselves. But unless Public Safety asks for their assistance, they should only be monitoring security, and not entering into physical altercations,” King said.

Public Safety allots limited power to security company

FOOTBALL, page 1

at the games. We are aggressively working to educate students about what is appropriate and what are their responsibilities,” Jones said.

During that same game, eight other students were arrested for alcohol and tobacco violations.

For the most part, I don’t feel that we have a serious issue with student conduct at events. You’ll always find a few students violating the rules, but I feel that 99 out of 100 percent of students are very cooperative and follow the rules,” King said.

Students react to Obama’s historic win
News Flash
Biscayne Bay Campus

Nutrition one-on-one offered to students

The Biscayne Bay Recreation Center is giving students the opportunity to meet with a dietetic intern to get their questions about nutrition and exercise performance answered.

Through Dec. 5, the new dietetic intern, Vania Lederman, dietetics and nutrition graduate student, will be at the BBC Recreation Center room 160 at the Wolfe University Center from Monday to Friday, at 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Call (305) 919-5678 for more information.

Speed Dating event for single Miamians

The Black Student Association and On Point Poetry Club have come together to offer students a Poetic Speed Dating Night. The event will be Nov. 12 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms. Each candidate will receive three minutes to go on a mini-date and “potentially find the love of their life.” On Point Poetry members will be reciting poetry during the event. Food will be served and students get in for free, while males who are not FIU students will be charged a $1 entrance fee.

Movie Night by Stonewall open for students

Stonewall BBC will be holding a movie night on Nov. 12 in the Bay Vista Housing at 8 p.m. The event is sponsored by the Multicultural Programs and Services department. For more information, contact (305) 919-2436.

Let’s Dance - Homecoming at BBC

The Homecoming Dance, Moonlit Mirage, will be held Nov. 7 from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. at the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms. The event is sponsored by the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programing Council. Tickets are free for FIU students, and the general public will be charged a $10 fee. Semi-formal attire is required. For more information about the event, call (305) 919-5280.

Free Coffee and Club Fair to promote clubs

The Office of Campus Life and Orientation at Biscayne Bay Campus is once again offering the Late Night Latte. On Nov. 13, students can go to Academic One from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. for free coffee, refreshments and a Club Fair, where they can get educated about the clubs at BBC. The event is funded by the BBC Student Government Council.

Political movie showing offered by Federal Jack

On Nov. 7 Federal Jack will be presenting the movies “Dark Secrets Inside Bohemian Grove” and “Order of Death.” The showing will be at the Mary Ann Wolfe Theater at the Wolfe University Center from 6 to 11 p.m.

Shoe drive for Haiti by graduate students

A group of graduate students from a community psychology class is collecting new or gently-used shoes to send to Haiti as part of a class project. A according to the flyer for the shoe drive, children who do not have shoes are deprived from getting an education in Haiti. Drop-off boxes are located next to the information desk in the Wolfe University Center. The drive will continue for two more weeks.

- Compiled by Julia Cardenuto

The Final Countdown

Sisterhood Retreat celebrates natural beauty, friendship

CHRISTOPHER RUBI
Contributing Writer

Promoting awareness, confidence and the improvement of self-esteem are just some of the goals of this year’s Sisterhood Retreat.

Both the University Park and Biscayne Bay campuses’ Women’s Centers are holding their third annual Sisterhood Retreat from Nov. 21 to 23.

The weekend event will take place in Labelle, Fla. near the Gulf Coast, and will consist of interactive activities that promote women’s awareness and leadership.

“We are very proud and excited with these events that focus on empowering women,” said Bronwen Bares, a coordinator for the Women’s Center at BBC.

“For committee members in charge of coordinating the weekend event, even though the Women’s Centers can only take a certain number of students and committee members, with such a small group, those attending will be exposed to an intimate rural setting in Labelle, as opposed to the perpetually busy atmosphere of Miami, according to Bares.

“We are actually trying to keep the numbers down for the event because that way those who attend the Sisterhood Retreat can experience a very intimate setting,” said Sendi Colquitt, a coordinator for the University Park Women’s Center.

The Sisterhood Retreat will offer relaxation activities, including yoga, personal relaxation exercises and aromatherapy.

“We are going to have a lot of outdoor activities,” said Sarah Paulick, program assistant in the Women’s Center. “(There’s going to be) kayaking, biking, camp fires and other leadership activities.”

One of the activities scheduled for the retreat is a Real Women Beauty Pageant, where the message is to emphasize the real, natural beauty of women.

“This pageant is to celebrate who we are as women naturally,” Bares said.

Attendees are also expected to participate in self-awareness and bonding exercises throughout the duration of the trip.

“We can’t wait to see what they learn about themselves. In the Sisterhood Retreat, they will learn about themselves and will have a better understanding of leadership competencies,” Paulick said.

“We will meet women their age, and will leave with new friends and more respect for themselves.

For more information about the Sisterhood Retreat, contact the Women’s Center at UP at (305) 348-1506, or (305) 919-5359 at BBC.

Sarah Paulick, program assistant in the Women’s Center.
MY CHOICE

Pro-life: A decision, not a solution

Christine Warner/The Beacon

I was browsing the bookstore at University Park trying to kill time when I glanced outside and saw massive posters and small groups huddled together in a earnest discussion in the Betty Chapman Plaza.

My curiosity piqued when I realized there were several police officers monitoring the area, all looking as though they would rather have been somewhere else, but still ensuring they did their jobs.

Outside were pro-life and pro-choice groups out in numbers doing their thing. The pro-life group had posters on display that towered over students walking to class. The activists were barricaded into their own quarters. Opponents of the display gathered too, although their numbers were much smaller.

The posters were grotesque – to say the least – and I can assure the viewer that Wikipedia is not a valid source of factual information. People were getting their facts from someone needs to inform them that Wikipedia is not a valid source of factual information.

An argument used by the pro-life camp is often the burden on the woman when she faces an unwanted pregnancy is actually quite small. “The woman only has to push the child out and then the government will take care of it,” one pro-life male was heard saying at the rally.

Hurray for welfare; to hell with women’s rights.

Now if that response did not disappoint but hoped for the best. But one thing was clear:

They likened abortion to genocide and the Holocaust. I consider that a slap to the face to both Holocaust survivors and Rwandans.

Pro-life groups showed that minority children, including Hispanics and blacks, are the least likely to be adopted.

The second reason why I’m pro-me is simply because this decision affects me more than it does anybody else. Emotionally, mentally and physically, I am the one that has to deal with the stress and agony of my decision, despite the pro-life view that the fetus also goes through agony.

Having a child that goes into foster care, and is possibly physically or emotionally abused until she gets out of the system does not take the burden or stress off the mother.

The pro-life movement can also have a profound effect on rape victims.

A study by the National Institutes of Health finds the rape-related pregnancy rate to be 3 percent. This means that there could be well over 32,000 pregnancies attributed to rape each year.

When I listened quietly on the pro-lifers were having with a pro-choicer who was trying to get her point across, she was having very little luck. She was bombarded by about five of them who were trying to convince her that cells have life and that “a fetus has a heartbeat after six days.”

At this point I had become quite concerned as to where these people were getting their facts from, someone needs to inform them that Wikipedia is not a valid source of factual information.

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“The woman only has to push the child out and then the government will take care of it,” one pro-life male was heard saying at the rally.

Hurray for welfare; to hell with women’s rights.

Now if that response did not draw ire from me, nothing else did. Not even the airplane flying overhead with another grotesque image of “abortion”.

That makes me wonder how many others are going around believing the government will “take care” of unwanted kids that women just happen to pop out. Doesn’t it make you wonder, too?

To have or not to have should be a woman’s decision. As the debate continues, we will remain barricaded into our respective quarters with our respective views. The world continues to revolve and people address more pressing issues close to their own hearts.

I tend to agree with my mother that I was an unwanted child and is still being supported. I attended Case Western Reserve University, funded by the federal Department of Health and Human Services showed that minority children, including Hispanics and blacks, are the least likely to be adopted.

The second reason why I’m pro-me is simply because this decision affects me more than it does anybody else. Emotionally, mentally and physically, I am the one that has to deal with the stress and agony of my decision, despite the pro-life view that the fetus also goes through agony.

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want to respond? Post your thoughts on fiusm.com/opinion or send them to opinion@fiusm.com
First time voting experience evokes sense of patriotism

Jonathan Davila
Contact Us
November 7, 2008

November 7, 2008
The Beacon – 5
www.fiu.edu

I spent 18 years being treated like a second-class citizen and being told my voice doesn’t matter, so there’s something very empowering about finally being able to take part in the process.

The constant news coverage was so overwhelmingly focused on the negatives that there were times when I just wanted to give up, stop caring, and write in “George Carlin for President,” or worse: not even vote. I couldn’t believe the topics discussed in the play could mirror many of the issues facing today’s youth.

“A fear of failure, a fear of exclusion and a fear of understanding one’s own natural intuitive self, collectively, propel young people such as the play’s hero and antihero, Melchior and Moritz, into the depths of anguish and self-doubt. FCAT driven manias, a system I thought was successful, I ended up hating it. I didn’t believe in and support the fear of not succeeding. Today, society banishes anyone who proves less than successful,” Church said.

Chelsea Duran, who plays the character of Martha, Wendla’s friend, believes many of the play’s issues are honest and relevant to today’s youth. “I feel more geared toward parents. “For me, the story is important about parents needing to be open with their children, especially during adolescence when things are changing and you don’t know why. If left to find out things on their own, they don’t get the whole story and can make very big mistakes because of naïve misconceptions,” Duran said. “Especially with the topic of sex and puberty, most adults treat it like a shameful act or process that should be kept secret and not discussed.”

Despite its dark themes, Church describes Wedekind as the Oliver Stone of our time for his ability to incorporate humorous dialogues into serious, grim scenes.

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Despite its dark themes, Church describes Wedekind as the Oliver Stone of our time for his ability to incorporate humorous dialogues into serious, grim scenes.

IU will be performing “Spring Awakening” at the Wertheim Performing Arts Theater from Nov. 6 to 16.

For tickets, call (305) 348-3789.
Divabetic integrates health, beauty education

EDDITH SEVILLA
Staff writer

What could be scarier than ghosts, haunt-
ed houses and devils on Halloween? All the sugar in your bloodstream after trick-or-treating, that’s what.

On Nov. 1, national non-profit organization Divabetic – Make every Your Diabetes combined diabetic education, healthy alternatives to sweets and beauty services at the Ros CaI Koven’s Center in Maimi Beach to help women prevent and manage diabetes.

“I wanted to do an upbeat friendly approach to inspire women at risk and those affected by living with diabetes to stay healthy and not beat around their care, as well as bring that message home to their loved ones,” said Max Szadek, founder of Divabetic.

Diabetes is a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin, a hormone that is needed to convert sugar, starches and other foods into energy needed for daily living.

There are two main types of diabetes: Type one affects people who cannot produce insulin and often strikes children and young adults. Type two occurs when the body produces insulin at a low rate. If left untreated, diabetes can cause severe damage including kidney damage, nerve damage, lower limb amputations and blindness.

So some of the symptoms that a person might see with diabetes are frequent urination, blurry vision, feeling very tired, being lethargic, moody and sudden foot pain,” said Judi Wilcox, a registered dietician and certified diabetes educator.

Risk factors include family history, obesity or being overweight, living a sedentary lifestyle and high blood pressure.

So if you’re health-conscious, what should you do with all that candy left over from Halloween?

“Take the candy, put it in a basket and make it candy all year or give it away to charity,” Wilcox suggested.

However, some may not be ready to part ways with their sweet tooth and to those, Wilcox suggested freezing candy and eating it in smaller portions.

But Wilcox warned not to fear eating.

“If you eliminate something from your diet, it becomes the most exciting thing you want to have,” she said. “It’s better to let yourself have an occasional treat than to deprive yourself of everything and then go crazy and eat all that you can.”

The Divabetic event showcased six stations: “Denial is not My Style,” which discussed the basics of diabetes, the importance of sleep and allowed participants to have their weight, waist and body mass index measured; “Glam more, Fear less” offered beauty services with a diabetic care discussion; “Grab Green and Go” offered solutions to better nutrition; “Twist and Shout” taught participants how to add more movement into everyday life; “Sweet Inspirations” offered goal-setting techniques for a healthy lifestyle and “Tunnel of Love” addressed how sexual health and pregnancy are affected by diabetes.

For Vanessa Prieto, 25, who has a lot of candy left over from Halloween, Divabetic was a wake-up call.

“There’s a big history of diabetes in my family and I didn’t know that you can eat healthy and control your diabetes just by the way you eat and the way you exercise,” said Prieto. “I am going to start taking care of myself and start eating healthy and doing things I’m supposed to be doing to control my health.”

For more information on this organization, go to www.divabetic.org.

Honest Abe...finishes his second term. by Michelle Diaz

Fast-paced arcade shooter leaves little to be desired

I’ll never fully understand what makes games like “Galaga” and “Space Invaders” so addictive, or what feeds my insatiable need to destroy tiny space ships, achieve a new high score and pursue that ever elusive perfect score.

One thing, however, is perfectly clear. The folks at the Polymerrabbit Game Studio understand it all. “Frantic” is an arcade shooter that combines elements from games like “Galaga” and the more recent “Geometry Wars” to create a free form game that is every bit as fun and addictive.

The goal is simple - shoot down enemy ships, collect money and power ups and avoid enemy bullets. Power ups are temporary upgrades, but money can buy permanent upgrades to enhance shields, fire power, even the luck. The better you do, the quicker you will fill up the adrenaline gauge. Once full, you can unleash hell, a massive laser attack that will obliterate anything in its path.

There are two control schemes: You can use the mouse or directional buttons to move your ship around the screen, but the mouse offers a bit more speed and control.

“Frantic” is a well paced game that doesn’t ever get stupidly hard and manages to never feel boring. The upgrade system does a good job of balancing out the increases in enemy density and each of the game’s ten stages presents a unique challenge in the form of a boss. There’s a lot of fun to be had here. It’s a fairly short game, but it packs so much punch into its levels, you will definitely be coming back for another round, another chance to improve your score.

This game also looks and feels great. The enemy designs are interesting and colorful and the explosions look great too. Plus, assuming you’ve gone for the mouse control option, it runs perfectly smooth. And, just in case it doesn’t, you can adjust the visual quality to improve the frame rate.

So, whether you’re looking for your next online addiction or just trying to squeeze some fun into those 20 minutes between classes, “Frantic” is sure to be worth your while.

You can find “Frantic” online for free at Polymerrabbit.com or at CrazyMonkeyGames.com.

CrazyMonkeyGames.com

A Forum for Free Student Expression at Florida International University

Thank you for reading Monday, Wednesday, Friday
Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124
**Duo pairs up for goal, team wins fourth game**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL  Staff Writer**

Although Florida Atlantic put up an arduous fight the second half on Nov. 3 at University Park, the men's soccer team held on to a 1-0 lead, marking their fourth win of the season with just one game to check off before the awaited Conference USA tournament.

It was a seemingly slow start for both teams, but FIU's Juan Guerra controlled the first scoring opportunity 7 minutes into the game. He made a brisk run down the right side.

However, the shot was deflected by FAU goal keeper Phillip Lamarr. FAU had their first opportunity in the 24 minute when Shiree Stadnes made a run down the right side and took a low shot towards the left corner; but it was a shot, bouncing off the post and out of scoring boundaries. When the halftime break came along, neither team had made an offensive threat.

Just three shots for FIU and four for FAU, resulting in a 0-0 tie. It would be the combination of Golden Panther defenders and a goal-scoring duo that steered the Owls away from a successful flight.

That duo was none other than FIU's preseason offensive player of the year, Juan Guerra, along with Steven Jair Cabas. It was the shot when Guerra took control of the ball around mid-field and passed off to Cabas who then made a run down the middle and beat the FAU keeper to make the score 1-0.

The Owls went into attack mode from there, trying desperately to tie up the game before it was too late. It seemed they would do so in the 73 minute when Dannell King ran past the FIU defense and cut inside to take a shot just outside the box, but it sailed high and away from the goal. King wouldn't take for an answer.

He threatened FIU with two more shots in 10 minutes, but both were cleared away by the determined defense.

Between King's second and third shot, Evan Kluge also had a terrifying attempt on a header. However, FIU goalkeeper, Jesse Fullerton, made a remarkable dive to stop the shot, marking a total of 50 saves for his college career.

FIU put up two more shots by the junior Diego Tamburus, but both were doomed. One was wide and the other saved by the FAU keeper, Lamarr, leaving the final score at 1-0.

FIU drops to 4-11-1 after the loss, while the Golden Panthers improve to 4-10-2.

FIU is still in the mix for a C-USA tournament appearance and will host SMU on Nov. 7 at 7 p.m., their last match of the regular season.

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**Injuries mounting for men's basketball**

**JONATHAN RAMOS  Asst. Sports Director**

The men's basketball team continued to pile up injuries when point guard Jesse Soto endured a scaphoid injury during a practice last week.

The sophomore, who was eligible after sitting out a season by NCAA transfer rules, was set to start in season opener home contest against Eastern Kentucky on Nov. 14.

"It's tough when you have to sit out a year," Soto said. "Right now it's 10-12 weeks but I plan to work hard to be back early."

The scaphoid is a bone in the wrist that is typically slow to heal due to limited circulation to the bone. Soto's loss of Soto adds to the amount of absences the team will have to start the season, which includes forward ALEX Galindo (ankle), forward J.C. Otero (knee), and center Badara N'Diaye (knee).

The Golden Panthers will resort to newcomer Haruley Fuller and sophomore Nick Taylor at point guard. Taylor played 25 games last season as a walk-on redshirt freshman.

"I don't know what I did in my past," head coach Sergio Rosso said as he tried to remain upbeat. "But you can know there's things you can control but what you can do is go forward, and the kids have an unbelievable will to make us better. We're being tested as a group and I'm very proud of our program."

"I don't think injuries happen for a reason," he said. "But I really like this group, and we expect the same level of production from them."

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**LAMPPING IN THE POST:** Center Russell Hicks and forward Nikola Gacesa try to get position on the court during a practice on Nov. 5.

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**Commentary**

**JONATHAN ALPERT  Staff Writer**

Fantasy football owners are not scouring the waiver wire anymore. There is always Jamaal Charles (Kansas City Chiefs - right side), and Ray Rice (Baltimore Ravens running back) , and Ray Rice (Baltimore Ravens running back) surprising people with the end of the season, but chances are they will be snatched up by a bottom feeder of your league at the top of the waiver ladder.

Starting week 10, Fantasy Football owners at the top of their league at the top of the waiver ladder.

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**WHO TO START**

**Fantasy Football owners**

- **Chad Pennington: QB, Miami Dolphins -** Admitting is the first step to recovery. Pennington has surpassed 280 yards in his last four, and only 7 touchdowns in 8 games, Pennington is 31st ranked pass defense + Most accurate that is typically slow to heal due to 12 weeks but I plan to work hard to be a year," Soto said. "Right now it's 10-12 weeks but I plan to work hard to be back early." Injuries mounting for men's basketball.

**WHO TO SIT IF YOU HAVE TO**

- **Ray Rice: RB, Baltimore Ravens -** The rookie running back class of '08 seems to be improving with every week.

**Rice has thrown his name into the discussion of potential superstar running backs in the class of '08. He's been much more involved in the offense the last few weeks and has shown his skill as a pass-catcher as well. After his breakout performance last week, Rice will now be the heartbeat of the Ravens offense, and the kids are traveling to Houston to take on the Texans, who give up a lot of points. Everybody is loving Raymon this weekend.**

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**WHO TO SIT IF YOU HAVE TO**

- **Ben Roethlisberger: QB, Pittsburgh Steelers -** The shootout results in Brett the Jet getting everyone involved in the offense, therefore Washington finding his way into the end zone.

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**WHO TO SIT IF YOU HAVE TO**

- **Maurice Jones Drew: RB, Jacksonville Jaguars -** A dominating first step to recovery. Here it goes: Hi, my name is Jonathan, and I'm addicted to putting Maurice Jones-Drew in my starting neap.

**Wow, I feel better, getting it off my chest. His numbers have not been good the last few weeks and I like avoiding players who's only value comes from end zone work.**

**However, he is playing the Lions, last in the league in every category ever created, and his number has been called double the amount of Fred Taylor's, so the era of MJD is over.**

**Leon Washington: RB, New York Jets -** Love this little guy, he might be the most dangerous screen pass catcher in the entire NFL. He is elusive, strong, and has a knack for big plays, and the Jets are playing the Rams this week. Washington is a solid start in two scenarios. 1) If the Jets blow the Rams out Leon will pick up some garbage time yards. 2) The shootout results in Brett the Jet getting everyone involved in the offense, therefore Washington finding his way into the end zone.

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**WHO TO SIT IF YOU HAVE TO**

- **Ryan Grant: RB, Green Bay Packers -** The last years fantasy hero has turned into this years goat. A high draft pick in most leagues, Grant has been a major disappointment, scoring double double digits one time all season.

**Even though he's been handling the rock better the last few weeks, Grant faces a top tier run defense in the Minnesota Vikings.**

**Ryan Grant, no soap for you.**

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**Steve Slaton: RB, Houston Texans -** One of this years pleasant surprises should find his way to your bench this week.

**The Defense Ravens haven't allowed a 100 yard rusher in 27 games Slaton is a skilled pass catcher but this week won't be one of his best, considering the Ravens secondary is banged up and the Texans receivers are extremely talented.**

**Desean Jackson: WR, Philadelphia Eagles -** The million dollar question is if Jackson has done enough to keep his job as the number two receiver with the return of incumbent Reggie Brown.

**No one is really sure how Jackson will factor into the offense with return of Brown, and this isn't a weekend to take a risk, considering the Eagles will face the stout Giants defense, and your team is probably fighting for playoff position.**

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If you have any questions or comments, you can email me at jonathan.lpert@fiusm.com
Panthers to host top notch offense for 2nd consecutive week

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

With the bowl picture still up in the air for both teams, the SunBelt Eastern Division will be on display this week as the Blue Raiders visit FIU Stadium to host the Arkansas State Red Wolves. The match-up is an important one for both teams, as they will be fighting for the regular season title and a trip to the SunBelt tournament.

FIU is coming off a strong win over Middle Tennessee State last weekend, and is looking to continue their winning ways against a tough Arkansas State squad. The Red Wolves are led by quarterback Corey Leonard, who has passed for over 300 yards and three touchdowns in their last two games.

The Golden Panthers defense will have their work cut out for them as they try to contain the high-powered ASU offense. The Red Wolves are averaging 30.8 points per game and 434.2 yards per game, and are led by running back Rico Richardson, who has rushed for over 1,000 yards and 13 touchdowns.

However, FIU has a solid defense of their own, led by quarterback Paul M'Cullough, who has thrown for 1,510 yards and 12 touchdowns on the season. The Golden Panthers have also been strong on special teams, with forced fumbles, interceptions, and blocked kicks.

As for the game itself, it is sure to be a hard-fought battle between two of the best teams in the SunBelt. The Panthers are 8-3 on the season and 6-1 in conference, while the Red Wolves are 7-4 and 4-3 in conference.

Kickoff is set for 7:00pm at FIU Stadium, and the game will be televised on ESPN3. Don't miss it!