SCC-UP tries squeezing out Juicy Campus

RICK MARTINEZ
FIUSM.com Editor

The debate regarding Juicy Campus, a Web site that allows anyone to post messages or gossip anonymously, has hit the Senate Floor of the Student Government Council-University Park. The Senate voted to pass a resolution Nov. 17 that would send a message to the University saying that the UP student body wants the Web site blocked from the University’s Internet access. The majority of senators present voted for the resolution after heavy deliberation, but the voting was invalidated due to the lack of quorum, according to Sen. Chris Cabral of the College of Arts and Sciences.

In order to reach quorum, the majority of the Senate must be present to vote. During debates, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution was often a point of discussion. Free speech means that there’s a person that’s accountable,” said Sen. David Dial of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences. “No one knows who is writing these things...” Sen. Jeff Molinaro of the College of Law argued against the passing of the resolution.

“Each one of us here has the right not to go to Juicy Campus,” Molinaro said. “The beauty about the constitutional system is that things you hate, things you despise the most in this world, are protected, so you have the right to say something to them.”

Cabral had another argument against the resolution, arguing that SGC-UP should recommend to ban the Web site because students have a choice to go to this Web site or not.

“You don’t have to go to this Web site, you don’t have to make it your home page, you don’t have to care about what some cowardly idiot has to say about you,” Cabral said.

Rep. at Large Jennifer Fuentes, who favored the resolution, argued that a line has to be drawn when it comes to First Amendment rights. “I believe that in the Constitution it clearly states that there’s a limit to our freedom of speech,” Fuentes said.

“When you are offending the integrity of an individual, when you are offending the integrity of an organization, when you are attacking the University as a whole, that’s when you’ve surpassed your limit.”

Molinaro offered an alternative to banning Juicy Campus. He believes that students should instead be working to boycott it and that it would be a more effective solution to the problem.

“If a student says, ‘I choose not to look at this,’ that’s their right. But when a government comes in and says, ‘You can’t look at that,’ part of it becomes, ‘I want to look at it now just out of spite,’ Molinaro said.

“My position is that students should boycott the site, not that the government should ban it.”

Jeff Molinaro, Senator
Student Government Council-UP

COMEBACK TO LATE

Maidique supports tuition increase proposal, reforms

BILLY KACZOR
AP Wire

Trustees at all of Florida’s 11 state universities could raise tuition up to 15 percent a year under a proposal Gov. Charlie Crist announced Thursday, but it immediately drew opposition from a top Democratic lawmaker.

Republican leaders of the GOP-controlled Legislature, though, praised the governor for an idea that students and Vice President Vivian Sanchez supported after Florida’s largest schools that already have authority to charge what is known as differential tuition.

“Sweeping” and a “landmark,” Maidique said in a Nov. 20 University release that the proposal would help “clear up governance issues” and give “our boards the ability to adjust tuition with community and student input.”

Most importantly, he said, the proposal would help “build an educational infrastructure to support a 21st century economy.”

Crist’s plan also addresses other university issues and would require changes in state law. It would permit boards of trustees at each school to raise tuition with approval from the Board of Governors, which oversees the State University System. The Legislature now sets tuition although the board and others are challenging that authority in a lawsuit.

Maidique said in the statement that the proposal would help “clear up governance issues” and give “local boards the ability to adjust tuition with community and student input.”

If all universities impose the full 15 percent, it would generate $72 million a year, said University System spokesman Bill Edmonds. That’s $16 million more than what is being collected this year by the five largest schools that already have authority to charge what is known as differential tuition.

One of those schools is FIU, which gained differential tuition this past summer. At the Nov. 13 Board of Trustees’ meeting, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President Vivian Sanchez explained that differential tuition helped generate $5.1 million this year and projected $5 million during the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

In addition to recruiting and retaining faculty and improving quality, 30 percent of the proceeds under Crist’s plan would go to financial aid.

Volleyball Upset Team falls in conference semis
Land-line phones become obsolete in residence halls

OLGA VELEZ
Staff Writer

Students weren’t using them and the University was tired of paying for them. That is why land-line telephones no longer exist in the majority of residence hall buildings at University Park. "FIU used to [spend] a total of $350,000 a year to pay BellSouth for the land lines in the residential halls in the University Park campus," said Executive Director of Operations and Auxiliary Services James Wassenaar.

In Everglades Hall, Panther Hall, University Park Towers and the Biscayne Bay dorms, land-line jacks for telephones were removed two years ago and other universities are following in suit because the students were not using them. The money saved by taking out the land lines was invested in other student services. "Before removing the land lines, we surveyed the students and found out that 85 percent of them were using their cell phones or calling by using the telephone," Wassenaar said.

The University of Florida saves $600,000 per year by taking out land-line telephones, according to a Palm Beach Post article published in October. Florida Atlantic University saved $100,000 last year, while the University of Central Florida still uses residence hall land lines. According to Wassenaar, the savings were used to improve security in the dorms and give the students living on campus access to the Internet.

"The University took the savings and deployed two new emergency broadcast systems. (It also) invested in maintaining the Internet infrastructure, and installed the Emergency Call Box system in the residence halls on the University Park campus," Wassenaar said.

Student safety was a major factor in deciding to install emergency call boxes.

"The University needs to ensure that students, in case of an emergency, have quick access to emergency services," said Wassenaar. "In the residence hall dorms, students have access to emergency call boxes."

This allows them to speak with Public Safety by pushing a button on the call box. They don’t need a land-line telephone to contact Public Safety in the dorms.

"However, the University Park Apartments and the Biscayne Bay Campus dorms are older and are more expensive to retrofit. It is cheaper to buy the land-line telephones in the University Park Apartments and the Biscayne Bay Campus dorms than to install the call boxes," he said.

Sophomore Corey Bourne lives in Lake View North and other residence halls, and he still finds cellphones to be a more convenient means of reaching her. "I have no land-line telephone because I would never pick up, or I might not pick up and I might not [get the] messages," said Smith. "I always have my cell phone with me, therefore, I have no need for a land line."

Employees from Panther Hall declined to comment.

According to Kathy Taylor, a program assistant at the Bay Vista Housing, the phone connection is provided to students. Yet the phone is not given to them by University money.

"We at Bay Vista Housing provide the jack connection in each room in the Biscayne Bay Campus," Taylor said.

A through most of the land lines have been removed from U-P, the residence halls still that have them are more cost effective than the others. "The University now uses the Internet Protocol System in BBC and in the UP," said Wassenaar. "We have found that this connection is more effective than the land lines," said Wassenaar. "This change was made to save the University money."

Do you like News? Report on your campus!
The School of Journalism and Mass Communications welcomed communications professionals at the Integrated Communications Council’s first forum, “Leaders of Today Speaking to the Leaders of Tomorrow.”

The professional development event took place Nov. 20 at the Wolfe University Center. The forum featured five guest speakers who work in different areas of the communications field.

Among them were Fernando Figueroa, SJMC professor, and chair of the Department of Public Relations and Advertising; alumna Melissa Gonzales, brand specialist for Team Enterprises; Julia Cardenuto, SJMC marketing director, was the moderator for the forum discussions; and Ana Maria Silva, BBC Student Government Council’s first forum, “Leaders of the Integrated Communications Council’s first forum, “Leaders of Today Speaking to the Leaders of Tomorrow.”

Over 50 students attended the event. “I think a forum is just a great way for students to get a feel for the different areas of the industry and the actual industry is facing at the moment,” said Erika Arriola, president of Student Government Council.

Gutierrez, an entrepreneur in video production, game design, and advertising, said he was impressed with the speakers. “I have just given out about 20 business cards,” said Gonzales. “I am excited to speak to all of those individuals and help them.”

David Berry, SJMC marketing director, was the moderator for the forum discussions, and he had the opportunity to practice the networking skills encouraged by the speakers. “I have just given out about 20 business cards,” said Gonzales. “I am excited to speak to all of those individuals and help them.”

“Have you just given out about 20 business cards, said Gonzales. “I am excited to speak to all of those professionals and the actual industry is facing at the moment,” said Erika Arriola, president of Student Government Council. “And what they can do to prepare themselves for a successful career.”

The topics discussed varied from the importance of internships and the use of video games as a marketing tool, to tips for sending resumes and the influence of the media and technology in the recent elections. “Obama was more viral,” said Cantor, as he suggested that President-Elect Barack Obama’s marketing strategies, including Internet games and ads, might have won him the election. “The communications field is always changing; it is becoming more of a social media environment,” he added.

The speakers also discussed the significance of networking in the communications field. “When you network with people, they see you face-to-face and see how you sell yourself,” said Gonzales. “If you have a likeable personality and you can go up and talk to somebody, they will say, ‘I want to work with somebody like this.’”

The most important thing is to start early. “It’s about getting involved and networking,” he said.

After the forum discussions, students had the opportunity to practice the networking skills encouraged by the speakers. “I have just given out about 20 business cards,” said Gonzales. “I am excited to speak to all of those individuals and help them.”

“Academic Space Management hosted a focus group for students in the Marine Biology building for ‘input, mostly from students, who care what the campus will look like in the next five years,” said Anna Maria Silva, BBC Student Government Council president. The focus group was divided into two presentations, a discussion on the master planning of the Health Science Center at University Park, and another one showing how several classrooms were renovated.

“The idea is to pick your brain as students to have students’ opinions and points of view with some of the things within the classroom, outside the classroom, within the building, and on the campus,” said Gloria Jacomino, ASM director.

Universities are required to create a master plan and update it every five years, according to Jose Rodriguez, real estate development planning director.

Expansion and renovation are the long-term goals of the University, according to a forum held Nov. 19 at BCC.

“This is a 20-year vision that anticipates a very different vision from what the campus is today,” said Rodriguez. “The intent is to have green space and walking space, using close to 20-something acres.”

“We want to make the buildings more collaborative to work in uni- mity,” he said.

At BCC, 28 classrooms were ren- ovated last summer, said Jacomino. Improved campus security, desk replacements, more seating with ac- cess to electrical outlets, more study areas, bay-view outdoor seating and garden areas are being considered for renovations at BCC.

“aromatic unburned waste, with small steps like not letting almost half a minute of air conditioning escape from the buildings saves the University money as well as the power companies resources. All this wasted energy results in higher electric bills. Appropriating more funds for electric usage is fine when merited, but for a university short on funding and short on green- consciousness students, it is not warranted.

Here’s a simple solution: remove your hands from your pockets and use them to open the doors. If students consider a minute to make frivolous energy consumption, they can further the ‘Go Green’ efforts at BCC and in their personal lives.

“Walking down the hallway toward the exit, hands in your pockets, you might outstretched to hit the automatic door opener marked handicapped, and withands. There goes approximately 25 seconds of manufactured atmosphere by central air conditioners gone out with a chance of recovering the costly ef- ffort to make every student’s local atmosphere on campus more comfort- able. If you are wrong when all your green is spent on the thermostat.

A dubious technology is nothing new to anyone familiar with the elec- tronic luxuries of the new millenni- um. From texting and web surfing in that dreaded lecture class, to listening to mp3 players to shut unwanted interruptions, we have made our luxuries into bad habits.

Any South Florida knows the refreshing feeling of walking near open doors in the sum- mertime. That arctic blast of wasted air con- ditioner that makes our luxuries into bad habits.

“Limousine drivers are the long-term goals of the University,” said the forum moderator. “The fact that people think that we had come in is rare for us,” said he was impressed with the speakers. “I have just given out about 20 business cards,” said Gonzales. “I am excited to speak to all of those individuals and help them.”

The intended use of the button is to help people with limitations open the door. “To help people get past one’s participation to reduce waste.”

“Not only is the intended use of the button being disregarded, but so are the financial ef- forts of the University.”

From what the campus is today,” said Ana Maria Silva, BBC Student Government Council president. “The most important thing is to start early. “It’s about getting involved and networking,” he said.

“Vania Lederman, dietetic intern at the rec-reation center at BCC, used the button while carrying a few bags of food into the building.”

“Students need to think that this device should be used by people who really need to use it,” Lederman said. “I use it only when I have my hands full.”

In some bizarre cases, the automatic door opening is pushed off as a gallant gesture, as though being awkwardly lazy and running to hit the handicap button before your significant other reaches the doors is chivalrous.

“Though this display of affection may or may not be an acceptable option for chivalry in our world of automation, this action wastes energy – not only the energy required to open both doors and keep them open, but the energy used in the heating or cooling of the room. Let’s not forget that burst of personal energy expended, racing to push the button, either.

Saving energy translates to saving re- sources used in generating electricity, whether fossil fuels or nuclear energy. Reducing energy waste with small steps like not letting almost half a minute of air conditioning escape from the buildings saves the University money as well as the power companies resources. All this wasted energy results in higher electric bills. Appropriating more funds for electric usage is fine when merited, but for a university short on funding and short on green- consciousness students, it is not warranted.

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Here’s a simple solution: remove your hands from your pockets and use them to open the doors. If students consider a minute to make frivolous energy consumption, they can further the ‘Go Green’ efforts at BCC and in their personal lives.
Jucy Campus is creating quite a stir on college campuses nationwide and that is in our opinion. The Web site allows anyone interested in anonymously post gossip about fellow students without fear of retribution or consequence. The Student Government Council at University Park recently tried, unsuccessfully, to pass a measure recommending to the University that it should bar access to the site from the University Network. To quote an article in The Santa Clara, SCU’s weekly student newspaper: “Sure, Charlie Crist saved us a few years ago but, to be perfectly frank, I don’t think he saved us enough.” The concern of the council should not be trying to force students to do, or not to do, anything. If SCU-GP feels history is a legitimate issue, which it is, then it should be following in the footsteps of other institutions faced with the same questions and should be educating students on the dangers of the site and letting them come to their own conclusions, rather than deciding for them. The growing popularity of anonymous gossip sites like Jucy Campus have forced student governments at universities nationwide to consider the ethics of such sites. At least one public institution, Tennessee State University, has opted to ban access to the site. Not all universities, however, feel the right ban of the site is in the proper course of action, and understandably so. Besides the fact that banning something rarely has the intended effect of curbing incipient dangerous trends, there is another avenue from which the problem can be approached. SCU-GP’s goal should be to discourage students from participating in the site and challenging them to stand up against such malicious and defamatory content. Across the country, the student government at Santa Clara University in California aims to do just that and appeal to the best in its students to reject the slander. SCU has started a pledge for students to sign against anonymous negative blogging in general and is also considering ordering embargos upon students to “rise above it” and “keep it classy,” according to an article in The Santa Clara. SCU’s weekly student newspaper. Such measures may seem ineffective when compared to an outright ban of the site, but they help give students a sense of the harm the site can have on people. Most importantly, it lets students decide for themselves on what to do about the site and helps them make educated decisions. Though there will always be those who feel the need to attack others anonymously, their impact would be significantly reduced. Banning the Web site also raises legitimate First Amendment concerns. Public forums shouldn’t be barred simply because malicious ideas can be echoed there. SCU-GP is right to condemn the site, but trying to outright ban the site would set a bad precedent and prevents students from having the right to decide for themselves what Web sites are worthy of their time. The council should not be trying to force students to do, or not to do, anything. If SCU-GP feels history is a legitimate issue, which it is, then it should be following in the footsteps of other institutions faced with the same questions and should be educating students on the dangers of the site and letting them come to their own conclusions, rather than deciding for them. Therefore, views have not only let these types of films integrate with our culture, but they have permitted them to become the pure source of entertainment. Better term is enormous. In fact, it has as-similated to its chronology, most recently added to its chronology, most recently...
Call him Mr. July. Call him Mr. Blockbuster if you will, but do not call him ungenerous.

Will Smith (“Bad Boys II”) and Rosario Dawson (“Rent”) were on-hand in Miami on Nov. 17 promoting their latest movie, “Seven Pounds.” Coming out on Dec. 19, “Seven Pounds” is about a suicidal IRS agent who goes on a journey to redeem himself by helping out seven strangers, including Dawson’s character. Directed by Gabriele Muccino (“The Pursuit of Happyness”), the film also stars Woody Harrelson (“No Country for Old Men”) and Barry Pepper (“61”).

Throughout most of the day, Smith and Dawson sat down to talk to reporters from several publications, including The Beacon. “Seven Pounds” is the first movie that Smith and Dawson have worked in together. Six years ago, they worked with each other in another Will Smith blockbuster, “Men in Black II.” Smith said that they have matured a lot since then, and Dawson responded jokingly by saying he had more gray hairs than the last time they worked together.

“It is fun to watch someone make choices and become better,” Smith said. “To watch Rosario scratch and fight to be better is inspiring to me and makes me want to become better.”

Dawson shared similar thoughts on Smith.

“I am really grateful not only to work [with] Will again on this film, but for the audience,” Dawson said. “Because of who I am, it gives audiences around the world an opportunity to watch a film like this.”

As soon as they were done speaking to the Miami television and print media at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel, Smith and Dawson made a surprising visit to the editors of the Miami Herald at their news meeting.

Wrapping things up for the day was a charity movie premiere of “Seven Pounds.” It was held at The Shops at Sunset Place and benefitted the Florida Marlins Community Foundation charity. If moviegoers wanted a chance to see Will Smith and his new movie, they would have to bring at least a can of food to get in. It was there where Smith and Dawson donated 300 turkeys, and both of them were presented with Florida Marlins jerseys by the president of the Florida Marlins, David Samson. Afterward, Smith approached a stage-like setup near the mall and told spectators that he would be back to sign autographs after the presentation. Keeping his promise, he returned to the remaining spectators.

The Beacon asked the two stars why they stopped in Miami to promote “Seven Pounds.”

Aside from getting a chance to visit their family, Dawson said that she loves the weather, the warm water, the food and the shopping. Smith had a different take.

“I think there is a city somewhere in the world that matches your personal emotional patterns, and Miami is that place for me,” Smith said.

Helping man Smith gives back at latest premiere

S E V E N  M E S A
Staff Writer

The last time they worked together.

THURSDAY • NOVEMBER 25

WHAT: FIU Music: Symphony Orchestra
WHERE: FIU WPA Concert Hall, 10910 SW 17 Street
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $5- FIU Students, $10- FIU Faculty, $15- General Admission

WHAT: FIU Men’s Basketball vs. West Virginia
WHERE: FIU Arena
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

WHAT: FIU Women’s Basketball vs. Miami (FL)
WHERE: FIU Arena
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

* Listen to WRGP Radiate FM on 88.1, 95.3 and 96.9 FM for live game coverage hosted by Andrew Julian

** Compiled by Paulo O’Swath
First of two trips to the Pac-10 comes up short

**GREGG BELL**
**AP Wire**

Jon Brockman stomped and snarled. He grabbed teammates. At times it looked like he needed something to punch.

All he really needed was to turn Washington’s slogging night over to guards Justin Dentmon and Isaiah Thomas.

Dentmon showed greater savvy and a burst of energy while scoring 14 of his game-high 21 points in the second half and Thomas added 19 in his third collegiate game as Washington survived an off night from Brockman and a halftime deficit to beat Florida International 74-51 on Thursday.

“If you look in past years, every big game we’ve played in we’ve stepped up to the challenge,” Dentmon said. “I think we’ll play to the best of our abilities. I’m just waiting to see what the best of our abilities is.”

Dentmon, who made seven of 11 shots in all, took over the game by scoring seven points in the first four minutes after halftime. That turned Washington’s one-point deficit into a 38-32 lead. The edge grew to 55-42 with 8:16 left on five consecutive points by freshman Elston Turner — his only five of the game — then to 66-47 consecutive points by freshman Elston Turner in all, took over the game by scoring seven points in the first four minutes after halftime. That turned Washington’s one-point deficit into a 38-32 lead. The edge grew to 55-42 with 8:16 left on five consecutive points by freshman Elston Turner — his only five of the game — then to 66-47.

Brockman and Turner both scored 10 points in the second half as Washington pulled away to win going away.

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The Huskies didn’t look ready early on. Washington shot 22 percent — 7-for-32 from the field and had 7-for-28 at halftime.

The senior spent some of Washington’s cold first half screaming at freshman guard Scott Suggs to reward his good position near the basket. A stair Suggs declined to pass to him three consecutive times late in the half, Brockman stomped over to Suggs during a dead-ball period, pounded the new guy in the chest, grabbed his jersey and demanded, “Get the ball to the low post!”

**FOOTBALL, page 8**

The next two completions were to Greg Elliehung, in heavy traffic, the first being on a third down play, and the next, immediately following, as he correlated the pass off the helmet of a ULM defender, as he was falling backward in the end zone, to cut the lead to 21-10.

The Warhawks punted on their next drive. FIU’s first stop since the first quarter, but when T.Y. Hilton attempted to field the bounding ball that had been kicked away from him, it took an awkward hop, and Hilton mishandled the ball. ULM recovered at the 23-yard line, and took just three plays to come up with the answer, a 19-yard touchdown toss to Anthony McCall, that was initially tipped by Dez Johnson, but McCall was able to hold on for a 28-10 lead.

FIU responded with a quick drive of its own, just four plays, and covering 62 yards. T.Y. Hilton ran a skinny post and caught his fifth touch down of the season. The outstanding freshman finished the game with eight catches, a career high, for 93 yards and the score. The 93 yards tied Hilton for the single-season school record for receiving yards in a season, with Chandler Williams’ total of 870, set in 2005.

With the score 28-17, ULM was able to pick up another field goal, and make the score 31-17, near the end of the third quarter.

After a rushed three and out punt, taking just 47 seconds off the clock, Dez Johnson intercepted a pass attempt, that set up FIU in its opponent’s territory. FIU seized the opportunity for its third score of the second half, a two-yard run by Julius Reams. The senior halfback rushed for 122 yards in the game, and was the first 100-yard rusher for FIU since A Mod Neft, who left the game in the first half with a knee injury, posted a 152-yard effort against the Warhawks, last season in M onome.

FIU could only muster a field goal on its next drive, and was able to get the ball back with less than 15 seconds left on the clock. After keeping their quarterback upright all game, the FIU offensive line blinked on three successive plays, allowing Paul McCall to be sacked twice and the junior quarterback to be stopped once for no gain.

“We don’t have enough gas in the tank to come over such a poor half” said head coach Mario Cristabel. Despite the loss, however, the FIU head man did not see a complete step back with the loss. “I think in a lot of ways we took steps forward... I don’t think it’s any different than any other game, in terms of sometimes you get better and sometimes you take a hit.”

McCall quietly had a very efficient day, 18-for-33, 239 yards, two touchdowns, but would rather get better as his team win games, “You rather get better as your team win games, “You

FIU has two remaining contests, both of them in South Florida, beginning with FAU, at Dolphins Stadium, and Senior Night, Dec. 6 when the Golden Panthers host Western Kentucky.
It’s all over

After dominating at home, New Orleans drops FIU in semis

JONATHAN ALPERT
Aust. Sports Director

Afer taking care of South Alabama in the first round of the Sun Belt Volleyball tournament in four sets, FIU fell to New Orleans in the semifinals. FIU lost for the second time at U.S. Century Bank Arena, and for only the seventh time this season. New Orleans went on to fall to Western Kentucky in the final, earning an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament by winning the conference tournament.

FIU 3, SOUTH ALABAMA 1

The top seeded Golden Panthers volleyball defended home court opening up the conference tournament disposing of South Alabama in 4 sets (25-13, 22-25, 27-25, 25-20). FIU dominated the first set taking it 25-13. They led the entirety of the set. The closest South Alabama came to FIU was two points, when the score was 8-6. FIU went on to out-distance South Alabama and win the first set, setting up an exciting second set. FIU earned an automatic berth into the NCAA tournament by winning the conference tournament.

The Golden Panthers didn’t relinquish the set, dominating the second set 25-24, forcing Tomic to use a timeout. FIU reeled off 3 straight points to close out the second set and take it 25-22.

FIU and South Alabama continued to play competitive volleyball in the third set, and a tie game evolved. Neither team led by more than 2 points the entire set. FIU led 24-22, but couldn’t close out the Jaguars.

South Alabama notched three straight points to take a 25-24 lead, forcing Tomic to use a timeout. FIU reeled off 3 straight points to take the set 27-25. South Alabama successfully scored on 73 percent of their attacks, oppressing the Golden Panthers. FIU committed 31 errors during the match while South Alabama committed 20 errors.

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LOOKING AHEAD

Despite having the best record in the Sun Belt and being 21st in the RPI, FIU is on the bubble of being invited to the field of 64. The Golden Panthers will need to handle beat USF (17-13) on Nov. 26 to have any hope of making the tournament. Tomic addressed the team’s prospects of making the big dance after the disappointing loss to New Orleans.

“I know that we have to beat South Florida,” she said. “It depends how teams in other conferences are going to go. We didn’t want to be in this position. We wanted to control our own destiny.”

The NCAA Volleyball Tournament will announce its field of 64 during its selection show on Sunday Nov. 23 at 10-10:30 p.m. and will be aired on ESPNU.

AMBUSHD: FIU lost just its second home game of the 2008 season, in the Sun Belt tournament. The Golden Panthers have to regroup quickly for South Florida on Nov. 26.

Learning how to win is not a single season process

Many moons ago, I opined on these very pages, that the FIU volleyball team had matured, to the point of becoming a championship caliber squad. Many readers of the preceding article, might argue I’ve since change my tune considering the melodies of success and further predictions there-of, but nothing could be further from the truth.

Championship teams can sometimes go through swoons in a season, or in a given game, therefore I don’t subscribe to the idea that a play-off gaffe does anything to a great season other than end it. It doesn’t stain the year, rather, and this holds true especially in college athletics for teams that bring back myriad starters, and conference stars at that (read FIU VOLL E Y B V.L.L.), it serves to build a base. This team may still make the NCAA tournament, and have a literal banner year, for the first time since 2002, and the sting of losing 2002 on your home floor in the tournament will linger, but the lesson will be learned…or so we hope.

Regardless of what you or I think, it’ll take a dominant performance in the regular season finale, at South Florida on Nov. 26, to attract the attention of the selection committee, to accompany the then-28 wins, and RPI top-25 ranking. Perhaps more importantly, it’ll take a dominant performance to remind FIU that it can be dominant, the kind of show that reminds everyone in the building, not just us, that the Golden Panthers didn’t play well in the Sun Belt tournament, and it will need a turnaround match to sway the bad taste from their mouths, and South Florida might catch an awfully sullen FIU volleyball team, looking to make a statement.

What ever the outcome, the reasoning is the same; to inspire for the next step, weather that be the opener for the season in 2009, or the opener for the NCAA tournament in December. At this final stage of the season, its on the players more than the coaches to ready the team for play, the question is, will the 2008 regular season Sun Belt champs fade into the win er, or prepare, through it, be there one game or more, for the run next fall?

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1680 North Bay Road, Sunny Isles Beach.
WOUNDED WARRIOR: Sophomore comeback, Anthony Gaitor watches the scoreboard as time runs out on the Golden Panthers’ 31-27 loss to the Warhawks of Louisiana at Monroe.

STUNNED AT HOME
Second half rally comes up just short

Andrew Julian
Sports Director

In what was really a tale of two halves, University of Louisiana at Monroe winning the first, 21-3, and FIU winning the second, 24-10, the Warhawks (4-8, 3-4 Sun Belt), and the Golden Panthers (4-6, 3-3), will have some work to do before taking their act to Dolphin Stadium for the Shula Bowl on Nov. 29.

A terrific effort from the ULM offensive line carried the Warhawks to a very efficient first half, but it wasn’t without mistakes. On the first pass he threw, Kinsmon Lancaster was intercepted by Anthony Gaitor. It was Gaitor’s fourth interception of the season.

The Golden Panthers quickly converted the turnover into three points, and took the early lead.

The Warhawks would storm back through, scoring on the opening possession of the second quarter. The March covered 75-yards on nine plays, culminated with a Lancaster 16-yard scamper for a touchdown. FIU quickly had a three-and-out on its next series, and the Warhawk offense continued rolling, but not without the help of FIU. After a 50-yard punt by Carlos Munera, a 34-yard punt return by Darrell McNeal, FIU was flagged for a 15-yard personal foul which advanced the ball to the FIU 42-yard line, effectively netting one yard on the punt play.

ULM scored on four plays on the 25-yard drive, and were assited by another FIU penalty, this one an offsides call on FIU. The Golden Panthers were whistled for 10 penalties for 17 yards, and that doesn’t take into account the yardage FIU gave up on the opening kickoff that Dustin Rivest kicked out of bounds.

After another FIU punt, the Warhawks marched down the field for another score. This one a 12-play, 74-yard drive, capped by a touchdown pass from quarterback Zeek Zacharie. Zacharie finished the day 14-of-25 for 156 yards, with two touchdowns and two interceptions.

The 21-3 halftime deficit was the largest for an on-campus FIU home game since ULM took a 14 point lead into halftime at FIU stadium on Nov. 11, 2006.

FIU came out of the intermission roasting, and scored of a 51-yard drive, that was set up by a personal foul on the kickoff return that allowed the Golden Panthers to open their possession on their own 49-yard line. The drive was highlighted by three stellar passing plays from quarterback Paul McCall. First, on a second and 20, following an FIU penalty, McCall connected with Jason Frierson for a 26-yard play. Frierson broke two tackles as he made the reception and carried the ball down to the ULM 35 yard line.

FOOTBALL, page 6

Promising weekend ends in defeat for FIU sports

It was a weekend that started out with so much promise. The volleyball team stood on top of the Sun Belt and was looking to make quick work of the conference tournament, being held on their home court where they had gone 13-1. The football team was looking to reach 500 on the season and keep their post season hopes alive, hosting the hapless University of Louisiana at Monroe who had yet to record a road victory.

It was the arguably the biggest weekend of the year for FIU’s athletes, and they seemed poised to continue their winning ways and help establish legitimacy for their perspective programs.

But by the end of Saturday night, both teams saw their seasons effectively ended with disappointment.

The volleyball team was downed in straight sets on Nov 21 by a New Orleans team that must have played their best game of the season, as they were subsequently swept by Western Kentucky.

And then the following night, in front of the sparsest crowd yet in the new FIU stadium, the football team stumbled early and came up just short of an 18 point second half comeback. Once again, the story of the game for the Golden Panthers was their inability to avoid penalties.

Despite their relatively successful season thus far, the football team has had a very narrow margin of error. Five of the team’s nine games were decided by 10 points or less, and in the three losses by that margin, the team accumulated 30 penalties.

That is going to be the difference for this season between a fourth place conference finish and a bowl berth, which is all but out of the question now.

FALLING SHORT
FIU managed to take an early lead follow- ing Anthony Gaitor’s first quarter interception and Dustin Rivest’s 41-yard field goal and the defense had played fairly stout through the first frame, keeping the Warhawks’ scoreless. By the end of the first half, however, ULM had pulled away with three unanswered touchdowns to put the Golden Panthers on the defensive.

This, along with the penalties, had FIU in a hole that even T.Y. Hilton’s playmaking abilities and Julian Reams’ and Paul McCall’s best days of the season couldn’t get them out of. Hilton continued his excellent first season, catching eight balls for 93 yards and a touchdown, but the Golden Panthers were unable to overcome the mistakes and the offenses call on FIU. The Golden Panthers were whistled for 10 penalties for 17 yards, and that doesn’t take into account the yardage FIU gave up on the opening kickoff that Dustin Rivest kicked out of bounds.

Regardless of what happens from here on out, this still young team should be able to make another run at the conference title next year, with a senior quarterback at the helm of a young, fast corps of receivers led by one of the nation’s top young playmakers and a ball hungry defense that plays with managers to play with more intensity as the game wears on.

WHAT’S LEFT?

Obviously, with two games remaining, the season isn’t over, and there is still plenty for the Panthers to play for, between a rivalry game last week and their first .500 finish in program history.

Regardless of what happens from here on out, this still young team should be able to make another run at the conference title next year, with a senior quarterback at the helm of a young, fast corps of receivers led by one of the nation’s top young playmakers and a ball hungry defense that plays with managers to play with more intensity as the game wears on.

However, looking ahead to next year might mean this year’s team a disservice, as it isn’t entirely out of the question that they might still be playing for a bowl bid or even a second trip to the NCAA tournament.