Locally grown, organic food available at UP

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO
News Director

When Ric Soto arrived from Los Angeles as a graduate student in the Department of Environmental Studies, he was not pleasantly surprised.

After all, he expected Miami to be a smaller version of Los Angeles but Los Angeles was teeming with organic farmers’ markets and, unfortunately, Miami was not.

“I wasn’t able to go to [the] farmers’ markets on a weekly basis,” said Soto. “I’ve been to the ones established on east Miami Beach, Pompano Bay. Brilliant.

But what about the rest of us?”

Soto is a farmer and as such, organic and locally grown food is important to him. Yet, when he first started planting the idea of growing a community garden on campus, he did not expect local and organic food to be as important to anyone else.

But it is. As the University becomes more environmentally conscious, two graduate students are working hard to promote a student culture that appreciates healthy food that’s local and organic.

While Soto has established an organic garden in back of the baseball field with student-farmers, Nancy Maidique, a graduate student in public health and University President Modesto A. Maidique’s wife, has organized the first on-campus Organic Farmers’ Market.

Sponsored by the Stempel Public Health Association, Maidique’s Organic Farmers’ Market will open Dec. 3 and will eventually open every Wednesday in 2009.

The Organic Farmers’ Market will “raise awareness to a lot of FIU individuals who have never given a second thought to what is organic, why pesticides are bad, what is the difference between local and non-local,” Maidique said.

The strong educational aspect to both initiatives is underscored by the amount of students that have taken interest in the projects.

Soto’s garden has more than 400 plants with a goal of 500 species. The Organic Farmers’ Market has had over 50 vendors and has been under heavy discussion in recent SGC-UP meetings. The Senate is trying to make the Web site the first to be blocked from the University’s Internet access.

The debate continued from where the last one left off. The focus of the debate was whether Juicy Campus should be boycotted or banned.

Sen. David Dial of the College of Nursing and Health Sciences doesn’t believe that boycotting the Web site is enough because of the damage it can still cause.

According to Dial, Housing and Residential Life will be looking at the names of applicants for resident assistant positions on the Web site.

“If you are applying for an RA position, they’ll be checking to see if your name is on Juicy Campus,” he said.

Housing and Residential Life could not be reached for comment.

Sen. Helena Ramirer, a lower division representative, is mentioned on Juicy Campus, but she still argued against blocking the site.

The BOT Presidential Search Committee will select an executive search firm that will contribute to the national search, create the necessary qualifications for the next president and choose the presidential candidate for recommendation to the BOT.

The Presidential Search Advisory Committee will be made up of faculty, students, administrators, alumni, donors and other members of the University community.

Both committees will work together to create a short list of possible candidates.

The Search Advisory Committee will be chaired by Dr. Joyce Elam while the BOT Presidential Search Committee will be chaired by current BOT chair David Parker.

After the Board’s Search Advisory Committee meeting, scheduled to be held the week of Dec. 8, the members comprising the committee will be announced.
The Organic Farmers’ Market will be supplied with locally grown food from Soto’s garden, alumna Rachel Middleton’s family-owned Three Sisters Farms in the Redlands and other local farms.

While most of the produce will be local, some vegetables and fruits will be brought from out of state mostly because South Florida’s crops aren’t in high season until January and February, but also because it will allow students to become choosier consumers.

“People are way more detached from their food and where their food comes from than ever before. But that’s changing,” Middleton said. “People want to know.”

Middleton insists that food is an important issue in the “going green” movement because it involves resources, like petroleum, that cause serious environmental problems.

“When you look at where your food comes from, you deal with all environmental issues,” she said.

But to some, the importance of agricultural practices might be more economical and health-related.

“If we go to local and organic, we are having an impact on the price of the food and we are also having an impact on the health of food,” said Soto.

“There are no pesticides or herbicide residue and you are decreasing the carbon footprint of the food that’s being produced,” for Maldigue, however, it’s personal.

Maldigue was brought up in a family that had a produce grown mostly by her mother’s garden. “When you look at where your food comes from, you deal with all environmental issues,” she said.

“People are way more detached from their food and where their food comes from than ever before. But that’s changing,” said Maldidden.

Organic Farmers’ Market

The Organic Farmers’ Market will have tables set up with the freshest, most local and organic produce. The market is open every Monday through Friday. E-mail: 809.Organic.Farmers@fiu.edu or 305-919-4723. Location: The Organic Farmers’ Market is located near the Student Union Ground Floor, between the Student Center and Dining Hall.

ORGANIC FOOD, page 1

33 student-farmers from the M inorities in Agriculture, Natural Resources and Related Sciences chapter as well as from three resident halls, the Yoga Club and an acroyoga class.

Five clubs will participate in the Organic Farmers’ Market including Students for Environmental Action and Panthers Going Green.

The Organic Farmers’ Market will be open every Monday through Friday at 8:00 a.m. in the Wertheim Performing Arts Center, Concert Hall on March 21, 2009. The Deep Sound project team will present an 8-channel, surround sound, audio-visual performance installation that reenacts the sonic world of the ocean depths.

Juicy Campus, page 1

Web site.

“We need to see what would be beneficial for students,” said Ramirez. “What concerns me is that it starts here but where does it end?”

During the meeting, Sen. Jeffrey Molinaro of the College of Law motioned to amend the resolution so that it supports a student body and faculty boycott instead of a ban.

“If you start taking away people’s rights to do something, it’s pretty egregious,” Molinaro said.

Sen. Chris Cabral of the College of Arts and Sciences agrees that it’s an issue of students’ rights. He said that if the Web site were to be banned, the users who post on the Web site can claim that their rights are being violated.

“It will make us out to be villains in this situation,” said Cabral. “We will techni- cally be restricting people’s free speech rights.”

During the voting for the resolution, Ramirez, who previously argued against the resolution, voted for it after requesting to vote last.

Getting the University to actually ban Juicy Campus could be much harder than simply getting the resolution passed by the branches of SGC-UP.

Chief Information Officer and Vice President of University Technology Services M.In Yao said that the SGC-UP resolution to block the Web site is more than just a technical matter.

“It gets us into the domain of rights protected by the First Amendment of the [U.S.] Constitution,” he said.

Yao said it would probably require the consultation of Vice President of Student Affairs Rosa Jones and General Counsel for the University Cristina Morones.

According to Dial, the 10-5 split in the voting will be difficult for Student Affairs to actually ban the Web site from campus Internet access.

“I’m not sure how far it will go,” Dial said.

SGC-UP President A.J. Meyer still needs to sign and approve the resolution for it to become official, and has no chance to veto it.

To date, no Web site – domestic or foreign – has been blocked at the University, according to Yao.

An extremely healthy woman, Maldigue can find no other reason for her mother’s Parkinson’s disease than the pesticides used in that garden.

“So I’m convinced we need to spread the word. That is why the market is so important.”

DANIELLA BACIGALUPO

CHRISTOPHER NECUZE

JONATHAN DAVILA

ANDREW JULIAN

ERIC FELDMAN

INFORMATION

The Beacon office is located in the Graham Center, room 210, at the University Park campus. Questions regarding display advertising and billing should be directed to the Advertising Manager at 305-348-6994. Mailing address: Graham Center, room 210, Miami, FL 33199. Fax number is 305-348-2712. Become a fan and follow us on Facebook. The Beacon is a student newspaper of Florida International University, a member of the Florida Association of University Publications.

Corrections

In the Nov. 26 issue of The Beacon, the story titled “Alumna returns to inaugurate long awaited Frost Museum,” incorrectly named the museum. It should have gone by its official name, The Patricia and Phillip Frost Art Museum.

The Beacon will gladly change any errors. Call our office at 305-348-2709 or 809.Organic.Farmers@fiu.edu. Visit us online at www.fiu.com.
**Turky Trotters**: Faculty and staff participated in the BBC Recreation Center’s “Turkey Trot” on Nov. 26. Top-placing runners and walkers received their pick of the pile of turkeys.

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**Turkey Trotting**

Students and staff will have the opportunity to break from books during the Turkey Trot that will be hosted at the 22nd Annual World AIDS Day event on Dec. 1 from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. in Panther Square, and students will have the opportunity to take pictures for free.

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**World AIDS day: opportunity to raise awareness**

KISHORE SAWH
Staff Writer

As actress Elizabeth Taylor said regarding the AIDS epidemic, “it is bad enough that people are dying of AIDS, but no one should die of ignorance.”

This year marks the 20th anniversary of World AIDS Day, and in an effort to bring attention to the global AIDS epidemic, individual, interest groups and organizations from around the world are united. The office of Campus Life and Orientation at the Biscayne Bay Campus is hosting a World AIDS Day event on Dec. 1 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square. The event, which is co-sponsored by BBC’s Multi-Faith Council, is free and open to everyone.

“I want to bring awareness to people that it’s such a big problem in the world. There were over 5,000 new infections in Florida in 2006 alone,” said Anne Gorosco, member of the Multi-Faith Council, volunteer for the Episcopal Campus Ministry, and associate director for The Institute For Public Opinion Research.

Gorosco has been promoting the Multi-Faith Council’s event around campus.

“When I learned that Broward County was having new high infection rates in HIV and AIDS, it brought it home to me that it’s a real problem, and the stigma behind it needs to go,” Gorosco said. “It’s also a hetero disease, and now the group most affected are women.”

For more information about the World AIDS Campaign, visit www.worldaidscampaign.org.

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**Paradise Afshar**

We have students bringing different food from their countries and talking about their traditions at home.

Nancy Hernandez, Director
International Student and Scholar Services

**Dessert potluck celebrates cultural diversity, traditions**

Traditionally, a holiday potluck includes en- ters such as turkey and mashed potatoes, but the International Student & Scholar Services potluck is going to have a small twist, consisting of nothing but desserts.

The event is open to everyone on campus, and will take place Dec. 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the ISSS office, room 363 of the Wolfe University Center.

“Anyone who attends Desserts Day will bring a dessert, not just the international stu- dents and the ISSS staff,” said Julie Wilbers, ISSS coordinator.

Depending on the students and staff in attendance, the desserts will vary in the countries they represent.

“We have students from Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago, South Korea, China, Germany, France and many other countries, so it is hard to say who will be there,” Wilbers said. “Some of our Chinese students have talked about bringing moon cake.”

Other desserts that are being brought to the event include a Puerto Rican dish called “arroz duce,” which is a sweet rice pudding, along with chocolate cake and corn bread.

“It is important [students] see the different cultures we have here,” said Nancy Hernandez, ISSS director.

ISSS has been holding a Dessert Day for five years, but this is the first time that they will be holding a potluck.

“I think it’s more fun when people bring their own dishes,” Hernandez said. “It’s a way to bring people together. We have students bringing different food from their countries and talking about their traditions back home.”
Next president must help University establish firm base, secure funding

On Nov. 28, the Board of Trustees announced it will begin the search for a new University president.

When searching for worthy candidates, the BOT Presidential Search Advisory Committee should look for a candidate who 1) will be visible to students and faculty, 2) has a vision for taking FIU forward in its goal to becoming a top institution, 3) can secure private donations and public funds from Tallahassee and 4) someone who can relate with and understand the diverse community of South Florida.

For 22 years, Modesto Maidique has served as FIU's president and during his reign, the University has grown beyond what anyone could have ever imagined. Any person considered for the job of FIU's fifth president should share President Maidique's vision and be able to expand upon it, because it is his vision and tenacity that have played a major role in establishing the College of Medicine, College of Law, School of Architecture and an up-and-coming Division I-A football team.

Everything he has wanted to see happen has happened. But at the same time, with all the growth the University has seen in the past 10 years, resources have been spread thin. Even before the budget crisis hit public universities, the University was already short on advisors and faculty.

Instead of focusing on growth and expansion, our next president must be an individual who can expand infrastructure, addresses the University's customer service issues and focuses on quality rather than quantity.

The University cannot continue to grow at the expense of other programs or institutions. There is no point in erecting beautiful buildings across campus if there are no students and quality professors to occupy them.

Our next president must also work to tear down the excess of red tape at the University and minimize the bureaucracy that makes it difficult to get anything done in a timely manner.

Both committees must find a leader who has excellent communication skills and has the savvy, drive and charisma to help raise private dollars.

During a time when tax revenues are falling all across the country, public universities must make an extra effort to obtain fund outside of the legislature. With no sign of relief near, our next president must be able to make an immediate impact and help FIU navigate through these uncertain times.

Most of all, the next University president must be a leader who brings change to FIU with an assortment of fresh ideas to take our institution beyond.

KEVIN CASTRO
Staff Writer

College is like a fountain of knowledge, and the students are there to drink from it. But what if sections of that water were poisoned and you could not tell the difference between good and bad water? How would you know where to drink? This is a problem many students face today: they know the classes they must take, but not the professors who teach them.

Some students believe that the professor who is lecturing the class does not matter. After all, it's the same class right? Wrong. Believe it or fail, the professor generates a larger impact on your grade than you do.

Before you decide on a class, research the professor that is teaching it for that semester. You have many resources available to you: there is the legendary RateMyProfessors.com, where students provide comments on professors they've had, ranking their ease of grading, reliance on textbooks and clarity. But the downturn is that these comments are purely based on personal experiences.

This is where PickAProf.com comes in, which shows you the grading history for classes and professors. Although over looked, you can also access department Web sites at http://academic.fiu.edu/docs/colleges.htm.

The most important element to look out for when researching is whether the professor is an adjunct or a faculty member. Remember, FIU is a business. Although the professors that are not full-time are not expected to be don't like to admit it. If hiring adjuncts rather than professors will lighten the blow from budget cuts, then it will be done.

“We have too many adjuncts used as cheap labor. You may have some adjuncts that don't know what they're doing,” said Dr. Susan Gorman, a mathematics instructor.

So, whereas you would have a greater chance of receiving a higher grade with an adjunct, you may not learn as much as you would from a faculty member. When you go into upper division courses you could not be prepared enough and thus fail.

You then have “people coming in without the right abilities,” said in regard to Calculus II course he took.
The season for Hollywood to cash in on the release of this season’s holiday movies, but there are some movies being released in December that can be considered for a Golden Globe or Oscar nominations.

**DECEMBER 1**
*“THE DAY THE EARTH STOOD STILL”*

A big-budget 20th Century Fox sci-fi remake of the film that featured a beautiful, but deadly, woman that included Keanu Reeves (“The Matrix”) and Oscar-winner Jennifer Connelly (“Requiem for a Dream”). An alien’s (Reeves) arrival triggers a global disturbance, and as governments and scientists race to unravel the mystery behind the visitor’s appearance, a woman (Connelly) and her young stepson (Jaden Smith) could be the catalysts for saving the planet. Will Smith’s young son, Jaden Smith, is following in his father’s footsteps by starring in the big-budget 20th Century Fox sci-fi movie, just like his father did 12 years ago in “Independence Day.”

**DECEMBER 7**
*“THE WRESTLER”*

The winner of the Golden Lion at this past year’s Venice Film Festival, “The Wrestler” is a film about Randy “The Ram” Robinson (Mickey Rourke), an ’80s pro wrestler struggling with his job in a supermarket under the watchful eye of his jerk boss. When he is not at his job, he is trying to relive his glory days by wrestling in independent shows and sustaining injuries that are common with an aging pro wrestler. Coming off a much-needed heart surgery, Robinson considers the idea of reining and looks to spark a romance with an aging stripper (Oscar-winner Marisa Tomei) while reconciling with his estranged daughter (Ev安检 Rachel Wood). Directed by Darren Aronofsky (“The Fountain”), this movie seems to be another front runner for this year’s award season with Rourke being a possible contender for an Oscar nomination.

**DECEMBER 26**
*“REVOLUTIONARY ROAD”*

Based on the novel by Richard Yates, director Sam Mendes helms this movie that features the reunion of “Titanic” stars and Oscar nominees Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet. They play April and Frank Wheeler, a young couple thriving with their two children in a Connecticut suburb in the mid-’50s. They both suffer their midlife crises as F Rank struggles with a well-paying but boring job, and April dreams of having a career as an actress. As they both try to find a purpose in their lives, the couple slowly implodes as they try to find their true artistic sensibilities.

**THE SPIRIT**

Wrapping up the year with one last comic book adaptation, comic book writer and director Frank Miller (“Sin City”) adapts Will Eisinger’s classic comic book series, “The Spirit.” Shot in the same black and white, along with some color) cinematography used in “Sin City,” the film is about a rookie cop (Gabriel Macht) who returns from the dead to fight crime in Central City. His archenemy, The Octopus (Samuel L. Jackson), wants to destroy Central City in his mission to seek immortality. While The Octopus’ mission is to destroy The Octopus, he also has a couple of run-ins with some beautiful, but deadly, women that include Paz Vega (“Spanish”, Scarlett Johansson (“Lost in Translation”), Jamie King (“Sin City”) and Eva Mendes (“We Own the Night”).

**Music and the Arts**

**CONCERT HALL**

**MONDAY • DEC. 1**

WHAT: FIU Music Prism Concert, Golden Panther Band
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall. 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

WHAT: Best of Miami Jazz
WHERE: Church’s Pub. 5301 NE 2nd Avenue
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: #50 in advance, $65 at the door.

WHAT: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged/Revised)
WHERE: Arcit Center for the Performing Arts. 1300 Biscayne Boulevard. Miami
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: $45 - $50

WHAT: Holiday Fantasy of Lights
WHERE: Tradewinds Park. 3600 W. Sample Road. Coconut Creek.
WHEN: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $9 - $12

WHAT: Beautiful Mind
WHERE: transit Lounge. 729 SW. First Avenue. Miami.
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Prices vary

WHAT: Shakespeare (Abridged/Revised)
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Prices vary

WHAT: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged/Revised)
WHERE: Arcit Center for the Performing Arts. 1300 Biscayne Boulevard. Miami
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: $45 - $50

WHAT: Holiday Fantasy Lights
WHERE: Tradewinds Park. 3600 W. Sample Road. Coconut Creek.
WHEN: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $9 - $12

WHAT: Open Mic Night
WHEN: 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE

**TUESDAY • DEC. 2**

WHAT: FIU Music Prism Concert, Golden Panther Band
WHERE: FIU WPAC Concert Hall. 10910 SW 17 Street, Miami
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE with valid Student ID

WHAT: Best of Miami Jazz
WHERE: Church’s Pub. 5301 NE 2nd Avenue
WHEN: 8 p.m.
HOW MUCH: #50 in advance, $65 at the door.

WHAT: The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged/Revised)
WHERE: Arcit Center for the Performing Arts. 1300 Biscayne Boulevard. Miami
WHEN: Daily
HOW MUCH: $45 - $50

WHAT: Holiday Fantasy Lights
WHERE: Tradewinds Park. 3600 W. Sample Road. Coconut Creek.
WHEN: 6 p.m. - 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $9 - $12

WHAT: Open Mic Night
WHEN: 9 p.m. - 11 p.m.
HOW MUCH: FREE
ART MEETS WORLD

Celebrate the Grand Opening of the new Frost Art Museum with two complimentary FIU Days.

The wait is over. A magnificent building has just opened on campus. It’s your Museum and we’ve created special days just for you to explore and enjoy it. Admission to the Museum and these events is complimentary.

Please join us.

Faculty and Staff Day
Tuesday, December 2
11:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Light refreshments will be provided.
FIU Employee ID required

Target Student Day
Wednesday, December 3
11:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Student ID required.

Grand Opening week hours:
November 29 – December 7, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM daily

Regular hours of operation:
Tuesday – Saturday 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
and Sunday Noon – 5:00 PM

Bring the family this holiday weekend.

For more information call 305-348-2890 or visit froartmuseum.org.

The Frost Art Museum gratefully acknowledges the support of the following in hosting these two events:
FIU Faculty Club, the Graham Center and the Student Government Association (SGA).
Men's basketball to take on Florida Memorial Dec. 3

"We are not the talented team to show up and play offensively."

Freddy Aspirilla played the best game of his freshman campaign scoring 14 points on 4-of-4 shooting from the field, as well as making nine rebounds. But the Wolves defense forced the Golden Panthers to turn the ball over a season-high 22 times. Guard Doug Daniels dropped 13 points to tie the Wolves and Guears lead FIU with 17 points.

AND THE WINNER IS

Cleveland State managed to close out the CBE classic 3-0 as they finished off the Golden Panthers 66-58 on Nov. 26 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. A pair of Russell free throws put the Golden Panthers up 64-43 with 9:13 left to play, but the Vikings stormed back to take a comfortable lead at time dwindled. Once J’Nathan Bullock hit a pair of free throws to put the Vikings up 63-51 with just 43 seconds to go, FIU’s rally came up short and the teams to get an at-large bid to the NCAA Volleyball tournament bid by sweeping the Bulls, (17-14), were led by two stellar performances of the year surrendering the lead just five times during the entire match, not trailing at the 10-point mark is any set.

Despite the offensive production, the Golden Panthers allowed over 50 points to FAU for the second year in a row, and will have to wait until next season for a rematch.

"We’ll get it over it," Hilton said. "We’re just trying to calm it down and make sure people stay together right now."

The loss, however, will sting for a while.

"It’s hard when you have them down so good and everything falls apart."

The Beacon – December 1, 2008

FOOTBALL, page 7

Jossip to seal the win for the Owls.

M’Call could not get the ball away on the last play. "I had Greg [Ellingson] in the first window but I wasn’t comfortable," a teary eyed McCall said after the game. "He went into the second wind window after that but I should have him hit that first one."

The teams combined to score 56 points in the fourth quarter, what with the most thrilling affair in the history of the Shula Bowl. FIU failed to close out the contest in the high-octane quarter.

ON THE OFFENSIVE

The Golden Panthers broke it open to start the fourth quarter when M’Call found receivers Jason Frieson and T.Y. Hilton for touchdowns to place the score at 36-22 with 9:16 left to play, but the Owls, after Smith hit Gent for a 20-yard touchdown, took advantage of M’Call’s lone mistake of the game when Corey Small converted a 25-yard interception return to even the score at 36.

Unfazed, FIU drove the field in barely two minutes and M’Call bonded with Ellingson for a 9-yard touchdow pass. Ellingson ended the game with a career high 136 receiving yards just one week after setting a career best of 81 yards against Louisville. The emerging sophomore had seven catches on the day.

Once freshman Darriet Perry picked up a touchdown on an 18-yard run, FAU gave the Golden Panthers their final blow as they went on to score 21 unanswered points.

With a couple of flicks of the wrist by Smith, FAU scored on receptions by Jamari Grant and Gent by air to tie it before eventually finishing the game in the extra time. The clutch effort by Gent was one to remember as the junior had a career best three touchdowns among his seven catches for 108 yards.

The offensive fireworks for both teams did not end there. Smith tied a career high with five passing touchdowns in an epic quarterback dual with McCall, who set an FIU single game record with 400 yards.

The back and forth effort benefited both receiving corps as FAU had three players with at least six catches and FIU boasted four players for at least four grabs.

Freshman sensation T.Y. Hilton continued to add to his stellar inaugural campaign as he broke the Golden Panther single season receiving record of 870 yards previously held by Chandler Williams. Hilton’s 99-yard effort placed him at 969 for the year.

"It’s hard when you have them down so good and everything falls apart."

While McCall fired 36-for-46 for 495 yards, Ellingson completed 29-for-39 for 421 yards.

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"It’s hard when you have them down so good and everything falls apart."

While McCall fired 36-for-46 for 495 yards, Ellingson completed 29-for-39 for 421 yards.

The outside hitting duo of Antonio Gaitor, right, and Jason Frierson, left, celebrate after a big play.

WARTING GAME

Halftime.

"It’s hard when you have them down so good and everything falls apart."


golden panthers blow big leads

Bob Roach/FIUSM.com

Men’s basketball to take on Florida Memorial Dec. 3

"We are not the talented team to show up and play offensively."

Freddy Aspirilla played the best game of his freshman campaign scoring 14 points on 4-of-4 shooting from the field, as well as making nine rebounds. But the Wolves defense forced the Golden Panthers to turn the ball over a season-high 22 times. Guard Doug Daniels dropped 13 points to tie the Wolves and Guears lead FIU with 17 points.

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RECAP

FIU lost two of three games in the CBE Classic after a 2-1 start to the season. FIU will look to rebuild games four of its next six meetings. Up next for FIU is a home match up vs. Florida Memorial on Dec. 17.

VOLLEYBALL

Team makes final push for bid

The women’s volleyball team made the case for a NCAA tournament bid by sweeping the University of South Florida in Tampa (25-17, 25-15, 25-17) on Nov. 26.

The outside hitting duo of juniors Yarimar Rosas and Isadora Rangel along with a solid team defense helped FIU make easy work of USF. Rosa scored 15 kills and Rangel added 14, Natalia Valentin contributed 29 assists.

On defense freshman Angela Colon contributed a match high 13 digs as FIU came up with 34 team digs. Andresa Lacovia contributed a match high four blocks for FIU.

The Golden Panthers made a hit .351 and held the Bulls to a mere .135 hitting percentage.

While holding opponents to a .250 hitting percentage, the Golden Panthers held one of their most dominate performances in the year surrendering the lead just five times during the entire match, not trailing at the 10-point mark is any set.

FIU held USF’s best offensive player, Macaela Gurgio, to eight kills and forced Gurgio into eight offensive errors. The Bulls, (14-17), were led by Maria Thon’s 17 assists and seven digs.

FIU now awaits the NCAAs Selection Committee’s decision to see if they are one of the teams to get an at-large bid to the NCAA Volleyball Championship. The list will be announced at campus sites Dec. 4.
Words cannot describe two 14 point meltdowns

**SPORTS**

**COMMENTARY**

T he toughest part of this job is trying to put into words what happened on Nov. 29. A typical fan gets to watch his team blow a 14 point lead with three minutes left and just sit there, handing on his head, unable and not disappointed to express the devastation he feels. But I have to turn around two hours after the Golden Panthers turned a stellar offensive performance into a crushing disappointment, overtime loss, and try to find the words to describe how and why that happened.

The how is pretty simple, actually. Despite Paul McCall’s career best 400 yard, four touchdown performance, and the emergence of freshman running back Darriet Perry, who ran for 115 yards and two touchdowns in his first game action of the season, the FIU defense completely fell apart in the fourth quarter, allowing the FAU Owls to score 21 unanswered points in the final few minutes of regulation and overtime.

With FIU missing senior safeties Marshall McDuffie and Jeremiah Weatherpoon, who have helped anchor the defensive backfield, defending Sun Belt player of the year Rusty Smith was able to pick apart the FIU defense for 389 yards, most of which came in the onslaught in the fourth quarter.

For the first three quarters, the FIU defense was able to keep Smith off balance, getting pressure on him, and forcing numerous bad throws, some of which bounced off of FIU player’s hands. If these tipped passes could’ve landed in the hands of FIU defenders, the game probably wouldn’t have been close. Anybody watching the game could see the breakdown in the defensive backfield was the key reason why FIU lost.

Now, the part that is going to be difficult to figure out, and the part that will eat the Golden Panthers up inside until next year’s season starts, is why everything fell apart at the end.

It might be something as simple as a young team simply not knowing how to win yet.

FAU is a more experienced team, having won a Sun Belt title last season and dealing with adversity early on in the season, failing to live up to early projections. In fact, once FAU scored and got their inside key recovery, there was a sense of inevitability to the final outcome.

The team, so close to a potential bowl game over the past two weeks, has struggled with consistency, and once FAU got the ball back, there was no stopping Smith and his receivers, many of whom have been working together for three years.

The potential good that could come out of this loss is the team will come out next season, a year more experienced and confident that they can play with anyone, as they’ve showed over the past season.

With an offense that has shown huge amounts of potential since the fourth game of the season, and a young defense that spent much of the season getting their hands on the ball, this is a team that should be prided to make a serious run at the Sun Belt title next year.

Of course, there is still one game left in the season, and while their dreams of post season play may have been dashed in the final minutes at Dolphin Stadium, next week’s home game against Western Kentucky should be a good way for the team to build more confidence going into the offseason.

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**Position switch benefits Russell, Golden Panthers**

**JONATHAN RAMOS  
Asst. Sports Director**

FIU head coach Sergio Rouco knows Tremayne Russell can do, but Golden Panther fans might be skeptical due to Russell’s turnover prone rookie campaign last season.

The sophomore showed spectacular moments exactly what Rouco envisioned when he moved his prized athlete to shooting guard in the offseason, and in turn FIU defeated Toledo 59-46 to kick off the O’Reilly Auto Parts College Basketball Experience Classic at the U.S. Century Bank Arena on Nov. 24.

Though the Golden Panthers had three players in double figures, including Russell with 12 points, the 6-foot guard led a defensive charge in the second half that secured the victory.

While grabbing four steals in a span of roughly eight minutes, Russell single handedly set the tone for FIU as they allowed just 15 second half points.

“When he does what he is told and stays focused,” Rouco said. “He is special.”

Led by Anthony Byrd’s 12 first half points, the Rockets led for most of the first period before the Golden Panthers rallied and managed to tie the contest at 31 before the break.

But after Toledo registered a 47 percent field goal percentage in that first period, the Golden Panthers forced the Rockets to miss 14 of their 20 attempts in the decisive second half and Byrd only scored two more points.

Perhaps the Golden Panthers biggest defensive victory was holding Rocket swingman Tyrone Kent to just eight points.

Kent, who scored 37 points versus Xavier the previous game, averaged 25 points through Toledo’s first two games.

Center Russell Hicks scored 16 points and had 11 rebounds, and forward Nikola Gacesa netted six free throws on his way to 14 points, but it was Russell who ultimately made the biggest impact on the game.

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**Foul Summary**


**BOX SCORE**

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**VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON**

**STROKE:** Nikola Gacesa attempts a shot in the Golden Panthers 50-46 win over Toledo.