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CEASE & DESIST

Students show skepticism toward fragile Gaza truce

**JULIO MENACHE**

**Paradise Afshar**

**Beacon Staff**

After nearly a month of brutal fighting, both Israel and Hamas announced a cease-fire Jan. 18, with Israel planning to pull troops out of the Gaza strip.

Official reports list the death toll at more than 1,300 after 19 days of air and ground attacks, with Israel receiving condemnations from various countries regarding these numbers. Israel has, however, maintained that Hamas has been using its own people as shields. In addition, Hamas has vowed to keep digging tunnels into Egypt for supplies, as well as lobbing missiles into Israel.

As news of the cease-fire reached members of the University community, students and faculty were divided about the conflict.

Andrea Valenzuela, a sophomore double majoring in economics and political science, initially felt a religious connection to the plight of Israel.

“I supported Israel at first because I am Christian, but now that I understand the harsh realities of the issue, I support Israel even more,” said Valenzuela, who is involved in many pro-Israel causes on campus, such as the American Israel Public

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LEG UP

**David Barrios**

**Senior Staff Writer**

Amendments to revise the economic and voting codes are among the changes that Student Government Association is considering to implement in its constitution this semester.

In an interview earlier this month, Jean Roseme, speaker of the senate for the Student Government Council at University Park, told The Beacon that changes would be seen in the election and financial codes of the SGA constitution.

Among the changes discussed was the addition of political parties into the senate election system.

There is speculation a consultant will be hired to aid SGA in the amendment process.

“I spoke with Butch Oxendine, CEO of American Student Government Association and, most likely, a colleague of his, who specializes in constitutional review, will be our consultant for the proposed constitutional changes,” said Arthur Santos, SGC-UP president.

The ASGA is a professional organization consisting of former SGA members and experts from various universities who aid student governments across the country.

“They oversee student governments [and] do a lot of consulting and conferences to improve the function of SGAs all over the country,” Roseme said.

“They provide us with a lot of guidance.”

During the same meeting, Meyer called for members of the judiciary branch to review the constitution and look for any issues worth reviewing for possible amending.

“We’re talking to [consultants] at the moment. However, there hasn’t been any cost as of yet,” Roseme said. “We understand the kind of year it is. We wouldn’t spend the money if we do not think it is possible amending.

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**Julio Menache**

**Staff Writer**

The University will use both FIU Foundation and auxiliary funds to cover the costs of the executive search firm it hired, Greenwood/Asker and Associates Inc., to conduct a national search for the next University president, according to an e-mail sent to The Beacon from Media Relations.

The University will pull $53,000 from the FIU Foundation and $45,000 from auxiliary funds to pay for the roughly $98,000 cost of the presidential search firm.

“State funds will not be used for this purpose,” said Maydel Santana-Braavo, director of Media Relations, in an e-mail.

According to the Office of Financial Planning and Strategic Development’s Web site, an auxiliary enterprise “furnishes a service to students, faculty, or staff and charges a fee directly related to, but not necessarily equal to, the cost of the service.”

Some auxiliaries on campus include the Department of Parking and Transportation, Student Health Services and Housing and Residential Life.

Profits from these auxiliary enterprises are pulled together for a discretionary fund. Each auxiliary has its own contract with the University in order to provide its services to students, staff and faculty.

In the past, auxiliary funds have been used for projects ranging from the $1 million newly reformed Biscayne Bay Campus cafeteria to the comparatively mundane $5,800 for a new 60-inch plasma screen television for the office of President MODESTO A. MAIDUQUE.

“Basically, that’s where we get our money for special projects,” Santana-Braavo said.

According to its Web site, the FIU Foundation, which was founded in 1969, is a non-profit organization designated to encourage, solicit, receive and administer gifts for the “advancement of [FIU] and its objectives.”

The foundation is listed as a charitable organization in the state of Florida and is governed by a Board of Directors. Recently, the University selected a new CEO, which includes business leaders from companies such as Carnival Cruise Lines, Sun Trust Bank and AT&T.

After Maidique announced he was stepping down from office, the University looked to hire a presidential search firm to help screen worthwhile candidates for the position. On Jan. 12, the Board of Trustees Presidential Search Firm unanimously selected Greenwood/Asker and Associates to head its search and work with the University to find a suitable successor.
Expert to help SGA revise code

felt we didn’t need to.”

Roseme said in an earlier interview that the financial codes should be “more transparent and allocate the fees more efficiently … The students trust us [SGA] with a lot of money and the codes haven’t been revised in a while.”

However, no significant changes have been officially outlined. A scheduled meeting on Jan. 23 to discuss proposed changes between SGC-UP and SGC-BBC was postponed until a later date.

The constitution was already amended during the previous election in April 2008.

Change was made in relation to the amount of seats available in the senate from one representative seat for each college in the body to a representative system in which each college earns the amount of seats in the senate according to the number of students in the school.

“We’re always looking to improve ourselves,” Roseme said. “The outlook is to improve – to change, but always for the better.”

Long-standing Gaza hostilities persist

The cease-fire doesn’t mean anything because they are not recognizing the root cause of why this is happening.”

Lina Alkaddoumi senior, international relations major

Minister Ehud Olmert said that the aid will be allowed into Gaza after the cease-fire, but most of the international aid community say they are still being denied access into the territory.

“I imagine a country that isn’t supplied with food or water and doesn’t have medical supplies with hospitals running on generators,” Alkaddoumi said. “The United Nations said the humanitarian situation in Gaza is just as bad as sub-Saharan Africa.”

Since the war between Israel and Hezbollah in 2006, the Israeli government has increased checkpoints and other security measures along Gaza territory that the Israeli government claims are for safety concerns.

However, Palestinians such as Akkkaddoumi see the walls, checkpoints and military personnel in Gaza as doing more harm than good. “Imagine there are ships on one side, a wall on another and they have been living under U.S. sanctions because they don’t recognize Hamas as a government,” she said. “God help them, and everyone who suffers from violence. These people need it stability.”

Department of International Relations Professor Charles MacDonald’s concern over this conflict is not who is going to be blamed for it, but the feasibility of a peaceful solution.

“There are many opportunities for all parties seek peace,” he said. “Israel is not likely to maintain a military presence in Gaza after the conflict comes to an end. An essential part of a future settlement would be the opening of Gaza’s borders, but only in an atmosphere of non-violence.”
Remembering the Holocaust: Survivor to discuss experience

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

For many, Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi concentration camp, is the symbol of the Holocaust and Nazi concentration camps in general.

Nearly 60 years after the camp’s liberation, the U.N. General Assembly created the International Holocaust Remembrance Day. This year, for the first time, the Biscayne Bay Campus will hold a forum remembering the victims of the Holocaust.

“I’m glad that the United Nations is finally commemorating this day that seems to be forgotten by the world community,” said Avi Mizrachi, executive director of the Holocaust Memorial in Miami Beach.

The forum will take place Jan. 27 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 155 of the Wolfe University Center. It is sponsored and organized by The Office of Campus Life and Orientation at FIU.

She is also hoping to make the SGA constitution visible to students by posting it on their Web site, an initiative which is currently underway.

Along with Sholom Neistein, speaker of the senate, Paul also helped draft the most recent version of the constitution.

She also changed the senate structure by increasing the amount of senate seats.

During her term, SGC- BBC resolutions that have aimed to increase internal campus promotion, the reapportionment of parking spaces and the increase of athletic department participation on campus, have passed.

“It’s been great working with Paul,” said Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president. “She is an outstanding, responsible and dedicated individual. I’m glad we are partners in SGA because we complement each other with our different personalities.”


Aside from being a political science major, she loves being involved at FIU, and loves serving the students,” Silva said.

Paul is also vice chair for the National People of Color and Student Coalition in the United National People of Color and Student Coalition in the United Nations.

Student government council at Biscayne Bay Campus

Vice president seeks campus unity

BARBARA QUIJANO
Staff Writer

With stacks of books occupying her office, pen and note pad at hand, Kimberly Sengel is on a mission.

Paul, a senior and political science major and international relations minor, has been the vice president of Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus since May 2008.

She is responsible for fulfilling the president’s duties in times of her absence, as well as her own duties with the Student Government Association constitution, as well as her own duties with the Student Government Council, which comprises SGC-BBC and SGC at University Park.

Paul is also responsible for overseeing senate meetings and working with SGC-BBC Comptroller Carlos Becerra-Pineda during finance meetings.

She also oversees the Environmental Affairs, Student Services, Lectures Bureau and Student Union committee chairs.

“I love serving the students and being a part of SGA, as well as organizing and lobbying on behalf of the students,” Paul said.

Since Paul became a part of SGA her freshman year, “It’s been an up and down roller coaster. Some years have been active and some years have been challenges, making it difficult to do what we want,” according to Paul, she is currently “pushing to make constitution and bylaw changes to leave a legacy for future members.”

She is also hoping to make the SGA constitution visible to students by posting it on their Web site, an initiative which is currently underway.

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Paul is also vice chair for the National People of Color and Student Coalition in the United States Student Association, an organization that aims to provide more higher education opportunities for non-white individuals, as well as providing opportunities for non-documented individuals through the “Dream Act” campaign.

“SGA has helped me utilize all things I’ve learned, from how to form a government, to how to be more diplomatic, increasing my network and awareness of what’s going on within the states,” Paul said.

She is also a member of the Student Vote Project, a campaign dedicated to increasing the amount of student participation in elections.

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People at UP, the Black Student Union at UP, the Black Student Association at BBC and Females Excelling Maturing to Achieve Leadership Excellence and Success at BBC.

Born and raised in Miami, Paul attended and graduated in the top 20 percent of her class from South Miami Senior High School, being remembered as “most rowdy student,” in the school’s yearbook. She was also active in high school, serving as an SGA senator.

“My proudest moment in SGA will be when the constitution and the University wide statutes I propose get passed, which is a symbolic movement to unify UP and BBC as one,” Paul said.

She plans to attend an Ivy League law school, or receive a master’s in public administration at FIU.

“I try to stay involved in both campuses because I believe in one FIU, one college. I feel issues affect all of us, university wide, so anything I can do, I do,” Paul said.

For information about SGC-BBC, visit http://new.fiu.edu.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS

ORATION: Elie Bardawil addressed the crowd with a commemorative speech at the inauguration, Jan. 22.

BALLS TO THE WALL: Miniature beach balls were floating in the pool as giveaways at the ceremony.

BRAND NEW, AGAIN: Pictured (left to right) Roary, Elie Bardawil, director of Recreation Center; Ana Maria Silva, SGC-BBC president; Julieberg, senior associate athletic director; Noemí Zafrón, women’s swimming and diving head coach; Rosa Jones, vice president of student affairs; Cathy Akans, assistant vice president of student affairs; Christina Redick, aquatics coordinator; James Wassenaar, executive director auxiliary services; Joseph West, vice provost, cut the ribbon together during the ceremony inaugurating the re-opened pool, Jan. 22.

YUM-YUM: Fruit salad was a favorite among the many dishes served during the festivities.
While Obama inspires hope, he's not the solution to all of our problems

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

New Year’s Day was a time of jubilation for everyone. Some made resolutions, others celebrated made headlines – Oscar Grant.

On Jan. 1, 2009, an Oakland police officer shot and killed an unarmed, pinned Grant. The incident, which can only be described as a slaying, was captured by onlookers with videos, was forced to lay on his stomach and handcuffed by Officer Joe Melserhe.

Another BART officer then kneed on his neck and shot Grant in the head and arm, then tasered him, while his revolver and shot Grant in the back. The bullet passed through the lower back area, then lung and killing him. Different videos captured a variety of angles of the crime. One showed Melserhe in a state of shock immediately after the shooting, as if realizing the full gravity of what he had just done. Another showed him calmly and dispassionately shooting Grant all in one motion, as if it was planned. It looks quite obvious to me like some sort of assassination. Grant can be seen pleading with the officers beforehand.

The San Francisco Chronicle showed that Bedard, a world-renowned police trainer, the footage. After the viewing, Bedard conceded that this looked as if there was foul play involved. “Looking at it, I hate to say this, it looks like an execution to me,” he said. “It really looks like murder. The officer has to go to jail.”

Some defenders have said that Melserhe may have been reaching for his Taser and fired the gun instead. This is unlikely given the monumental differences in grip and weight between the weapons. This argument seems most like a basic level of stupidity expected of police officers, especially when they’re entrusted with the use of lethal force.

Melserhe has been charged with conspiracy to commit murder and has since retired from BART. Protest marches have also been held in Grant’s honor. In one, protesters collectively laid down on the ground and chanted “please don’t shoot me.”

This incident seems to be just another scandal of the type of which public safety organizations need for reform – better training and stricter requirements. If a man, face down and handcuffed with someone kneeling on his neck, People had hypotheses, how safe are we around campus cops?
Marketing club secures goods for campus giveaways

RACHEL CONGDON
Contributing Writer

Ever wondered who is behind all the free movies and ticket giveaways to the Langerado Music Festival and Anthi DiFranco concert? Chances are the group behind these giveaways is Panther Promotions, a council for Student Organizations at the University. In 2007, Ayxa Vecino, founder of Panther Promotions, was the promotions and networking coordinator for the Student Programming Council as well as promotions director for the University’s radio station, WRGP.

She was in charge of acquiring promotional giveaways for students and, while working to get the giveaways, she built a strong foundation with many companies and several venues in Florida.

“When working at SPC, the demand for giveaways from other organizations on campus was quite high. So, my position slowly evolved from just providing giveaways for SPC to also providing giveaways for various organizations, clubs and departments on campus,” Vecino said.

After SPC went through a restructurating process at the end of the 2007 Spring semester, Vecino felt it was time to branch out on her own. And so, the idea of Panther Promotions was born.

“The most active way [to be involved] is to attend meetings and help out at our events. At our meetings, our members brainstorm about possible events and the most fun and creative ways to promote them on campus. In addition, we have a Facebook group,” Blanco said.

For more information on Panther Promotions visit its Web site at www.fiu.edu/~pantherp, or stop by the table in Graham Center on Jan. 28 where the club will be giving away tons of the free stuff we love so much.

MEMORABILIA

Top-notch prospects who could soon impact industry

PETER GUNZ, a power rapper from the east coast, is far more transcendent. Corey Gunz, for example. This father-son comparison is as tilted as a see-saw.“We just had to prove that we were superior in every way,” Vecino said.

After SPC went through a restructuring process at the end of the 2007 Spring semester, Vecino felt it was time to branch out on her own. And so, the idea of Panther Promotions was born.

The road to becoming a CSO-approved organization was not an easy one.

“We genuinely care about each and every one of our members and it is great to see them evolve as individuals...”

Ayxa Vecino, founder
Panther Promotions

Usually it is the son who cannot hold his own under the shadow of his father’s success, always being compared and referred to as “the son of ‘Mr. so-and-so.’” We see it often with ball players, actors and other popular figures in the media. In the hip-hop industry, you often see relatives of famous emcees use their bloodline as a platform for attention—but can never quite make the leap their sibling did.

Take Corey Gunz and Peter Gunz, for example. This father-son comparison is as tilted as a see-saw with Fat Joe and Lil’ Wayne. This time, though, the weight falls on the younger emcee.

Though Peter Gunz may be remembered for a few hits, his son’s work has been able to do is far more transcendent. Corey Gunz is one of the best rappers in the game without an album—which brings me to today’s list, featuring the best raw talent in hip-hop.

Corey Gunz can be found all over YouTube, releasing freestyle after freestyle of dope rhymes with a nearly impeccable delivery. Whether they are legitimate efforts of unwritten freestyling in question, but the point is Gunz can flow fast and slow with a vocabulary which is probably wider than your favorite rapper’s.

Don’t believe it? Take a look at the footage. Maybe Corey Gunz’s highlight moment right now is sharing the stage with Shaquille O’Neal, his godfather, during O’Neal’s recent freestyle diss to fellow teammate Kobe Bryant—which drew plenty of laughs. His presence on stage, however, might be even heavier than the 300-plus pound NBA center—after some more development.

The most underrated emcees without an album by far is Gemstones, a product of the south side of Chicago signed to 1st and 15th Entertainment. An artist by the name of Lufe Fiasco has been the breadwinner for that label—since it began a few years back, but Gem will prove to be a worth-while sidekick to Fiasco whenever he finally releases an album.

Mixtapes like Untamed Beast and The Testimony of Gemstones should be enough for a listener to understand why he needs to drop an L.P. Gemstones made an appearance on Fiasco’s recent album, The Cool, as well.

The Testimony mixtape exemplifies an emcee that gravitates toward conscious music while at the same time using the prolific amount of energy and powerful lyrics he brought on Untamed Beast.

Another up-and-coming artist is Wale, who is most popular for his mixtape, The Mixtape About Nothing—which actually ended up doing something for the Washington D.C. native.

Wale has been on tour for a while using material from that mixtape, but he also just about ready to release his own album. Much like Gemstones, Wale is not the hardcore rapper most are used to, but he can rap about anything just as well, as he can spit about serious topics that people are concerned with.

All three of the emcees listed should be on the radar of fans looking for the next artist who will breathe air into an industry with its original artists losing their voices in the midst of all the poor material in the mainstream today.

NOTABLES

Other emcees on the rise that have yet to drop an LP but could have a real impact and deserve a look include: Charles Hamilton, Currency, Pacific Division and Mickey Factz.

Moment of Clarity is a monolithically column examining hip-hop and providing clarification on issues or news regarding it.
Run DMC, Metallica are in the Hall, but why?

Cleveland is a decidedly un-rock city. Sure, they’ve got Alan Freed, who supposedly hosted the very first rock ’n roll concert, and Ian Hunter did write a song about why Cleveland “rocks.”

However, even in Hunter’s song, the best he came up with was that a bored woman with seven kids was having an unfulfilling affair, while girls with deep-red lipstick claimed the city rocks. That doesn’t quite scream “rock!” to me.

Despite this, for the last 15 years, Cleveland has been the ineluctable home of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum and every year it announces new groups of artists to be enshrined.

Do artists get in solely by records sold? Bands influenced?

Rolling Stone covers? There is simply no way to justify decide these things. So it is, more than any other museum of its sort, left up to subjectivity and debate.

Last week, the hall announced its class of 2009, which included a wide range of genres that doesn’t lend itself to much criticism outside of elitist circles.

Among the inductees: Run DMC, one of the first hip-hop groups to really transcend genre and appeal to a large diverse fan base; Metallica, a speed metal band that did pretty much the same thing. The rest of the class of 2009 performers’ category included guitarist Jeff Beck, doo-wop group Little Anthony and the Imperials, and singer/songwriter Bobby Womack – all fine choices, if a little bit unadventurous.

In all honesty, I’m more interested in the hypothetical choices the hall is going to have to face in the future. Jeff Beck being inducted is not, for me, an interesting topic of discussion. He’s the type of guy that not very many people (critic or fan) like, but he’s been around so long that he was bound to get in.

But it will be interesting to watch over the course of the next decade how the hall reacts to the eligibility of artists from my generation. Obviously Pearl Jam and Nirvana will get in when their time comes around, but what about Green Day?

Tupac and Notorious B.I.G. will undoubtedly be shown their due eventually because of their lasting legacies, but will they find room for Nas or Jay-Z?

The late 90s was a period when there was a great divide between what was popular and what was critically accepted. As time has gone by, even massively popular groups like Boston and Journey have gotten more respectability as people forgot the bad.

But in the current musical culture, will the massively popular artists be able to gain enough credibility over time to be recognized in the same way they might have 20 or 30 years ago?

If Billy Joel or Elton John came out today, would they have had the chance to move beyond the “balladeer” label and into respectability? I’m not sure what the answer to that is, but what I do know is that I’m starting the “Blink 182 in 2019” campaign right now.
Rosa recognized for leading nation

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director
One of Volleyball’s most coveted recruits of the past four years, Yamiria Rosa, led every Division I player in the nation with 5.21 kills per game last season. She was named the NCAA statistical champion in that category on Jan. 22.

Second half swoon leads to big blowout

ULM 81, FIU 64

With Asprilla on the bench, center Russell Hicks, who has missed 14 games this season, returned to the lineup. Not even the 7-footers could completely fill the void the freshman center left empty.

For The Warhawks, their balanced offensive attack proved to be too much for the Golden Panthers defense. Four players reached double figures with Dinyle Forbes scoring 21 points and Malcolm Thomas scoring 17 points. Aside from the Warhawks dominating the paint area 42-26, Asprilla’s presence was missed even more so on the rebounding side of the ball.

Second half run by ULM. The Warhawks obtained a 20-point lead from 10 points to 30 points with 7:08 to play after a 14-2 run. This extended the lead from 10 points to 20, and the Warhawks were able to build on that margin for the final score.

The Golden Panthers could not recapture an offensive rhythm and lost their second straight game. They return to action on Jan. 29 against New Orleans on the road, before returning home Jan 31 to take on UALR.

Golden Panthers held to record low

WOMEN’S, page 8

game, they held the Golden Panthers to just over 26 percent from the field. Devastation lurked from the beginning when ULM took the first 17-3 run, compiled by three Jesse Carrier 3-pointers.

The Golden Panthers shot just 5-of-23 from the field in the first half, allowing ULM to lead 35-12 as they headed to the locker room.

Elisa Carey chipped in with seven points for FIU, all in the second half, and a game-high 12 rebounds. Despite the record performance by the defense, the Warhawks played almost as carelessly as the Golden Panthers. ULM forced 30 turnovers and outscored the Golden Panthers defense that has allowed 80 points in consecutive games with Asprilla not in the lineup.

Against the Warhawks, the Golden Panthers showed signs of life early on in the second half. FIU limited the Warhawks to just 1-of-7 shooting and pulled within 10 points five minutes into the second half. Unfortunately for FIU, the success would not last long as the ULM offense woke up and hit 12 of its next 14 shots. This extended the lead from 10 points to 20, and the Warhawks were able to build on that margin for the final score.

The Golden Panthers could not recapture an offensive rhythm and lost their second straight game. They return to action on Jan. 29 against New Orleans on the road, before returning home Jan 31 to take on UALR.
**WOMEN’S BASKETBALL**

**FLI on the short end of two defensive tussles**

**STEPHANIE GABRIEL**
Staff Writer

**NORTH TEXAS 58, FIU 43**

Guard Monika Bosilj put up her second double-double of the season for the Golden Panthers with 13 points and 11 rebounds, but it still was not enough for the Golden Panthers (4-15, Sun Belt 2-6) to defeat another conference opponent.

Despite holding their opponent to a season-low 24 rebounds for the second-straight game, the FIU women’s hoops team fell to the North Texas Mean Green, 58-43, on Wednesday night at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

Forward Elisa Carney and point guard Michelle Gonzalez chipped in with seven points each.

Contributions also came from the bench: Morquita Adley and Cherisse Buddy combined for another 12 points. The Golden Panthers didn’t contain a preseason first team all-Sun Belt selection, Amber Jackson, to 12 points which is five below her season average. The next leading scorer for North Texas was Tricia Lee with 11 points.

North Texas got a 10-3 run from the start of the game, sparked with a layup by freshman guard Mansa El, and they never gave the lead up from there.

FIU was able to cut the Mean Green lead reach within one point with 11 minutes left in the half. However, the Golden Panthers turned the ball over 16 times by the end of the first half and North Texas was able to head into the locker room with a 31-23 advantage, scoring 19 points off of turnovers.

“If we lose the ball we need to get back up the court, we’re losing games on our turnovers,” said Bosilj after the game fell to Florida Atlantic University Owls on Jan. 22 in Boca Raton. Maria Dolores Pazo defeated Danielle Simone in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

**TOUGH GOING:** Morquita Adley has been trying to fight through injuries that have limited her to just 11 games.

They committed another 14 turnovers. “This is the kind of defensive effort that we have talked about getting from day one and it was great to see it tonight,” said North Texas head coach Shaniece Stephens, according to meangreenathletics.com.

Three quick baskets by the Mean Green started off the second half and put FIU down 14 points with less than 16 minutes to play. The Golden Panthers came no closer than 10 from that point and back to back lay ups to put the Mean Green ahead 18 points did more than seal the deal with less than two minutes left to play.

**ULM 53, FIU 31**

With starting point guard Michelle Gonzalez limited to 17 minutes because of back spasms and the absence of forward Morquita Adley due to injury, a depleted FIU women’s basketball team came across their lowest scoring effort of the season.

They would actually rewrite record books against the University of Louisiana-Monroe Warhawks on Saturday night, as the Golden Panthers fell 53-31, becoming ULM’s lowest scoring opponent ever at the Fant-Ewing Coliseum.

“We definitely pleased with our defensive effort tonight. You don’t have to be a great offensive team, but the bottom line is that if your not scoring and you stop them you’ve done a good job,” said ULM head coach Mona Martin according to ULMathletics.com.

The Golden Panthers relied on Monika Bosilj who came in averaging a team-high 16.4 points per game. Although she went scoreless the first 20 minutes, the junior guard led her teammates with 13 points.

It was a remarkable defensive effort by Warhawks that forced 34 Golden Panthers turnovers, 17 of them were in the first half.

Even though the Warhaws shot just 33 percent for the field, they committed 20 plus turnovers.

**MEN’S BASKETBALL**

**Soto debut not enough without Asprilla in lineup**

**JONATHAN DAVID**
Beacon Staff

For the first time since late December, the Golden Panthers (9-14, 3-6 Sun Belt) lost consecutive games this season.

The first game in an FIU uniform for point guard Josue Soto was spoiled by the absence of center Fredy Asprilla. Without the 6-foot-10 280-pound big man in the paint, the Golden Panthers could not find a victory against either North Texas (12-7, 5-3) or the University of Louisiana-Monroe (7-13, 3-6).

The teams combined to outscore only 82-50 over the two contests, and FIU shot a combined 39 percent in the games.

“We didn’t run our plays. We just got out of what we’ve been doing...and they kept getting offensive rebounds,” said forward Alex Galindo.

North Texas 80, FIU 75

The emergence of point guard Josue Soto, who redshirted last season and every game this season, could not make up for the loss of center Fredy Asprilla.

The Golden Panthers (8-13, 3-5 Sun Belt) fell to the North Texas Mean Green 80-75 on Jan. 22 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena. Asprilla, the Sun Belt Conference leader in rebounds per game, was inactive due to back spasms and the Golden Panthers gave up 14 offensive boards to the Mean Green for 22 second-chance points.

Forward Cedric Essola, who started in place of Asprilla, could’ve helped his team’s rebounding woes, but he couldn’t stay on the floor; the junior forward fouled out in only 12 minutes of play.

Nonetheless, the Golden Panthers held a 15-point lead at the 8:45 mark in the first half, and held a six point lead at the half.

But with Essola out for the majority of the second half, Mean Green forward Eric Traimel grabbed five of his seven offensive rebounds and scored 17 of his 22 points – four of those points coming on uncontested dunks. The Mean Green took a 55-53 lead near the 10-minute mark after a Tramiel scoring spree and never looked back.

“We didn’t run our plays. We just got out of what we’ve been doing... and they kept getting offensive rebounds,” said senior forward Alex Galindo.

Soto sparked the Golden Panthers by scoring four of the team’s first seven points in his first game in an FIU uniform – he had redshirted his first season and suffered a broken hand during the preseason. He ended the Golden Panthers’ first half scoring with a behind-the-back dribble to get by his defender and a layup off of the glass that sent the modest crowd of 621 into a frenzy.

“He’s a good player. He needs to get in a groove. He was a little excited in the first half. In the second half he settled down and played some key plays,” said head coach Sergio Rouco.

Nickola Gacesa led the Golden Panthers with 20 points. Galindo scored 17 points, and Soto chalked up 15 – nine points coming during a 14-2 run that got the game within two points.

Guard Tremayne Russel scored in 11 points, but 3-point specialist Michael Bowers reluctantly scored three points on one of 9 shooting from the field – eight of those shots coming from downtown.

**STRONG START**

The men’s tennis team opened the 2009 season with a 7-0 win against Florida Atlantic University Owls on Jan. 22 in Boca Raton. Maria Dolores Pazo defeated Danielle Simone in straight sets 6-1, 6-1.

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