Maidique, top two execs to receive rewards

CHRISTOPHER NECULZE  
Editor in Chief

Amid budget turmoil and employee layoffs, President Modesto A. Maidique renegotiated the terms of his contract and rewarded his top two executives — Vivian Sanchez, CPO, and Ronald Berkman, provost — with six-figure retention packages, the Miami Herald reported in a Feb. 8 article.

According to the agreement ratified by the Board of Trustees, Maidique, who in November of last year announced his intentions to step down as University president, will continue to receive his yearly $479,000 through 2015, about $2.8 million in total, and is also entitled to one-year paid sabbatical.

Should his successor decide to replace either Sanchez or Berkman, the two would be entitled to compensation packages possibly totaling more than $1.3 million.

According to the renegotiated contracts, should Sanchez be replaced she would continue to receive her $334,090 salary through 2012 and be entitled to another position at the University.

If the new president decides to replace Berkman, he would be entitled to a one-year paid sabbatical. Berkman, who has been in the running for at least two other campus presidencies, also received a $3,000 bonus and a $3,000 raise.

Maidique defended his decision to alter the Sanchez contract saying that it was important to keep her on-board to see through her three-year budget plan which lead to the cutting of 23 majors and up to 220 jobs, addressing the $26 million budget shortfall.

Paul Fain, who reports on executive compensation for The Chronicle of Higher Education, doesn’t know of many high-ranking University executives who receive separation packages.

“That sounds unusual,” Fain told The Herald. “There might be an example out there, but I haven’t heard of too many of them [at that level].”
Forum focuses on academic concerns

How to recover from a bad semester, how to choose a major and even how to continue studies at FIU if your major was cut were issues addressed at a forum directed at concerned students.

On Jan. 5, the Student Government Council at University Park invited April Lewis, academic advisor for undergraduate education, and Ivette Duarte, assistant director of internships to speak at the event. The event included three separate discussions concerning cancelled majors, advice to improve GPAs and tips on deciding on a major.

The first panel, hosted by Lewis, was about cut majors. Due to the latest wave of budget cuts, many programs were cut ranging from dance, humanities to health sciences. Math, music, science and social science teacher education majors were also among the losses.

Iris Casillas, a sophomore and a former speech pathology major, was about to intend her major at advising when she received the news that her major had been cut. "I started basically freaking out because I didn’t know what to do," she said.

Advice included taking courses in similar areas to the major — in Casillas’ case, psychology and liberal studies — in order to meet current requirements necessary to eventually obtain the major. "I had gone to advising before and they explained to me what I could do so I’m on the right track now," Casillas said.

"There are very good professors who are being taken out of their nest," said Carla Sikan, a freshman, in reference to professors who now must teach out of their niche. The second presentation, hosted by Duarte, focused on undeclared college students having problems choosing their majors.

Considerations included investigating Web sites such as salary.com, applying for internships, attending job fairs, exploring related courses and job opportunities in areas of interest and taking a skills inventory test.

"It helped me a lot because I wanted to be an education major and I learned today that I have many more opportunities in this major than just teaching," said Katherine Perez, an undeclared freshman.

Duarte stressed the importance of experience through internships. Robert Chung, a senior majoring in finance, who also helped coordinate the event added that “employers are always looking for students with internship experience.”

He later stated that he had previously worked with Duarte to advance his professional development and that Career Services is a “great resource” for meeting career goals. Chung said that from his experiences, it is important for employees to place more emphasis on well-rounded individuals rather than academically-oriented ones and to an employer, experience is “crucial.”

"Now I have more of an idea about my choices and several Web sites to go to," said Marcela Rodriguez, a sophomore debating between advertising and marketing. "Now I know about Career Services and have the opportunity to go back and talk to them."

According to Duarte, the two most common concerns among undecided students is whether they will like what they do and if the coursework is manageable.

"Probably the most important thing is to rule out what they don’t like," Duarte said.

She also mentioned that concerning the current state of the economy, more internships become available due to employer’s needs to fill vacant positions.

COUNSELING: April Lewis speaks about academic issues and how to overcome them at the SGC-UP forum Feb. 5.

"I’ll be looking into internships with Duarte and am looking into [the major] more than ever," Perez said.

The final segment was also held by Lewis and addressed how to recover from a bad semester. This portion dealt with staying or remaining in good standing and dealing with bad grades through several means, including the forgiveness policy.

Many of the questions were directed at the University’s forgiveness policy.

A problem that is largely encountered is, in academic advising is students do not know, or realize the importance, of checking their grades at the end of each semester, according to Lewis.

The forgiveness policy allows a student to repeat a course and substitute the second grade for the first. It can be used up to three times.

To get the word out to students that are in need of help and searching for answers was the purpose of the event, according to Ramazza.
Interest in higher-ed rises nationwide, so do expenses

JUSTIN POPE
AP Wire

The number of Americans who think a college degree is essential for success has risen dramatically in recent years, a new survey shows, but two-thirds of them also believe that higher education is priced out of reach for some qualified students.

The survey, released Wednesday by the groups Public Agenda and the National Center on Public Policy and Higher Education, underscores the upick in public anxiety about college affordability during the current recession.

In the 2000 version of the survey, at the end of the Internet bubble and with the success of college dropouts like Bill Gates attracting attention, just 31 percent of respondents called a college degree the only way to succeed in America.

That figure jumped to 50 percent in 2007 and 55 percent in the latest survey, conducted late last month.

Perceptions about accessibility are moving in the other direction: Just 30 percent agreed that almost anyone who needs financial aid for college can find it, down from 38 percent in 2007.

These changes are rather quick given what you normally see in public opinion,” said John Immerwahr, a Villanova University professor and senior research fellow at Public Agenda, a nonpartisan group whose mission includes conveying the public’s views to policymakers.

Researchers have conducted the survey six times since 1993.

This year’s survey was based on telephone interviews with 1,009 adults, and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

“It seems very clear from this data that the public is going to be very resistant to policymakers and higher education leaders handling this recession as we’ve handled the last three — that is by passing most of the pain along to students and families,” said Patrick Callan, president of the National Center.

College prices rose 6.4 percent last fall, and a recent, separate report by the National Center flunked 49 of the 50 states on college affordability.

That report found low-income families have been hit particularly hard, with the local college costing a quarter of income 55 percent of their earnings now — up from 39 percent in 1999-2000.

Prices are expected to rise again as state legislatures plug huge holes in their budgets, but officials in some states, such as Maryland, Kentucky and North Carolina, say they will try to minimize tuition increases next year.

Many colleges are scrambling for money to maintain and even increase financial aid budgets this year, and the stimulus package moving through Congress is likely to boost Pell Grants for low-income students.

As for private loans, while some private lenders have stopped making loans or tightened standards, there have been no reported problems with students seeking federal loans.

Fifty-three percent of the poll’s respondents said colleges could maintain high-quality education while spending less, and 35 percent said higher education pays more attention to the bottom line than to its educational mission.

SGC-UP explores ‘green’ initiatives including fee, events

DAVID BARRIOS
Senior Staff Writer

The Student Government Council at University Park has a new “green” position filled and is discussing the possibility of a “green” tuition, attraction, among other “green” initiatives.

Stephany Alvarez, the newly appointed SGC-UP director of Environmental Affairs, is now in charge of overseeing all the environmental initiatives the council does.

The purpose of the “green fee” is to fund environment-friendly energy initiatives and it would cost $50 cents per credit hour for all students attending FIU.

“All things calculated, it would only cost around $6 per student to help the environment. It’s a small fee,” Alvarez said.

The money would be used to invest in projects to improve energy efficiency — conversion of waste into potential energy or solar energy.

“Personally, I am against student fee increases. If the student body requests them or needs them, however, I do my job for them,” said SGC-UP President, Arthur J. Meyer.

“I am against the cyclical fee increases that continue to present themselves. It simply subsidizes the costs for the University from the student’s wallet to specific areas.”

The SGC-UP council meeting on Feb. 4 agenda continued on a “green” theme as other environmentally focused initiatives throughout the University were discussed.

“Black Out – Green On” is a newly planned approach geared toward housing residents to conserve energy by doing simple routines like turning off home appliances when not in use.

The event is planned for Feb. 10.

During the event, Panthers Going Green, a student club, will be giving information on sustainable ability while plans are being made to have Roary, the University mascot, along with several athletes play around the residence halls collecting recyclable items.

It was also noted at the meeting that the University entered Recyclemania, a 10-week, nationwide competition in which schools try to collect as many recyclable items as possible.

The event started on Jan. 18 and will end on March 28.

“It’s been a slow start in collecting items but we hope to catch up to the other schools that are competing,” Alvarez said.

Alvarez, a member of the president’s Climate Task Force and co-president of Students for Environmental Action, was appointed to her position after the graduation of her predecessor, David Fonseca.

“The resource we have is the student’s ability to bring is themselves. Their enthusiasm for FIU and for students,” said Fonseca.

The board offers a broad range of disciplines to complement a school with students of various majors. Their involvement depends on their interest, time and prior commitments.

The board is made up of leaders in their profession that strive for excellence, according to Espinosa.

“They are community-minded people who are already involved in the community at large,” he said.

Ponce believes this creates a “sense of community between the University and our wider landscape.”

The board must raise funds to support the Honors College and its mission.

According to the Honors College mission statement, the college aims to attract the best and brightest students within and outside FIU, and enable them to develop critical, integrative and creative thinking skills.

“We do want our students to be the best that they can be,” Espinosa said.

The college tries to foster a sense of community among its students and faculty.

In its literature, the school touts its balancing act of offering the close personal environment of a small liberal arts college, while having the resources of a large, research-oriented university.

They also offer a variety of Honors College Scholarships, special study abroad programs and a variety of other benefits to its students’ academic maturity.

Ponce will be helping in organizing a special fund-raiser for next September.

She will be instrumental in designing the program and seeking sponsorship.

“Hopefully we can use that event to showcase the talent of the students,” she said.

Ponce will work with the Chair and Co-Chair to put the event together.

According to Ponce, the true task of the Community Advisory Board is “making sure that students have leadership opportunities.”

As for her personal role, Ponce says she wants to be involved “so I can support the Honors College mission in mentoring, engagement and lifelong learning.”

Almost Done: College of Nursing and Health Sciences lab clinic celebrated the completion of its new building Feb. 6. The construction began last April and a grand opening is scheduled for December.
Ice cream social funds help battle MS

PAMELA DUQUE
BBC Managing Editor

Ice cream and smoothies on a cold night are not what most students had in mind on Feb. 4, but some decided to take one for the team.

Team FIU BBC Campus gathered at Cold Stone Creamery in Aventura for their Kick-Off Ice Cream Social from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., to raise funds for the upcoming Multiple Sclerosis Walk.

Last year, Zachary Trautenberg, Team FIU BBC leader and Gregory Olson, senior director of the Wolfe University Center, decided to join the National Multiple Sclerosis Society in the MS Walk, an event taking place March 1 in Aventura to raise money for MS research.

They created Team FIU BBC after Denise Dixon, alumni and former MS Walk coordinator, told them about the cause. Since then, they have raised more than $1,000.

“The team’s goal is to raise $2,000. That’s a little more than double what we made last year,” Trautenberg said.

Despite the cold weather, the event’s turnout was better than Trautenberg expected. Approximately 30 people showed up.

“I thought the turnout was very good, given it was one of the coldest nights,” Trautenberg said.

Trautenberg himself did not have ice cream because he was too cold, but the attendees, which included students with their families and friends, did take advantage of it.

According to Trautenberg, the most popular flavor was chocolate brownie.

Team FIU BBC, which currently has 12 members, raised $90 and decided to accept an offer made by the Aventura Cold Stone Creamery manager Abel Ahmed.

Ahmed also proposed the team give 15 percent of the profits from that night to their cause if at least 44 people attended the ice cream social.

Ahmed chose the number 44 in honor of this year’s presidential inauguration, according to Trautenberg.

“Cold Stone Creamery has helped organizations in fund-raising before. They previously assisted the Make a Wish Foundation in their efforts,” said Chelsea Case, Cold Stone Creamery employee.

Because there were less than 44 attendees, Team FIU BBC will receive between 12 to 15 percent of the profit.

Attendees also received a 10 percent discount on their ice cream if they brought with them the event flyer. Even those who had not known about the social, but just wanted some ice cream, were able to help the cause.

It’s a wonderful thing to participate in activities that better educate the community on matters such as MS,” said Lorene Malik, freshman finance major.

Additional reporting by Nathaly Cohen.

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Community seeks campus involvement in new president

Professor helps foreign journalists
Michael Phelps is a winner, yes — but also human

MATTHEW RUCKMAN
Staff Writer

Michael Phelps won eight Olympic medals in 2008. He’s likely to receive another award, a Stoney Award from High Times magazine for taking a hit at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Phelps was recently caught on camera at a party using a pipe of marijuana. He declared, “If you want to read that it’s laughable. Phelps’ actions are simply those of a young man. Any trust we placed in him was our own mistake and a lack of consideration for the fact that he is a person, not just a body that swims exceptionally well. If the old adage that every betrayal begins with trust is correct, who’s really to blame? When a human being is set up like some heathen totem, one shouldn’t be shocked at Phelps’ slip.”

The only ones in my eyes that have any cause for grief are the sponsors. They signed agreements with Phelps, agreements that stated he had to comport himself in a manner befitting Nike’s sweatshops, Kellogg’s cereal or Hilton Hotels. What would that family give up to return the genetic material? How much suffering?

That may be a viable question, but it doesn’t need one. The most exciting, if not controversial, prospect of perfecting the cloning of extinct species is the cloning of prehistoric man. If paleontologists and archaeologists could find enough DNA on, say, Lucy the Australopithecus, scientists could clone Lucy. But there would be many skeptics who feel that cloning a human being involves interfering with God’s plan.

Phelps, in 2004, was caught drinking on his own campus running from April until November, but with FIFA playing a home schedule that should be between five and seven games, and the ability to practice in the afternoon or at the FIFA recreation fields.

These conflicts should be easily worked around, in a manner similar to the way the New England, New York and Seattle MLS clubs do, as the three all share stadiums with NFL teams in their respective cities.

The issues would be all be workable and the benefits would far outweigh the amount of bumps in the road that FIFA would incur with the addition of a professional soccer franchise as an on-campus tenant.

With the backing of an organization like FC Barcelona, the rewards would not only be numerous, they would be apparent far sooner than some might expect.

One lesson to take away from Michael Phelps is that the commercialization of heroes is an inherently flawed concept. A hero’s worth is based on actions, not on how they are plugged in advertisements. They exist mostly in anonymity, not by their actions, not by how much money they make. Phelps is a professional athlete, not a professional man. He has double the lung capacity, who has the ability to practice in the football stadium and used for a home schedule that should be between five and seven games.

Michael Phelps is a winner, yes — but also human.

The Humane Society said, “Given the current pet overpopulation problem, which costs millions of animals their lives and millions in public tax dollars, the cloning of pets has no social value and, in fact, may lead to increased animal suffering.” That may be a viable question, but it doesn’t need one. The most exciting, if not controversial, prospect of perfecting the cloning of extinct species is the cloning of prehistoric man. If paleontologists and archaeologists could find enough DNA on, say, Lucy the Australopithecus, scientists could clone Lucy. But there would be many skeptics who feel that cloning a human being involves interfering with God’s plan.

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With the backing of an organization like FC Barcelona, the rewards would not only be numerous, they would be apparent far sooner than some might expect.
It's hard to guess with Lupe Fiasco now.
First, he said that his next album is going to be his last — which basically ripped his fans' heart out, grabbed a baseball bat and hit it 200 feet.
Then, to ease things, he said the last effort — to be titled Lupend — was going to be a three-disc set, somewhat providing CPR and relief to the fan base.
But now, Lupe wrote on his personal Web site that he plans to cancel Lupend, and drop an album called The Great American Rap Album.

The change of plans is surprising since just months ago, the 26-year-old Lupe seemed so fed up enough with the rap industry that, despite his love for music, he was going to call it quits.

Even crazier, Lupe said the album would have 11 tracks, and one through 10 were going to be called "Song No. 1," "Song No. 2," and so on, with the last joint being called "The greatest rap song ever made."

Now, I know old boy is as creative as there is in hip-hop, but he's just all over the place. And it's great.

Also mentioning that Lupend would still likely drop after this album, it leaves more than one project left for Lupe.
I felt that he was not finished
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Since I like to fancy myself a would-be music critic, I would like to pretend that I have far superior taste than the unwashed masses.

There are times when I consciously attempt to create an air of superiority by turning up my nose at the latest pop fad or lamenting the plight of some band that all of 35 people in the tri-county area have even heard of.

I have been accused of having attitudes that is popular, and I talk down to friends for their acceptance of whatever the latest band of the moment might be.

While I have mellowed some in my old age, I still, at times, come off as an overwhelmingly pretentious, judgmental, musical snob.

This is all a façade, you see.

Beneath my hardened exterior is a side of me that is only recently making its way to the surface. It is only making its way to be acknowledged for my acceptance of whatever the latest band of the moment might be.

While I have mellowed some in my old age, I still, at times, come off as an enormously pretentious, judgmental, musical snob.

This is all a façade, you see.

I was being exposed to music that eschewed traditional musical standards of melody, structure and sound, I thought I was happy.

Sure, I couldn’t talk to anyone I knew about this music, but that was only because I was so far above everyone and there was nothing to be gained by lowering myself to that level.

Most people see themselves broaden their horizons and move away from the mainstream of pop culture when they enter college, which explains why college radio stations and album charts are so different than their mainstream counterparts.

But I’ve noticed as I am in the middle of my junior year that something of the opposite has happened to me. As I get older, I find myself being drawn to pop music more and more.

A few years back, I found some of those old Blink 182 CDs and realized just how much I still loved the music I listen to is still the same as it was when John and Paul wrote “She Loves You.”

On the contrary, most of the music I listen to is still found squarely outside of the mainstream.

But that just isn’t a prerequisite for me anymore.

Much to my surprise, I found myself listening to them way more than I had ever intended and, before I knew it, I was singing along in my car.

It’s probably a bit strange to admit that pop punk bands have broadened my musical horizons, but it is what it is. Since that time, I’ve found myself drawn much more to simple pop music than music I once considered “intellecually challenging.”

Most pop songs aren’t breaking any new ground, but there is a reason the three-minute pop song has been the dominant form of music for 50 years. In all reality, popular music hasn’t changed since The Beatles.

Sure, the elements have changed – going from a simple guitar, drums and bass style to more complex 64 track productions featuring a whole array of instruments – but the overall design of the pop song is still the same as it was when John and Paul wrote “She Loves You.”

Now, this isn’t to say that I don’t ever listen to anything but pop music. On the contrary, most of the music I listen to is still found squarely outside of the mainstream.

But that just isn’t a prerequisite for me anymore.

Elitism shuns solid pop songs, limits music range

Lupe Fiasco hopeful for Grammy, future unknown

after one album and would end up coming back to the game, but even better, he realized he wasn’t done before he released his so-called last album.

"I hate the music business ... but I love music...Grammy’s, here we come!!!," Lupe wrote on his label 1st and 15th website, futurrnu.lupefisco.com.

So Lupe, who was nominated for four Grammy’s yesterday, is far from done.

This is significant because Lupe Fiasco is arguably the best rap artist in the game.

I would love to hear from anybody who wants to discuss it, because I feel like there are a few rappers who also deserve that title as well, but I’m kind of a Lupe fan.

After his first album Food and Liquor garnered Grammy love, his sophomore effort, The Cool, was nearly as good, but different.

It still featured Lupe slicing beats and sending a message, but his rhyme patterns varied more and he finally had a huge breakout hit, “Superstar.”

So if you can guess what Lu is doing this time, your name is Wasaah Jaco, because nobody else but him seems to know at this point.

Who knows, maybe he changes his mind in a month, but it looks like Fiasco fans can breathe and know that the former QQ Man of the Year is as inspired as ever.

This looks to be an interesting year for his label with forthcoming proj ects by Matthew Santos, the singer on “Superstar,” set to hit the shelves.

Hopefully, Lu’s up-and-coming label-mate Gemstones can also close in on releasing an album of his own.

But the breadwinner of the label is still Lupe.

And whatever he does is an important piece of holding hip-hop together and carrying it into the future.

Lupe Fiasco hopeful for Grammy, future unknown

RAMOS, page 7

He keeps the BEAT on
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**SPORTS**

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (M)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 7*

**SUN BELT BASKETBALL STANDING (W)**

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*All records up to date as of Feb. 7*

**Hitting may fill up the seats, but pitching wins ball games**

**BONILLA, page 12**

Turnovers spark second half rally

**MEN’S, page 12**

**WOMEN’S, page 12**

Rebounds spell two wins in a row

**TURNERS, page 12**

Day one and the journey’s just begun

**FINES, page 12**

**PIVOT, page 12**

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**FINES, page 12**

**PIVOT, page 12**

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WINDING UP: Pitcher Kasey Barrett prepares to throw a pitch against the University of Louisville on Feb. 6. She gave up four runs in 6.2 innings.

The Beacon – Monday, February 9, 2009

SPORTS

The Beacon

WINDING UP: Pitcher Kasey Barrett prepares to throw a pitch against the University of Louisville on Feb. 6. She gave up four runs in 6.2 innings.

SPORTS

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WINDING UP: Pitcher Kasey Barrett prepares to throw a pitch against the University of Louisville on Feb. 6. She gave up four runs in 6.2 innings.

STEFANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

FIU’s softball team’s opening games yielded limited offense and tough out of conference opponents.

The Golden Panthers (1-3) lost three of the first four games of the FIU Combat Classic on Feb. 6-7.

Head coach Beth McClendon didn’t see much offense against Louisville and had a freshman pitcher debut against No. 18 ranked North Carolina, but she seemed positive about keeping her team focused on winning.

“I think it’s going to happen,” said McClendon. “I think it’s tough when teams rely solely on their offense, which is where we were last year. A team that wins championships, pitch and play defense, your offense has good and bad days.”

LOUISVILLE 5, FIU 1

On the season’s opening inning, Jessica Landau singled to right field, scoring Desiree Fink who was on second after smacking a single and advancing on a wild pitch. The University of Louisville responded in the top of the 5th inning when Kristi Cunningham hit a three-run homer to center field, giving UL a 3-1 lead.

FIU freshman Ashley McClain came into pitch in the top of the 7th inning after starting pitcher Kasey Barrett gave up a double to Chelsea Beamis. On the first pitch from McClain, Cunningham hit a ball deep to left field. Jenny Welch went up to make the catch, however it hit the tip of her glove and sailed over the fence allowing UL to win 5-1.

NORTH CAROLINA 1, FIU 0

Jennifer Gniadek made her freshman debut against No. 18 University of North Carolina; she allowed just three hits and didn’t give up an earned run. FIU had opportunities to back her up on the offensive end but fell short in a 1-0 loss.

FIU 10, TEXAS A & M CC 2

FIU was able to pick things up on offense and grab their first win of the season against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. Freshman Ashley McClain went 2-for-4 and drove in three runs.

AUBURN 2, FIU 1

Auburn took the first lead in the top of the sixth. With runners on first and second, Amber Harrison doubled to score Katie Colon. FIU responded in the bottom of the sixth. Fink smacked a single and advanced second on a sacrifice hit by Katie Bell.

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Down by 21 points, Golden Panthers rally for overtime win

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

Arkansas State University had every answer in the first half.

In route to a 32-16 deficit going into the locker room, the Golden Panthers could not find a rhythm as they struggled with a 6-for-24 shooting effort, including no player having more than four points.

That was before Tremayne Russell came in.

Russell emerged from the bench after not playing in the first period and scored 11 points, seven of them from the foul line.

Russell also contributed four steals as he injected life into FIU in a second-half in which the Golden Panthers (10-16, 5-7) came from 21 points down to secure the 80-76 victory in overtime on Feb. 7 at the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

“He got us going off the bench and that’s what I need from Tremayne,” said head coach Sergio Rouco. “He’s a restless kid and we have to live with his restlessness offensively. He came in and he changed the whole momentum.”

The Red Wolves (13-10, 5-7) were led by Eric McKinney’s 19 points and also got 11-point games out of Donald Boone and Brandon Ayers.

But Russell led a 64-point charge for the Golden Panthers in what was their highest scoring half this season. ASU held the 21-point lead with 14:03 minutes remaining in regulation.

“I’m ecstatic,” said Russell. “At halftime, we talked, and we hit our second half shots. I was trying to do the best that I can to help my team win.”

With 1:30 left in overtime, Galindo converted a layup and got fouled, resulting in three points for FIU.

“I had to do something different because my three wasn’t falling,” he said.

That wasn’t for long, as Galindo converted on a deep three-pointer that gave FIU the lead at 77-74, and put a dagger into the Red Wolves they could not overcome.

The Golden Panthers looked like they had control of the contest and would not need overtime to win, but Boone scored 19 points in the second period and made a critical 3-pointer in the team’s overtime win.

The team overcame 17 first half turnovers.

Senior Star

FIU could not muster any offense in the first period, in part due to senior Alex Galindo’s struggles.

With former Golden Panther and current player of the NBA’s Charlotte Bobcats Reza Bell in attendance, Galindo scored 19 points in the second period and hit numerous big plays in overtime.

“We stayed together,” Galindo said. “At halftime we talked, and we hit our second half shots. I was trying to do the best that I can to help my team win.”

Second half defense decides game

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Head coach Cindy Russo believes her team is still in the hunt.

“We gained some momentum and confidence,” said Russo. “We’re going to keep the momentum.”

Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panther’s womans basketball team will continue to roll on a two-game winning streak after a solid defensive performance that led to a 55-44 victory over Arkansas State University.

Jasmine Jenkins had one of her best performances of the season, knocking down a season-high 14 points, seven rebounds and a pair of blocked shots.

Junior guard Monika Bosilj, also with a memorable performance, tied the school record for most three-pointers in a single season with 58.

She scored 11 points along with six boards and tied her career-high for steals with five.

“I don’t know what was going on with my shooting but thank god a few threes went in,” Bosilj said.

FIU came out and took the first lead of the game on a 7-2 run.

However, ASU responded with a 12-0 run, which included eight FIU turnovers, to take the lead at 14-7 with 11:08 minutes to play in the first half.

ASU’s run was stopped after point guard Michele Gonzalez made a layup followed by back-to-back shots by junior forward Marquita Adey to cut the Red Wolves lead 14-13 at the 9:14 mark.

Despite turning the ball over seven times, Gonzalez finished the night with 13 points and five assists.

The team exchanged baskets throughout the remainder of the first half, neither team able to make a three-point shot.

It was 17 turnovers that proved to be too much for the Golden Panthers to overcome in the first half as they headed to the locker room down 27-25.

“We’re playing some great defense and rebounding but still struggling with turnovers,” said Russo.

Pitching will benefit team’s future rather than offense

From last season to this one, the Golden Panthers may have suffered a power outage.

Losing senior home run hitters should affect a team’s offense, but something more telling is evident thus far this season.

The once offense-oriented team now has a pitching staff capable of shutting down some of the top offenses in the nation.

Cue to true freshman Jennifer Gniadek shutting down the University of North Carolina through six innings.

Losing some hitting may not be something to jump up in joy for, but in the end, more pitching will yield a better season and a better team.

The team’s ace, Kasey Barrett, was on an island by herself last season because she did not have help on her staff.

With Gniadek and Paige Cassidy providing some relief for Barrett, the team’s No. 1 starter will not be worn out by season’s end.

The 220.1 innings she pitched last season made a legitimate Sun Belt Conference run a dream.

With more depth on the pitching staff comes a variety of pitching styles.

Barrett herself mentioned that every pitcher is capable of throwing some of the same pitches, but each player has her own go-to pitch.

Barrett’s riseball is her bread and butter, but her teammates don’t duplicate her mastery of that pitch.

“That’s the thing about our pitching staff. We each have a specialty, one of us might have a riseball, another may have a dropball or even a curve. That combination...