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S. Florida’s MLS bid sees an early end

CHARLIE GRAU
Senior Staff Writer

Major League Soccer in Miami, specifically at FIU, was over before it even started. MLS and Marcelo Claure released a statement March 4, which said that both parties had agreed to terminate Miami’s bid to field a pro-franchise in 2011.

But with the floundering economy, the $40 million expansion fee appeared to be too steep for both parties to pay.

Couple that with MLS doubts about whether a professional soccer team could survive in South Florida and concern about the venue where games would be played, Miami’s bid didn’t have much of a chance.

MLS released a statement as soon as the bid was terminated.

“I want to thank both FC Barcelona and Marcelo Claure for the tremendous effort to bring an MLS expansion team to Miami,” said MLS commissioner Don Garber, in a league press release. “FC Barcelona is one of the best managed and strategically operated sporting clubs of any sport in the world, and I appreciate the opportunity that we have had to work with them and Marcelo Claure over the last few months.”

In an interview with the Sun Sentinel, FIU Athletic Director Pete Garcia said the team would pay some rent and give the University a $750,000 donation over five years, which could have been matched by the state.

FC Barcelona would have also helped the University find naming rights for the stadium.

The remaining cities competing for two expansion teams in 2011 are Vancouver, Portland, Ottawa and St. Louis.

Despite losing the bid, Claure said he remains optimistic about bringing a pro-soccer franchise to South Florida.

“I remain a believer in MLS and the future of professional soccer in America … particularly in South Florida,” said Claure in the press release. “Although we have not been able to move forward at this time for a wide variety of reasons, I will work with FC Barcelona on other soccer projects in South Florida.”

The College of Medicine welcomed its new assistant dean, Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, who came to FIU and talked to pre-med students about life as a physician, his own experiences in the career and his hopes for the University.

“When you become physicians, I pray to God you take an oath to take care of people – and do it right,” Greer said.

The speech, held Feb. 24 in the Wart- heims Conservatory building, was sponsored by Alpha Epsilon Delta, a pre-health professional honor society.

Patricio Lau, associate vice president of Alpha Epsilon Delta, was the host of the event.

“I actually invited friends that already graduated from FIU and are in med school to come in and hear this man speak,” Lau said.

Greer also announced his new position in the College of Medicine as the assistant dean of academic affairs.

As assistant dean, Greer will bring a community-oriented approach to health care for the University and work side-by-side with medical students, helping train them, according to the college’s Web site.

“FIU is doing one of the most exciting new things ever,” [which is] to open up a new College of Medicine. That is the first new school of medicine to open in the country in 26 years,” Greer said.

Greer also discussed the field of medicine, informing pre-med students what it’s like to be a physician.

He expressed his concerns regarding medicine in the United States and the death
Athletics prohibitions re-evaluated

SAO, page 1

leaders in their community and I don’t see the problem with ‘Greek dominance.’ Let us be honest about SAO elections. It is not all Greek,” Diaz said. Diaz then referred to the 2007 deal between Athletics and SGA-UCP in which students were offered a $3 agreement for use of a skybox in FIU-football Stadium as a venue for student organizations and events.

“University Park was voting unanimously for a skybox with Biscayne Bay Refusing to support it. Now what does that show? Students decided to rally to camps supporting their idea. That is a party system at work,” Diaz said.

Diaz continued until the bill came to a final vote. The latest version of the bill eliminated the capability for parties to raise any funds for campaigning.

“I liked the idea. I just wish that there was more detail in the proposal,” said Adam Johnson, senator for the College of Arts and Sciences.

Following the Elections Code debate, the Senate passed a resolution recommending that Athletics repeal prohibitions against food and drinks on the stadium and allow the Relay for Life to be held there.

The fifth annual Relay for Life was moved from the stadium to the front of the Ryder Business Building after the organization cited several disagreements with Athletics, including refusal to let food and drinks onto the field, unexpected costs and a scheduling conflict with football practices.

Greev advocates altruistic motives

When you guys go out there and you’re the leader, you got to make this country better.

Dr. Pedro Jose Greer, assistant dean of College of Medicine

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Forums to allow debate over tech fee

The increase of the tech fee would make the University of Miami better.

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New fish breeding may shed light on terminal diseases

ERIK STEINHARDT
Contributing Writer

Current studies on household fish and common algae could have promising results in finding treatments for diseases such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s, according to researchers at Biscayne Bay Campus.

Located on the first floor and south end of the Marine Sciences building are algae embryos of an average BBC auditorium classroom, is the $10 million Aquatic Research Center. The Aquarium Room holds two plastic pools in which researcher John Berry, assistant professor of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, hopes to start a consistent breeding population of zebrafish that can be used for research.

Zebrafish are tropical freshwater fish commonly found in household aquariums. But according to Berry and those who work with him, they are much more useful than that.

Since zebrafish have a high rate of embryo production and are similar to human embryos, Berry said that they are a preferred research subject for the type of research that he and others are conducting.

Zebrafish are also a growing focus among biologists to discover possible treatments for blindness, cancer, heart regeneration, Lou Gehrig’s disease and tinnitus – a chronic ringing in the ears.

By using these zebrafish, Berry can study the effects of toxic algae as well as its effects on the environment and human health.

The advantage of the zebrafish is that we can breed them and get hundreds, if not thousands of eggs in an afternoon, and we can work with these embryos for up to five days,” Berry said.

Elisha Lee, a biology major and research assistant, grows these embryos.

“There are a lot of characters in the growth that you can judge whether development is occurring normally or if there is something random that may be a cause from the toxins that we’re applying to the embryos,” Lee said.

According to Berry, toxic algae, also known as blue-green algae, is a cyanobacteria.

Cyanobacteria are the green-tinted scum usually found on top of lake water, or streams. If toxins from the cyanobacteria are swallowed, come into contact with human skin or are inhaled in high levels, they can cause a health threat to humans and animals, according to the New York State Department of Health Web site.

“There are a number of people getting ill by drinking water with these toxins,” Berry said.

“All sorts of evidence suggests that there are long-term health effects, including higher rates of particular cancers and possible neurodegenerative diseases, such as Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s disease, associated with some of these compounds, so we’re interested in being able to measure these in the environment and identifying the risk but also characterizing the risk biologically.”

Not all the side effects of blue-green algae are negative. Berry said that there are also a number of people with long-term health benefits from it.

He said, for example, that a compound in the algae controls mosquito larvae and reduces the survival rate of adult mosquitoes, which helps decrease mosquito-borne diseases.

“The aquarium will also be a classroom tool for the professors of the marine science program and for undergraduates to do their own research.”

“This is giving me research experience as an undergraduate and giving me a great thing to put on my resume for grad schools,” Lee said. “I’ve been given an opportunity to get into a lab and do work that graduate students and research scientists do.”

How to ruin a promising weekend - and your body too

I got into a car accident a few weeks ago and ever since, I have been dreaming about getting a good back massage. When I finally got to get one this past weekend, it was anything but relaxing. My time at Massage Envy (20633 Biscayne Blvd.) proved that Murphy’s Law – anything that can go wrong will go wrong – applies at the worst times.

The place did not give me a bad vibe when I first walked in. It was warm and inviting with purple walls, a very comfortable white sofa and chairs in the lobby area. After I checked in, I went into the waiting room, which had dim lights, another comfortable white sofa and calming music playing. I felt confident about the massage until my masseur ended up 15 minutes late for my appointment.

Now, the last time I checked, a massage is supposed to be relaxing, but someone did not get the memo at Massage Envy. In fact, throughout the whole massage, the only thought running through my mind was, “I thought we didn’t allow torture in this country.”

As soon as I lay down on the bed, the masseur told me to let him know if he started to hurt me. So I lied, but for every “Ouch, that hurts,” he would just keep going. Within 15 minutes, my face was no longer in the headrest of the bed.

Instead, I had accidentally moved the pillow and was being hit in the face by the metal bar that separates the bed from the headrest.

Did I mention I ended up with a massage who had breathing problems? The soothing music was drowned out by the sound of his inhaling and trusting me, there is nothing less relaxing than a middle-aged man breathing heavily over you when you’re trying to unwind.

After the massage, I felt as if I had gotten into another accident and felt like throwing up. I knew I looked worse than I felt because everyone in the salon asked me if I was OK when I was leaving. Of course, I had to find someone new to fix my back after the people who were supposed to fix it made it worse. Oh, joy!

When my time in the torture bed was over, I went to get food, hoping it would get rid of the feeling of nausea I got from my massage.

I went to Kabobji Middle Eastern Restaurant (3055 NE 163rd St., North Miami Beach) and it succeeded in making my stomach feel just as bad as my back.

I ordered the mixed mezza platter. The platter comes with falafel – a popular Middle Eastern dish that has chickpeas, fava beans, parsley, cumin and other spices, rolled in flour and fried – stuffed grape leaves, hummus, tabbouli (a parsley, cracked wheat, tomato, garlic and cucumber salad) and, of course, baba ghanoush (a mixture of eggplant, tahini and garlic) for $15.99.

The food was nothing to rave about, but I probably would have enjoyed it more if it were served properly. All of this food is traditionally eaten with pita bread, but the bread I got was still in the plastic bag that the manufacturer put it in. Who eats cold bread, especially at a restaurant? They could have at least given me the illusion of fresh bread by heating it up.

To make up for a parsley-infested iced tea, I ordered doshah, a Middle Eastern carbonated yogurt drink I adore, which of course came to me flat. This may not seem like a big deal to those who have never had it before, but imagine ordering a Coke and having it come flat.

When I told the server that the drink was flat, his response, I kid you not, was “I’m South American.” So if I work at an ethnic restaurant and mess up a dish, I can just say I’m Persian and that will make up for anything that goes wrong, right?

I was not happy about having to leave a tip at this restaurant. But I figured I could forgive him for having an off night.

The bad massage, however, not so much. I am normally nice when I go out, but my experience at Massage Envy was so bad, I couldn’t bring myself to tip the server. Blame the guy who inflicted the damage. I actually told me that 15 percent of my $39 bill was $10!

I may be a journalism major, but even I know that 15 percent of 39 is not 10. I rarely tell my readers not to visit a certain location, but honestly, these two are the worst I’ve visited in the area, and I do not recommend them whatsoever. Just avoid them.

Read Weekends with Paradise every other Friday for more tips on places to go in the North Miami area. The columnist pays for all food and experiences. If you have any suggestions, e-mail paradise.asfahar@fiuun.com.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Athletics tried accommodating Relay for Life within FIU Stadium policies

This letter is a response to the editorial published on March 2.

The FIU Athletic Department has done everything in its power to accommodate the Relay for Life for campus and I continue to do so. Athletic Director Pete Garcia and the Athletic staff support Relay for Life and applaud their fund-raising efforts.

FIU Stadium is not only for the Athletics Department’s use, but also for the University as a whole and it is something the FIU community is proud of. However, in order to keep a gem like FIU has been given, there are few restrictions that must be followed in order to preserve the stadium for years to come.

The FIU Athletic Department has tried to work around these restrictions to accommodate Relay for Life. The Relay for Life staff felt they could not work not the FIU Stadium policies and therefore decided on their own not to hold the event at FIU Stadium.

FIU football head coach Mario Cristobal has already made it clear he would change his practice on Friday to accommodate Relay for Life. Last year, coach Cristobal left Spring practice early to participate in the Relay for Life. Last year, coach Cristobal left Spring practice early to participate in the Relay for Life.

Researchers at the University of California, Irvine found that students felt they deserved at least a “B” average for a class merely attending lectures, according to an article in The New York Times. Forty percent of those surveyed felt they deserved a “B” for only completing required readings for the course.

I don’t know about you, but I find this absolutely ridiculous. Blame the nerd in me, but I refuse to believe our standards as students have decreased so much.

We must realize what the standard for a given class is, which I’m sure varies from professor to professor. I don’t think there’s a universal standard, although it would surely make things less confusing.

I believe that the default grade in a class is a “C”; a “C” means “average, satisfactory work,” for you met the professor’s minimum expectations. You merely did the work. I take it, therefore, a course grade of an “A” means you surpassed your professor’s expectations; or she discerned from your assignments, exams and any other submissions that you put in more effort than required for the course. I was always taught that an “A” meant doing more than what was assigned. My parents always told me to give my teachers more than what they ask for; to aim high, so that in case I don’t reach what they asked, I’ll end up with a good grade instead of a mediocre one. Putting in the minimum amount of work set up to feel uncertain. I would ask, “Was that enough?” and honestly, it usually wasn’t. I’ll admit, sometimes I got lucky. Once, I got an “A” on a paper that I wrote the night before it was due, while high on Coca-Cola and bitter coffee. Other times, I wasn’t so lucky, and I knew I deserved the grade I received.

But of course there have been instances – and I know you’ve been there too – that I’d get a grade I didn’t expect after hours and hours of work. Yet usually a professor will be clear with what they want in their critiques (and hopefully, there are critiques to begin with). Pickiness varies from professor to professor, and it takes practice (perhaps more than one class) to understand exactly what they expect.

Students should know when they deserve an “A” versus a “B”, and certainly an “A” versus a “C”. I know when I turn in a paper whether it’s good or sub-par, I expect specific grades after determining the effort I put into an assignment. Now that doesn’t mean that if you put in a countless number of hours toward a project – blood, sweat and tears – and you end up getting a “C,” that’s what you deserve. You have to be up-front with your professors when you’re honest, and it would probably help them in putting a name behind a Panther ID number. If you demonstrate to them that you care about the class and that you care about the class and the work you put in – then they might be more willing to listen to you.

Coming in the day before final grades must be submitted with “Oh, but I really thought I deserved a [insert high grade here]!” will not help you in the slightest.

I think it all comes down to building relationships with your professors. I don’t mean asking them out for coffee – they’re too busy for that – but I mean understanding where they’re coming from, even if they’re teaching a subject you greatly dislike.

Otherwise, to be a successful student, you have to put in more than 100 percent – but I suppose it all depends on what you define as “success.”
FIU orchestra revives Haydn's masterpiece

PEDRO CORTES  Contributing Writer

FIU's Symphony Orchestra and the University Chorale and Concert Choir will perform at the Wertheim Concert Hall March 7, highlighting the last major work of an influential composer who died 200 years ago. Written by Franz Joseph Haydn, *Harmoniemesse*, his final mass, will be performed by the orchestra with the University Chorale and Concert Choir and will be conducted by Professor John Augenblick, director of choral studies.

Four faculty members in the vocal department will act as soloists for the piece. The orchestra will open the night with Mozart's *Concert Aria* and *Marriage of Figaro* Overture. Haydn's final piece, *Harmoniemesse*, because of its relevance to Haydn's career and the period of time it was composed.

Haydn wrote it at the end of the classical era and the beginning of the romantic era. To help out the students, Augenblick brought in Patrick Dupre Quigley, the founder and conductor of local chamber choir Seraphic Fire, who ran workshops with the University Chorale and Concert.

The workshop was held to improve the tone quality and phrasing of the piece, something that becomes harder as a work becomes older. "The further back you go, the more performance practice has changed," Augenblick said. This affects modern choirs, since newer techniques may crash with older ones and affect the final sound of the whole piece.

Augenblick also split the choirs into sections based on gender and vocal range to help with their training. Professor Carlos Riazuelo, the orchestral head, was also involved in the decision of *Harmoniemesse* because of its focus on wind instruments.

"Haydn was the father of symphonies. He made harmony big, wind instruments, too," Riazuelo said. Riazuelo will be conducting the Symphonic Orchestra, along with the winners of the concerto competition, Nicole Ferretti and Alex Sancho. Sancho, a 20-year-old sophomore, was selected out of a dozen other participants, some of them grad students, to perform with the Symphonic Orchestra.

"It's why I was there," said Sancho. "I wanted to perform with the orchestra." This will be Sancho's second orchestral performance, his first being at Coral Reef Senior High School, where he performed Rachmaninoff's *Piano Concerto No. 2.* The event starts at 8 p.m. and costs $5 for students and seniors, $10 for FIU faculty and staff and $15 general admission.

Call 305-348-0496 for tickets.

THE CINEMATIC

Anti-superhero movie
Watchmen a great hit

Director Zack Snyder's (300) long-anticipated movie adaptation of the graphic novel, *Watchmen*, has finally hit the big screen and it is the best film of the year so far.

*Watchmen* is set in an alternate universe where superheroes and masked vigilantes exist, but they are outlawed by the government. The United States has help the Vietnam War and Richard Nixon is still the president of the United States.

The film opens as the camera zooms out of the smiley face button of a former superhero, Edward “The Comedian” Blake (Jeffery Dean Morgan), who is wearing a house coat as he watches television in his apartment.

When a mysterious man bursts into Blake's apartment, the film’s first action sequence ensues with a brutal and violent fight.

Nat King Cole’s song, "Unforgettable," is played during this scene via a television commercial. The sequence subsequently ends with The Comedian being thrown through a glass window and plummeting to his death.

This event causes a masked vigilante called Rorschach (Oscar-nominee Jackie Earle Hayley) to investigate the murder of his former colleague. Upon further investigation, there seems to be a plot unraveling to kill and discredit all past and present superheroes.

He tries to reconnect with his former crime-fighting legion and as he delves deeper into his probe, he discovers that his theory is coming true and the clock is ticking away to a certain doom with apocalyptic consequences.

I believe this is the adaptation that all *Watchmen* fanboys has been waiting for. Zack Snyder adapts the comic book nearly shot-for-shot, but manages to add some new ingredients to the story.

One such example is the opening title sequence. Set to the tune of Bob Dylan’s “The Times They Are A-Changin’,” the sequence showcases the rise and fall of superheroes.

The images that are shown in the opening sequence are like pictures that have been captured and have come to life.

While this is not a comic book frame shot-for-shot adaptation of the graphic novel, Snyder manages to keep some of the key images from the book and translate them smoothly on the silver screen through amazing cinematography and outstanding CGI.

The effect of slow motion is used constantly in the film as it seems to be Snyder's trademark. Not to say the slow motion sequences get tiring throughout the film, but Snyder manages to keep them smoothly on the silver screen through amazing cinematography and outstanding CGI.

Unlike last summer's *Iron Man* and *The Dark Knight*, this is not the kind of comic...
Film festival opens its 26th annual celebration of films in downtown Miami. The festivities of the 26th annual Miami International Film Festival will commence tonight with the screening of Valerio: The Last Emperor, at the Gusman Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Miami, following an opening night celebration at the Freedom Tower. Valerio: The Last Emperor is a documentary that chronicles the life of the legendary fashion designer, Valentino, and his 45-year association with his sometime boyfriend and business partner, Dreiberg aka Valentino.

Another one of the films that MIFF will show-case at the Gusman Center on Sunday is a documentary called Cachao: Uno Mas, which was produced by Miami’s own Andy Garcia (Ocean’s Thirteen). The film pays tribute to one of the greatest Afro-Cuban musicians of all time, Israel Lopez, who is also known as “Cachao.” This documentary features a live concert that took place in San Francisco and features interviews with Cachao’s musical collaborators: Garcia, John Santos, Ray Santos and Orestes Vilanó.

The interviews are constructed to help trace Cachao’s musical journey from his early days in Cuba to worldwide fame and recognition. The documentary is short, running only 68 minutes, but the film manages to weave Cachao’s performances in San Francisco with his musical collaborators, as well as interviews with Cachao and stories told through his friends about the legendary musician’s career.

Anyone who has followed Cachao’s career or any moviegoer who loves a great documentary with excellent music should appreciate the film for what it is, a celebration of a man’s life and his music.

From the seedy underworld of his films, such as King of New York, to his recent documentary Chelsea on the Rocks about the historic New York hotel and the artists, musicians and poets who lived there, New York has become filmmaker Abel Ferrara’s muse.

Ferrara will be honored by the MIFF on March 12 at the Gusman Center as part of the festival’s Career Achievement Tribute.

Emotional core drives Watchmen

Out of all the actors in the film, Jackie Earle Hayley becomes the backbone and the narrative voice of the film as his character, Rorschach aka Walter Kovics, was in the graphic novel. The voice he brings to Rorschach could be compared to Clint Eastwood in his Dirty Harry days. He manages to bring this tragic hero to life with the combination of rage, hate and an abusive childhood that made Kovics a person you do not want to mess with.

Watchmen director Zack Snyder as one of our modern film visionaries by staying true to the original source material and the performances in the film bring life to the characters that were first drawn and published 24 years ago.

The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.

Florida State University students needed to raise money for the event. To do so, they are going to stage a relay race, with one person running at a time.

The Heat dancers will also be performing.

Relay For Life

The event to raise money for the fight against cancer will be held at the University Park campus. The event will be held 5 p.m. to 12 a.m. tonight and 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. on Thursday. The event will be held on the lawn of the Ryder Business Building.

For student director of Relay for Life, Eriched, the event is also an opportunity to walk down memory lane.

“It’s once a year that we get to remember those who have passed away from cancer in the community,” Erched said.

This year’s theme is Hollywood and participating organizations can decorate their tents with a movie theme.

For Veronica Nydam, an anthropology sophomore who will participate with Sigma Kappa, the event hits home.

Nydam’s grandfather died of colon cancer before she was even born. Now her grandmother is in remission for colon cancer and her best friend’s mom is in remission for breast cancer.

Such circumstances motivate her to raise money for the event along with her sorority sisters, who will be flouting a Nightmare Before Christmas theme. For Nydam, the survivor stories keep her going as well.

“The emotions that these people have… and just the look on their face, they are so happy and excited to have this chance to live, you have to be there to see it,” Nydam said.

The event will include pie-eating contests, flag football and music performances from several bands including Los Primeros. The Heat dancers will also be present.

Erched said those interested in helping out could volunteer, donate money and participate in the ongoing activities.

Last year, Relay for Life raised $70,000 at the University. This year’s goal is to raise $80,000.

“Bring all the cash you can so you can help us reach our goal,” Erched said.

STOP THE PRESSES!

SO? HOW’S IT FEEL TO BE EVII!

The Beacon – Friday, March 6, 2009

Relay for Life book movie that parents should bring their kids to. The movie contains a rape scene, grisly deaths, broken body parts and full-frontal nudity from a CGI character.

Watchmen is the ultimate anti-superhero movie.

While there are some moments in the film that glorify the antics of superheroes, it spotlights the mental and emotional toll that these masked avengers have suffered as they keep crime off the street.

The cast of Watchmen manages to bring the characters they portray to life. Jeffrey Dean Morgan makes the Comedian a tragic hero with murderous tendencies who regrets the things that he did by recognizing his life as “a joke.”

You might not recognize Billy Crudup through all the CGI composition, but his performance is definitely not artificial. He humanizes a character that has no emotions and replicates a voice that is reminiscent of HAL 9000 from 2001: A Space Odyssey. Painstakingly he brings to life the character Dan Dreiberg aka Valentino; The Last Emperor a Nite Owl III. He does.

Dan prefers to reason with criminals instead of provoking them and manages to perform as a shell of a man who longs for the old days when he dressed up to fight crime and he was the only woman that he deeply loves.

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The Cinematic is a weekly column about all things movies. Look for it every Friday.
Bermudez, Fondon lead Golden Panthers past Knights

Football team enters spring with high expectations

ANDREW JULIAN
Sports Director

With the Ides of March, comes spring rains, spring break, and all around the country, spring football.

The Golden Panthers enter their third spring under head coach Mario Cristobal, and coming off a 5-7 season, and the most productive offensive season in school history, excitement and enthusiasm are running high at the FIU stadium.

“The benefits of a great off-season show in the way that we bend, the way that we’re more explosive. Cris-tobal said.

“We look like we’re accelerating better. We’re showing better understanding of the game. Thomas noted how more consistent this start was for Fondon.

Tonight, he was solid for basically five innings,” Thomas said. “He got the leadoff hitter out. He got ahead of the hitters and hit his spots well.”

The Golden Panthers will have 13 more practices this spring, culminating with the spring game on April 3.

FIU put an emphasis on the spring, gaining momentum to play faster and bigger because we’re going to have to be more physical with teams this year”, add the rising senior linebacker Scott Townsend.

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“The benefits of a great off-season show in the way that we bend, the way that we’re more explosive. Cristina said.

“We look like we’re accelerating better. We’re showing better understanding of the scheme.”

Having played more freshmen and sophomores than any one in the country two seasons ago, and putting together a solid campaign last season, FIU will field one of the most experienced teams in school history.

At the glance of the early unofficial depth chart, 17 of 22 starters would be upperclassmen with more than one year of FIU experience, including senior quarterback Paul McCall.

“Allison looked quicker in his drops, and he’s more flexible, and you saw him run,” said Cristobal of the first quarterback on this spring.

“It’s really exciting.”

Back up Bermudez’s offensive output was outli-er Tyler Townsend, who went 3-for-3 with three runs and a walk.

Townsend is the third batter in the lineup, who will be one of the main hitters responsible for driving in Bermudez.

“It’s important to have a guy like him because that’s the guy that sets the table for the rest of the offense,” coach Cristobal said.

FIU Starting Pitcher

2009 FIU FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

(Dates subject to change due to TV)

Sat.  Sept. 12   Alabama          Tuscaloosa, AL
Sat.  Sept. 19   Rutgers         Piscataway, NJ
Sat.  Sept. 26   TOLEDO          Miami, FL
Sat.  Oct. 3     ULM*            Monroe, LA
Sat.  Oct. 10   Middle Tennessee* Murfreesboro, TN
Sat.  Oct. 17   TROY*            Miami, FL
Sat.  Oct. 24   Western Kentucky* Bowling Green, KY
Sat.  Oct. 31   UL-LAFAYETTE*     Miami, FL
Sat.  Nov. 7   Arkansas State*   Jonesboro, AR
Sat.  Nov. 14   NORTH TEXAS* (HC) Miami, FL
Sat.  Nov. 21   Florida         Gainesville, FL
Sat.  Dec. 5   FLORIDA ATLANTIC* Miami, FL

**All Home Games Played at FIU Stadium**

**All Home Games Played at FIU Stadium**

Thank you for reading

Monday, Wednesday Friday

Apply in GC 210 or WUC 124

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The University Technology Fee Committee will hold public hearings at these times:

Monday, March 9, 2009
University Park Campus   GC 140  2 pm

Tuesday, March 10, 2009
University Park Campus   GC 140  2 pm

The objective of these meetings is to give interested individuals an opportunity to offer input pertaining to a proposed technology fee. The new fee would become effective in the fall of 2009. The Committee is invited to attend these hearings. Those who wish to offer input can also email their comments to technologyfee@fiu.edu.
ONE STEP CLOSER

FIU advances to next round of tournament

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers seemed energetic early on, scoring the first five points of the game on Michael Asprilla’s first basket on a layup to give FIU its largest lead at 27-15. Dominguez kept them coming on a pair of 3-pointers. The junior made key shots that elevated the Golden Panthers in critical runs. With 7:26 left, he made his first basket on a layup to give FIU its lead-off home run and R.J. Fondon his first FIU career win. Last time Fondon left a game, he had a 4-1 lead quickly turn into a 7-4 deficit in one inning. But against the University of Central Florida Knights (2-6), the Golden Panthers (4-2) piled on enough runs to win 8-3 on March 4 at University Park Stadium.

The Jaguars will move onto the second round of the Sun Belt tournament which will be held in Hot Springs, Ark. while the Golden Panthers will have to focus their attention to next season.

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

Pablo Bermudez provided early offensive firepower with a lead-off home run and R.J. Fondon hushed opposing batters striking out four batters in five innings.

"Depending on how I go, the team goes," Bermudez said. "Me being the lead off I have to be the sparkplug in the game."

The freshman outfielder got the whole team going to try to get Fondon his first FIU career win. Last time Fondon left a game, he had a 4-1 lead quickly turn into a 7-4 deficit in one inning. But against the University of Central Florida Knights (2-6), the Golden Panthers (4-2) piled on enough runs to win 8-3 on March 4 at University Park Stadium.

Women’s basketball team loses to South Alabama

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Staff Writer

Even after finishing with 4-14 record in conference play, the women’s basketball team had some hope left to advance in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament. The Golden Panthers haven’t been knocked out of the first round of any conference tournament since 1989 and were looking to keep that streak alive.

Those hopes were snatched and their season ended when South Alabama leading scorer, Shairka Nettles, put up 16 second half points to help the Jaguars beat the Golden Panthers 50- 44 March 4.

“This is about survival and tonight we survived,” said South Alabama head coach Rick Pietti to usajaguars.com "[FIU] came out with great energy, they played very relaxed tonight, because they had nothing to lose." Junior guard Ashley Traugott led the Golden Panthers with 11 points while Monika Bosilj added 10 points and seven rebounds. The Golden Panthers seemed energetic early on, scoring the first five points of the game on a 3-pointer by Traugott followed by a layup by Elisa Carey. The team kept the advantage up until the 2:03 mark when Ra’Shawna Sippio put the Jaguars on top 24-23. FIU was able to score four more points before Jessica Starling connected on a 3-pointer at the sound of the buzzer to tie the game up at 27 as the teams headed to the locker room. The Golden Panthers jumped out to a 34-29 lead in the first few minutes of the second half, however, South Alabama was able to tie the game back up at 39 on a 3-point shot by Nettles at the 12:31 mark. A few possessions later Traugott responded with her third 3-pointer of the night followed by a solid layup by Marquita Adley, putting FIU up 44-39.

The offensive end would then go cold for the Golden Panthers, as the team went 0-for-16 on the offensive end. R.J. Fondon hushed opposing batters striking out four batters in five innings.

"Depending on how I go, the team goes," Bermudez said. "Me being the lead off I have to be the sparkplug in the game."

The freshman outfielder got the whole team going to try to get Fondon his first FIU career win. Last time Fondon left a game, he had a 4-1 lead quickly turn into a 7-4 deficit in one inning. But against the University of Central Florida Knights (2-6), the Golden Panthers (4-2) piled on enough runs to win 8-3 on March 4 at University Park Stadium.

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