Spotlight

At the bay

Spring fest postpones to give students a break from final exam week with fun and naturally known artists.

Opinion

The cash anniversary of Black Spring – the milestone over 750,000 moviegoers went to see, made March 18.

At the bay

SOC-BBBC hosts a Day on the Bay to pick up trash and announce this year's elections winners.

Life

COLEMAN: Edith Sewall looks at changing and reformation in the latest installment of Black.

Opinion

SOC elections have revealed campaigning messages nearly similar to the 'real thing': Third with fluff.

Sports

American idol, World of Tanks tournament series finals against Louisiana.

At the bay

Entire award winning amateur Byrne Pitto series to才华去 to show his most personal stories.

Upcoming events

Movie: Same Sexes – General Meeting, April 1, 3 p.m. Don’t just listen to music. Come over to listen to the music you want to see on a big screen.

Italian Club – Film: April 5, 1 p.m. Catch this 90 minute film. Take your books behind you for this one.

Worlds of Fantasy – Disney on ice, April 1, 7:30 p.m. Bring your child life. Enjoy international traditions and cultures at the News Lounge.

Heineken Transatlantic Festival, April 2, 8 p.m. Enjoy international traditions and cultures at the News Lounge.

Anything Goes Ball – Movie, April 2, 8 p.m. Benefit your annual order to RC 750.

For the complete calendar, please see page 10 and FUSM.com Calendar.

Weather

Wednesday

Partly cloudy

LOW 72, HIGH 85

Thursday

Partly cloudy

LOW 72, HIGH 85

Friday

Isolated showers

LOW 72, HIGH 85

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Student Life

Public Service

Let’s Clean: Jonathan Leiva picks up trash around campus, along with other members of the Campus Crusade for Christ, in an effort to clean up the grounds.

Public Service

Legend refunds still to be set, students may get cash back

David Barrios

Almost two months after the cancellation of one of the semester’s most highly anticipated events, “An Evening With John Legend," several students entered the Student Government Council at University Park offices, all of them with one question in mind: Is there any word on refunds? The event, canceled on Feb. 9, just two days before the planned lecture and acoustic performance by the five-time Grammy winner, cost students $20 for bleacher seating or $25 for floor seating in the U.S. Century Bank Arena.

However, no official refund policy or date has been officially announced yet.

“It’s really simple. When do I get my money back? I paid $25 to see Mr. Legend and he didn’t come. It’s been two months now. And I want to work for a living, by the way. I need this money,” said Christopher Rodriguez, sophomore.

Legend was to perform during a half-hour lecture followed by a 45-minute acoustic performance Feb. 11, but canceled following the death of his grandfather.

Planned by SGC-UP, the event was to be part of their lecture series, held one a semester.

“We are currently working between other parts of the University to get back the funds to students as soon as possible,” said Jose Toscano, SGC-UP advisor.

“The refund check from Legend’s representation came back to us in late February, but because there are several layers on how to refund and departments to deal with, including the University’s comptroller’s office, we’ve had a delay in redistributing the funds,” Toscano said that students could be expecting a cash-back policy.

“Students paid $20 to $25 in cash. It only makes sense that students should get back their cash from their University,” said Eric Arneson, director of Campus Life.

According to Arneson, it’s a University Policy purpose to credit students accounts with the refunds rather than return the money in cash.

“We are disappointed that this process has taken so long. We certainly understand and appreciate our students’ concerns – $20 to $25 is a significant amount of money,” Arneson said.

He said he hoped that within the near future, a refund policy would be established.

Abuse victims speak out at annual event

Amy Ramirez

A stand will be taken to bring awareness to issues of abuse, rape and assault to the University community.

Take Back the Night is an annual event that is organized in many college campuses to remember victims who have been affected by violent demonstrations and gives a voice to the survivors who speak out for freedom.

“Take Back the Night’s purpose is promoting awareness and allowing people to heal,” said Suzanne Onorato, director of the Women’s Center and one of the main organizers of the event.

It will be organized by more than 15 University offices and student organizations, including the Women and Leadership class, the National Pan-Hellenic Council and the Inter-fraternity Council.

Last year, almost 300 men and women assembled and marched through the Graham Park.
IDENTITY THEFT TARGETS CHILDREN

Jake LeGette is a recent victim of identity theft. What makes him different is that he is 11 years old.

LeGette’s mother, Laurie LeGette, a police officer, noticed the crime when she took her son to get his first bank account, only to discover that his identity had already fallen into the hands of criminals.

Laurie LeGette is now taking action by notifying credit companies and trying to clear her son’s name.

STOCKS FALL AS FEAR FOR THE AUTO INDUSTRY SURFACES

Stocks fell 254 points on March 29 as the markets reacted to the news of the auto industry’s instability.

President Obama announced that a reorganization plans of both Chrysler and General Motors, claiming that the companies need a fresh start in order to proceed with their restructuring plans.

According to CNN Money, both companies were given deadlines to construct restructuring plans in order to obtain more tax payer money. Chrysler had 60 days to close a deal with Italian automaker FII and GM was given 60 days to orchestrate a “turnaround plan.” A number of the companies have met their respective deadlines.

Obama said that the federal government will continue to honor the warranties of both these companies’ funds with a special fund.

OBAMA SIGNS BILL TO PROTECT WILDERNESS LANDS

Obama signs bill to protect wilderness lands with a special fund.

Some of these micro-finance institutions are the Christian Rural Aid Network in Ghana, Africa, Apoyo Integral in El Salvador and Norwegian Microcredit LLC in Azerbaijan, Asia.

Once the loans are approved, they are posted onto Kiva’s Web site for funding. Internet users, such as the FIU Micro-lenders, can then choose an entrepreneur they would like to lend to and choose how much they would like to lend, with a minimum loan of $25.

The Web site also informs FIU Micro-lenders about the progress being made in the repayment of the loan.

Once the loan is repaid, FIU Micro-Lenders will receive the amount of money they originally loaned the entrepreneur and then either withdraw the money or re-loan it to someone else.

“Kiva has a family who needs to replace a washing machine to wash clothing for their business,” Nuninga said. “The family gets the money back from Kiva on loan. They then pay the loans back. The money is paid back to Kiva and goes back to all of the people who contributed to the loan.”

The idea for creating the FIU Micro-Lenders group originated as a community service project in the Business in Society course, part of the College of Business Administration’s MBA Weekend program.

“I think it’s a good thing because it helps people who can’t get bank loans, but are capable of starting a business,” said Karin Vallega, a sophomore. “It helps those people make a living through their own work instead of just receiving charity.”

The students involved in the project asked for students to donate used books.

They then sold the books on Amazon and used the funds to loan money to help entrepreneurs in a developing country start their own business.

The chance to help these entrepreneurs is now being spread to the entire FIU community in the creation of the FIU Micro-Lenders group.

“The flow of money,” said Stephanie Perez, a freshman. “Yet it can be very risky on behalf of the lenders because the possibility of them getting a consistent payback is pretty low—in addition to the risk of loyalty.”

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Stocks fell as fear for the auto industry surface. According to the Salt Lake Tribune, “Obama said ‘the American people have the right to have the government make sure that the money is spent in a way that deliberately helps the American worker not is wasted in a way that deliberately helps the American worker.”

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Day on the Bay takes spring cleaning to new heights

**Barbara Quijano**  
Asst. News Director

Picking up the trash on the bay will be the assignment of more than 100 middle school students at the end of the week. For University students, however, it might be something completely different.

The Day on the Bay, an event that promotes a “go green” initiative, will also be the day students at the Biscayne Bay Campus meet the Student Government Council-Biscayne Bay Campus winners for the 2009-2010 elections.

The event, which will take place April 3, is held once every semester for students, community and friends to come together and clean the bay.

Craig Canningham, director of Campus Life & Orientation, will announce the new SGC-BBC members on that day.

“Heads or Tails” is a campaign initiative that started last year and it’s been extremely successful,” said Ana Maria Silva, president of SGC-BBC. “We’ll be providing food and drinks at 12 p.m. and also at this time we’ll be announcing the winners of SGC-BBC.”

SGC-BBC candidates have been campaigning since March 23, and will continue their campaign through election day, which will take place April 1-2 from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Students can vote through their Panthers accounts on any available computer. There will also be designated computers in the Academic building where students can vote.

“Elections will choose who your next campus leaders are going to be, so if you care about FIU and your campus and about making this University better, cast your vote,” said Silva. “Know who you’re voting for, pick up flyers, read their goals and what candidates want to accomplish, and make your decision based on most qualified goals, not on popularity.”

Day on the Bay is sponsored and hosted by SGC-BBC, partnered with the Office of the Vice Provost, where they reached out to David Lawrence Jr. K-8 Center, a Miami-Dade County public school located next to BBC, to participate in the green initiative.

According to Silva, Day on the Bay will also host 150 middle school students.

“Any student is more than welcome to participate at any point between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. We’re providing gloves, trash bags, food and a DJ,” said Silva. “It’s basically just showing up and supporting the ‘go green’ initiative.”

Day on the Bay is a collaborative, where students and volunteers are separated into groups. Each group will be designated a certain section to clean, so the entire bay is covered.

Funding for this event is coming from the Community and Environmental Affairs account, which is funded by SGC-BBC.

“I hope we have students helping and supporting this cause,” said Silva. “It’s our campus.”

Award-winning reporter to speak

**Lorena Estrada**  
Staff Writer

Emmy award-winning journalist Byron Pitts will share his life with students, and the perseverance and strength he acquired from his experience as a network correspondent.

As part of Communications Week and the Heirst Lecture Series, Byron Pitts, a “60 Minutes” correspondent, will be the keynote speaker at the School of Journalism and Mass Communications’ 19th Annual Student Celebration and Awards Ceremony April 2 in the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“It will focus on his personal story – his early childhood struggles with reading, overcoming a stuttering problem and the other details of a journey that ultimately led him to the pinnacle of the broadcasting profession,” said David Berry, an SJMC marketing coordinator. “It will have an inspirational tone because it coincides with the awards ceremony, in which most of the students in attendance will be graduating.”

Raised by a single mother in a working class neighborhood in Baltimore, Pitts was illiterate until the age of 12 and had a stuttering problem.

With a desire to play football, he maintained good grades in school, eventually learned to read and went on to attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

He graduated in 1982 with a bachelor of arts degree in journalism and speech communication.

Pitts went on to attend Ohio Wesleyan University for his coverage of the Sept. 11 attacks, and at ground zero for CBS’s news program.

He was one of the lead reporters for “Katie Couric,” and a contributing chief national correspondent and speech communication.

Pitts include Hurricane Katrina, the war in Afghanistan, the military buildup in Kuwait, the Florida fires, the mudslides in Central America and the refugee crisis in Kosovo.

Pitts has received a national Emmy Award for his coverage of the Chicago train wreck in 1999, a National Association of Black Journalists Award, four Associated Press Awards and six regional Emmy Awards.

Although Pitts will speak at the awards ceremony, an annual end-of-year celebration of student achievements throughout the academic year, the event is also free and open to all students and the public from 5 p.m. to about 7 p.m.

“A number of students will be awarded scholarships, as well as awards for Outstanding Alumnus and Outstanding Graduate Student. [There will be] an award for Outstanding Student for each main course of study: advertising, broadcasting, journalism and public relations,” Berry said.

The student celebration and ceremony is sponsored by the Gannett Company, Inc., Kappa Tau Alpha and the Heirst Lecture Series.

For more information, contact David Berry at (305) 919-4411 or e-mail him at berryr@fiu.edu.

**Pitts will focus on his personal story – his early childhood struggles with reading, overcoming a stuttering problem and other details.**

David Berry, marketing coordinator SJMC

Paradise Afshar  
BBC Life! Editor

With final papers due soon and exams coming up, many students are looking for ways to unwind during this stressful time of the year.

The 10th annual Spring Fling, hosted by the Student Programming Council, is designed to provide the much needed break.

“It’s a good way to get your mind off the stresses of school,” said Petra Haven, SPC-BBC president. “It’s a fun event that everyone should attend.”

The Spring Fling will take place April 3 in front of the Hospitality Management patio, located in front of the bay, at 8 p.m.

Although planned as an outdoor event, it would be moved to the Wolfe University Center Ballrooms in case of rain, according to Haven.

This year, R&B and hip-hop artist Ryan Leslie, who has written songs for Britney Spears and Jolo; R&B artist Pleasure P, formerly of R&B group Pretty Ricky; R&B singer Shonie and rapper Brisco, will headline the event.

Local artists COA Legacy, Black DaDa, NMB Stunnaz, Jube, Get Fresh Crew and others will perform as the opening acts. DJ Skip, will emcee the event. Spring Fling will be held on both campuses and rapper Luadesis will headline the event at the University Park campus.

“I’m looking forward to seeing that musical genius, Ryan Leslie, go to work. He’s an amazing artist,” said junior Melissa Bisnis, a public relations major.

“I’m also looking forward to the opening acts because a lot of them are a part of the new Miami dance movement.”

During last year’s event, about 800 students attended and watched rapper Fat Joe and R&B singer Mario. SPC members are expecting about the same amount to attend this year.

Although final figures are not available yet, according to Haven, SPC spent more than $35,000 on this year’s event.

In addition to music, Spring Fling includes free refreshments, including hot dogs, hamburgers and iced lemonade.

Bannis said that she cannot wait for the event because “it’s going to be one big party that night.”

Admission is free for University students and non-students can either pay $15 on the day of the event, or pay $10 during the pre-sale, which started March 30 at both the information desks and offices of Campus Life at UP and BBC.

For more information about Spring Fling contact SPC-BBC at (305) 919-5280.

**Paradise Afshar  
BBC Life! Editor**

**Taking a Break**  
Jorge Rossell, a senior sociology and anthropology major, relates after a sunny study session with Jessica Alarcon, a junior nursing major, in the grassy knoll outside Panther Square, on March 30.
Opinion Editor
Iris Febres
Contact Us
March 18 marked the sixth anniversary of the crackdown on 75 dissidents and journalists in Cuba, which notoriously became known as “Black Spring.” The only people to protest the government and demand human rights on the island. They were charged with treason against the government and disorderly conduct against the revolution. After brief trials weeks later, the dissidents received prison sentences of up to 28 years. Most of the dissidents were opponents of the Varela Project, a referendum called for democratic reforms and human rights inside the island. Cuba took advantage of the Iraq war serving as a distraction to create a climate of fear of the government. The imprisonment of the dissidents served as an intimidation technique against present and future political opponents. Unfortunately for the regime, the European Union condemned the actions and broke off some diplomatic relations with Cuba, according to Reuters. Of the 75 imprisoned, 55 still remain in prison under deplorable conditions. Mario Enrique Mayo, a lawyer and journalist, arrived in Miami on March 18 as a political refugee. “I am very happy but at the same time when we arrive here we remember those that remain there; it is a mixture of joy and sadness, because the face of faces escapes from the inferno does not mean the end. They still remain those that are behind the bars,” Mayo said in an interview with The Miami Herald. According to The Miami Herald, he was released due to his delicate health conditions. The Cuban government has released 20 prisoners for humanitarian reasons. Among them is Mayo. Miguel Valdés Tamayo died in La Habana in January 2007 after a heart attack. “Prisons in Cuba are like commentaries of living men. It is worse for political prisoners because they are sentenced to a regime and they insist on telling the truth,” said former prisoner Bertha Antúnez. “They are tortured physically and mentally. They are given medicine to make them fall asleep and many times the guards allow them to be raped. They leave the prisons malnourished and with respiratory problems.” It is also common knowledge that every time human rights organizations visit the island, they are taken to special prisons that are painted and mattresses are put in the prisoners’ cell. Bertha Antúnez is no stranger to the Cuban government treatment of political opponents. Her brother, Jorge Luis García Pérez, spent 17 years in prison where he suffered torture, humiliation and hunger. He was arrested in Placeias for screaming during a demonstration that communism was “an error and a utopia.” Since this was considered “enemy propaganda,” he was arrested. It is repulsive every time Central and South American presidents visit the island to legitimize the government. Presidents Michelle Bachelet (Chile), Cristina Kirchner (Argentina), Alvaro Colom (Guatemala) and Hugo Chavez (Venezuela) have been among the most recent visitors to the incarcerated island. They have met with dis- dents and have turned a blind eye to the Cubans’ tragic reality. These leaders send the message that the past five decades of oppression and human rights violations are acceptable. The most shocking of these relationships is of President Oscar Arias Sánchez of Costa Rica, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1987 for his Central American peace plan. He is out of pure igno- rance or intentional wrongdoing, these presidents are only extending the suffering of an entire nation.
This past March 18, Cuban exiles met at the Biltmore Hotel in Coral Gables to commemorate the tragic event. They created the Asamblea de la Resistencia (Assembly of the Resistance), whose primary goal is to not coop- erate with the dictatorship. The organization aims to promote unity of all Cubans, spread the word at an international level about the tyranny that Cubans are suffering and effectively coordinate the internal resistance inside the island. The assembly is made up of repre- sentatives of more than 40 organizations like MAR for Cuba and Free Cuba Foundation from FIU. Cuba has suffered the longest standing dictatorship ever recorded for the past five decades. Fidel Castro consistently ignored the international declaration of human rights in which Cuba was the initial proponent. His brother, Raul Castro, took over power in July 2006 after Fidel had major surgery. Despite rumors that positive changes were on the way, Cubans are consistently denied their human rights and oppressed whenever a critique of the revolution is raised. Raul Castro promoted criticism of the government in a constructive manner. It was later clarified that it was allowed to criticize the trans- portation system and other issues, but not the government itself.
HUNGRY? WHY WAIT

Community outreach, global poverty and hunger concerns behind student fast

RACHEL CONGDON
Staff Writer

What would you do to end world hunger? Would you be willing to go without eating for 30 hours?

A group of FIU students have come together to do just that in conjunction with World Vision, a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children and their communities to overcome poverty. Motivated by Jesus Christ’s love for his neighbors, Leonard Goenaga had the inspiration to bring World Vision’s idea of a world without starving children to FIU with “FIU 30-hour Famine.”

“We live in supreme comfort as college kids in Miami, and there is no class at FIU that could teach compassion,” said Goenaga, a senior majoring in political science and religious studies.

The 30-hour famine will take place April 15 and will consist of 30 hours of not eating, feeding the homeless and doing other outreach and awareness projects. The famine will end with a “Break-FAST” on April 16.

To hammer the point across, “you will be eating the portrife (that the children eat) for Break-FAST,” said World Vision Child Ambassador Desiree Kameka.

According to World Vision “as many as one in five children will die before reaching their fifth birthday,” and “26,000 children younger than age 5 will die because of hunger, disease and poverty.”

Alarming as the numbers may be, the question becomes: What can you do about it?

If you don’t want to fast, there are other opportunities for students to get involved.

Students or anyone else interested, can sponsor someone participating in the 30-hour famine or they can donate to the World Vision Web site.

Although there is no set amount to raise, individuals will have the opportunity to set their own fund-raising goals such as feeding a child for $30 a month or $360 a year.

“As any college student can find a dollar,” Goenaga said.

For the next two weeks, World Vision representatives will be tabling on campus with awareness stunts and information.

“Awareness is [also] important seeing as the numbers are staggering,” Goenaga said.

If you think you don’t have a dollar to donate, think again.

Consider foregoing one movie every month. You could donate those $10. Next time you go out, think about feeding the hungry before you order that $9 drink at a club, or you decide to “super-size” your combo meal, Goenaga said.

For more information, visit www.worldvision.org or tinyurl.com/FIUfamine or e-mail Leonard Goenaga lgoep001@fiu.edu.

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Deadly

Death – ironically enough – is a part of life. The reality is that we’re all going to die, and at some point in our lives we will all be affected by death.

EDDITH SEVILLA
Staff Writer

Last week as I drove into my neighborhood, six police cars were parked in front of a neighbor’s townhouse. As I drove by, I saw a familiar face with tears running down her cheeks. But it was not until 30 minutes later when I was discussing the scene with my mom and her sister, that I remembered who’s face that was.

A family friend of many years passed away of heart failure in his home last week. It was his daughter-in-law’s face whom I had recognized that early afternoon.

As his wife gripped my mother and me in their living room, I thought of her sorrow, how she and her kids would recover from this, but, most of all, I wondered how she would deal with his death after every-
Corporate sponsorship reaches new, absurd level

No matter where you go or what you buy, somehow, some way, you are supporting sports. Just look at the packages. It seems more and more like there is an official “something” of a sport. Whether it’s the official beer of the NFL, the official insurance provider of NASCAR, or the official credit card of the Olympics, you are in some way supporting a major sports team or sporting event. It almost seems random when initially looked at.

However, when closely examined, sports sponsorship is a very important aspect of modern advertising.

Given that sporting events consistently attract thousands upon thousands of spectators, and millions more in television and radio audiences, it would make sense to sponsor a team or event.

The amount of television exposure potential is enormous. For that simple fact, many companies have decided to use sports as a method of advertising. Take auto manufacturer Audi for example. They recently announced a deal with the New York Yankees to be the team’s official luxury vehicle.

“As our brand continues to grow nationally, and in New York especially, a relationship with the Yankees makes perfect sense,” said Scott Keogh, chief marketing officer, Audi of America, in an interview with Marketing Daily.

“Opening up the Audi Yankees Club was a great opportunity to get Audi fans a terrific place to enjoy the games,” he said.

The partnership includes a suite box with a members-only restaurant at Yankee Stadium.

Another company that has used sports effectively is Target. Using auto racing as a medium, Target has formed an alliance with team owner Chip Ganassi to form Target Chip Ganassi Racing with Felix Sebates, the team’s co-owner.

The team fields cars in the NASCAR Sprint Cup series, IndyCar Series and the Grand American Rolex Sports Car Series presented by Crown Royal Cask No. 16.

Target has enjoyed a lengthy relationship with the team, winning the Indy 500 multiple times, the Daytona 24 hours and numerous NASCAR races. Pepsi Co. would be another shining example. The NFL has been using Diet Pepsi for years as an official soft drink. This relationship includes Pepsi products being exclusively sold at NFL games as well as at numerous pre-game hospitality parties.

Trek Bicycles is a new, seemingly random sponsor. IndyCar Series driver E.J. Viso has recently signed a deal with the company to be a personal sponsor.

Viso is also a frequent participant of international bike races and marathons, providing a great avenue for the company to take advantage of an international market.

To be fair, not everyone follows every single sport. That in mind, companies have selected specific products to market through specific sports.

Soccer Locker has latched onto numerous united soccer leagues and Major League Soccer teams, exponentially growing their brand. It may indeed all look random at first, but there is a method behind the madness.
HOME COOKING

ANOTHER WIN: Maria Spenceley swats a ball against Louisiana Lafayette during the Golden Panthers 5-2 victory on March 28. The team is undefeated at home.

Offensive production cannot bail out porous pitching

BASEBALL, page 8
28 runs in three games. In two of those contests, they reached double figures.

The Golden Panthers’ record dropped to 17-6 overall and 6-3 in Sun Belt Conference play.

Still, the team has won eight of its last 10 games. During that stretch, Ryan Mollica hit four home runs, scored 13 runs the previous two games.

Tyler Townsend in the lineup has benefited from Wilson’s performance. Townsend went 0-3 from the plate with two runs.

Only one player obtained more than one hit.

Junior Arrojo went 2-for-3 with one RBI.

“Tied it up, he was the offensive player of the game,” Mollica said.

He also mentioned how hitting behind Tyler Townsend in the lineup has benefited him.

“I’m definitely getting more pitches to hit hitting behind him,” Mollica said.

But not even Townsend, who leads the conference in hitting, could make a dent on Wilson’s performance. Townsend went 0-for-3 with one RBI.

The Rookie Report is a five part series on the most impactful freshmen and their influence on the Golden Panthers impressive start this season.

Next up: infielder Raiko Alfonsos.

“Everybody has love for each other and we have fun a lot.”

The rookie sensation’s diversion has been contagious.

Sometimes he dances, and he’s one of the only black kids on the team so he cultures us and teaches us a lot of new dances that come up, like the ‘stanky leg’,” Wittels laughed. “I don’t know, you always see him talking to kids about different dances sometimes.”

Hilton, who is Bermudez’s friend, sees more than athleticism as a similarity between the two.

“When I was with him he was the funny guy that liked to joke around,” he said. “I see he’s doing the same thing for the baseball team like I did for the football team.”

In college football and baseball, a player must wait three seasons to declare for their particular draft, so there will be time to measure their careers next to each other. Despite that, Hilton already has an opinion when you try to compare their ability in their own sport.

“Me and him always talk about it,” Hilton laughed. “I think he’s better.”

The Rookie Report is a five part series on the most impactful freshmen and their influence on the Golden Panthers impressive start this season.

Next up: infielder Raiko Alfonsos.

“For the Ragin’ Cajuns, Scott Hawkins hit 2-for-4. He also scored three runs to lead his team.

The Golden Panthers will face the Western Kentucky Hillhoppers next on April 3-5. They are one of the top contenders in the Sun Belt Conference with a 17-7 overall record and an 8-1 conference record.

WKU leads the conference in hitting as a team.

BERMUDA, page 8
hole, and although he hit just one his senior year, he has shown the ability to hit the ball hard for the Golden Panthers.

Winfeals has seen Bermudez make big plays since before they were teenagers.

As members of opposing travel teams, the two faced each other in a close meeting between their respective teams. Winfeels remembers his team winning by a run late in the game, and Bermudez stepping to the plate. After batting his way to a full count, he banged a double to opposite field to tie it, and then stole third base on route to scoring the winning run.

“He’s the type of guy you want at the plate with a man on second,” Wittels said. “He can drive in the winning run.”

More than his polished offensive prowess at the plate and his range in the outfield, Bermudez has also been a presence in the locker room and the dugout. Often seen spotting a grin a mile wide, Bermudez is enjoying his new surroundings as much as Golden Panthers fans have enjoyed watching him play.

“I have had a good family environment with other team’s I’ve played with but with this team I have had the most fun,” Bermudez said.

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The Rookie Report is a five part series on the most impactful freshmen and their influence on the Golden Panthers impressive start this season.

Next up: infielder Raiko Alfonsos.
Football lands big-time recruit

SERGIO BONILLA
Asst. Sports Director

When the Golden Panthers landed Larvez “Pooch Bear” Mars, the football team had its most coveted recruit in program history.

Now, Mars has another four-star recruit alongside him.

Head coach Mario Cristobal announced tight-end Dudley LaPorte gave FIU a national letter of intent on March 26.

LaPorte is listed at 6-foot-5, 250 pounds.

“He is a very large, explosive athlete with good body control,” Cristobal said. “He is a great line of scrimmage blocker as well as a guy you can detach from formations and use as a wide receiver.”

LaPorte is a four-star recruit, according to Scout.com 2007 Junior College ranking.

He was named all-state wide receiver during his senior year in high school.

He will be coming into the most explosive offense in the program’s history.

Last season the offense scored 24.7 points per game.

Wide receiver T.Y. Hilton was the team’s most prolific offensive target.

He caught 41 passes for 1,013 yards and eight touchdowns.

Wide receiver T.Y. Hilton might be recognized as the most prolific athlete on campus after rewriting the Golden Panthers’ brief record books and making the All-Sun Belt Conference first team.

But center fielder Pablo Bermudez is making a case for himself as a transcendent first-year player as a baseball team.

Bermudez has brought pop to the top of the order and more.

A standout freshman from Miami Springs Senior High School has had an invaluable impact to his team. The athlete has brought excitement to the field and become a lethal weapon to his offense.

The player has been a spark for a head coach in his second season trying to validate his first full recruiting class.

Actually, there are two.

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Bermudez has fought off a leg injury to return to the lineup recently.

His words don’t tell the whole story, however. As a junior at Miami Springs, Bermudez jacked six home runs in the fifth game last season.

VICTORIA LYNCH/THE BEACON

Steve McVay pitched 6 1/3 innings and gave up four earned runs. He left the game with the scored tied at four. However, Mason McVay, Aaron Arboleya and Mike Martinez could not get one batter out. The three pitchers combined to give up six runs.

Erik Borkowski finally closed out the inning.

McVay was tagged with the loss, and Polizzano’s record stayed at 2-1.

Coming into the series the Ragin’ Cajuns were last in the conference in hitting while the Golden Panthers boasted the team’s best earned run average. Yet, the Ragin’ Cajuns scored five pitchers to obtain three outs.

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