FIU’s distinguished Dr. Beach speaks out

LAUREN AGOSTO
Staff Writer

Every year, Dr. Stephen Leatherman releases a list with the top 10 U.S. beaches. Known as “Dr. Beach,” Leatherman is the chair professor and director of the Laboratory for Coastal Research at FIU and has been compiling this yearly list for 20 years. “I came to FIU in 1997 to become the first director of the International Hurricane Research Center and to build it from basically a concept into a major center, which I have certainly done,” Leatherman said.

In 1997, he brought the IRHC from Maryland to FIU. “In addition to all of his coastal research, he was very instrumental in helping to define our Wall of Wind full-scale test initiative and played a key role to obtaining the $10 million Center of Excellence Award,” said Carolyn Robertson, assistant director of the IRHC at FIU. The Wall of Wind is a machine used to test the effects of hurricane-force winds on buildings.

According to Robertson, Leatherman defined and wrote a grant proposal and worked with the State Board of Governors to obtain the Center of Excellence for Hurricane Damage Mitigation and Product Development. The decision to start rating beaches, however, wasn’t all that thought out; while heading to catch a plane to China, he received a surprise telephone call from a travel magazine.

The magazine, knowing his work involved visiting beaches all over the world, wanted his opinion of the top 10 beaches in the country. In 1991, his list was published on Memorial Day weekend. He has been releasing the list every year at the same time since then. “I’m the most published coastal scientist in the U.S.,” Leatherman said. “I spent two years traveling the U.S. coasts, visiting and assessing all the major public recreations.”

LEATHERMAN

The Board of Trustees has agreed to postpone cutting four popular degree programs. During a June 12 meeting, the trustees unanimously voted to allow the administration, until the next Board meeting, to present an alternative budget that would allow the programs to survive, as well as give outgoing President Modesto Maidique and his successor, Mark Rosenberg, time to look for donors for the programs. The move to save the programs was met with applause by audience members, many of whom were students and faculty.

“This was a very rational decision,” said senior Jeremy Paulovkin, who addressed the BOT on behalf of students in the religious studies program. “It was worth the slight discomfort and nervousness of addressing the Board.”

The BOT did, however, agree to cut 11 degree programs. “No one wants to see anything cut, but we just don’t have the money,” said Trustee Patricia Frost. Before the Board made its decision, BOT Chairman David Parker designated time for members of the public to speak out. Each speaker was given two minutes. “I chose seven speakers from across constituency of the University,” said Parker during the meeting.

Religious studies student Paulovkin presented the Board with a petition of 1,771 signatures, asking for the religious B.A. degree program to be saved. “Fifty percent of the master’s students in the religious studies program come from the University’s undergraduate religious studies order. Not knowing what would come of the phone conversation, he simply named 10 of the best beaches that came to mind.

Later that summer he received a copy of the magazine listing all of the beaches he mentioned, in the order in which he named them. “The unofficial version appeared in 1989 in Conde Naste Traveler’s magazine,” he said. “In 1991, many of the newspapers in the U.S. printed the story.”

Reporters wanted to know what criteria Leatherman had used to rate the beaches, but there was none. He then decided to come up with 50 criteria to rate each beach. In the span of two years, he surveyed 650 major public recreational beaches in the country. In 1991, his list was published on Memorial Day weekend. He has been releasing the list every year at the same time since then. “I’m the most published coastal scientist in the U.S.,” Leatherman said. “I spent two years traveling the U.S. coasts, visiting and assessing all the major public recreations.”

BEACH, page 2

BUDGET Cuts

Program closures postponed

JULIO MENACHE
Staff Writer

As the Board of Trustees met in the GC Ballrooms, FIU outgoing President Modesto Maidique gave his last speech to the board members, listing the long list of accomplishments the University reached under his tenure: doctoral degree production grew 6,000 percent, the University’s total operating budget grew from $93 million to $772 million, and the addition of a law school and a new medical school set to open this fall. After 23 years of service, Maidique will resign as president and FIU will not only see a new chief executive officer but also two other top administrators.

During a presidential transition, it is common for high-level positions in the University to remain open for the incoming president to place his own officials. However, last summer the BOT awarded Chief Financial Officer Vivian Sanchez, and then-Provost Ronald Berkmann, hefty retention deals. Yet the deals failed to keep the two highly sought individuals, as Sanchez has returned to consulting and Berkmann is now the president of Cleveland State University.

The school year will therefore begin with three brand new top administrators: Mark Rosenberg as president, John Miller as CFO and Doug Wartzok as the provost.

ROSENBERG

This June, the BOT approved a five-year, $475,000 contract for Rosenberg, the fifth University president, whose term officially begins Aug. 3, said he wishes to follow the footsteps of Maidique, but also to spend time focusing on “finance

ADMINISTRATION, page 2

Green attitude replaces old recycling bins

SERGIO MONTEALEGRE
BBC, Photo Editor

The Biscayne Bay and Modesto Maidique campuses are now littered with bottles to encourage students to recycle.

The Student Government Association and University Custodial Services came together to introduce a new recycling program using bottle-shaped recycling bins for plastic bottles and aluminum cans. “We want students to use the bins as a way to make the campus much more environmentally friendly,” said David Fonseca, director of environmental affairs for SGC-BBC.
Heat wave sweeps South Florida

Temperatures hit record levels as a sweltering heat affects South Florida.

On Sunday, temperatures in Miami hit 96 degrees, breaking the original record of 95 degrees set in 1981. Fort Lauderdale reached 98 degrees, breaking the city’s record of 94 degrees set in 1956.

Taking into account humidity, it will feel like anywhere between 105 to 110 degrees. According to CBS4, the most at risk are young children, the elderly and people with heart or lung problems.

Nursing students at Florida International University were urged to call 911 immediately. Heat-related illnesses such as heat stroke or heat exhaustion are irreversible when the body temperature is anywhere between 105 to 110 degrees.

One of Robayo’s goals for this year is to have a constitution that does not have to be reviewed every year.

“A lasting document is something I want to do,” he said.

After he spoke, the Senate had an opportunity to question him. No one did, however, and Robayo was approved unanimously. Robayo later said that he would like to have questions answered.

According to some senators, the lack of questions was not due to a lack of knowledge or interest on the Senate’s part. The Senate was e-mailed a copy of Luis Robayo’s resume and goals, said senator from Arts & Sciences, Gabriel Medina. “One of the positive aspects about last year’s student government was the stellar work of the judiciary.”

“SGA Senate was well informed on who Luis is,” said Senator Loren Fruite.
University Park campus has been renamed in honor of outgoing University President Modesto A. Maidique.

The renaming, proposed by Board of Trustees Chairman David Parker during the June 12 meeting, was approved unanimously.

For more than two decades, President Maidique has demonstrated his strong, passionate and unyielding commitment to FIU, leading this University’s historic transformation,” said Parker in a press release issued by the Office of Media Relations. “This命名是对大学社区的表达，对我对他的无数贡献, FIU and the community at large.”

An official naming ceremony will be scheduled for the Fall.

Two decades ago, my dream was to transform FIU into a major urban public university,” Maidique said in the press release. “This University now has all the major components in place to join the ranks of the nation’s top universities. This honor is the pinnacle of this incredible journey.”

Vice provost, dean resigns after five months

Five months after Joseph J. West, dean of the School of Hospitality Management, agreed to become vice provost for Biscayne Bay Campus through August 2010, he changed his mind.

After 10 years as dean, a return to the faculty is too tempting to further postpone,” said Douglas Wartozk, interim provost, in a University-wide e-mail. “Accordingly, [West] has indicated that he will step down from both positions in July and take his long delayed sabatical during the 2009-10 year.”

While also serving as dean of the School of Hospitality Management – a position he's held since July 1999 – West’s tenure as interim vice provost began in the summer of 2008, when former Vice Provost Damian Fernandez resigned.

After his resignation, West will continue to work as professor in the School of Hospitality Management. He was not available for comment at the time of publication.

School of Hospitality Management Associate Dean Joan Remington has agreed to serve as interim dean for the school beginning July 1.

Remington has worked with the University since 1990. She started as visiting professor in marketing and travel law in the School of Hospitality Management and then became director of the board’s actions are an expression of our gratitude to the faculty and academic advisors. The remaining 30 percent will go towards funding financial aid for needy students.

While there will be an increase in financial aid, Florida Bright Futures will now cover less money in student’s tuition.

Instead of receiving a full-ride, Academic Scholars will instead receive $126 per credit hour, while Medallion Scholars (who previously were covered for 75 percent of tuition and fees) will now receive $95 per credit hour.

The Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus released its list of “Summer Goals,” which includes goals and initiatives SGC-MMC will push to implement during the Summer.

Among these are the redesign and maintenance of its Web site and the creation of an SGA Strategic Planning Committee.

The committee’s task, according to President Anthony Rionda, will be to thoroughly examine the council’s budget and the organizations it funds every year.

Rionda said that SGC-MMC will push to build awareness about SGA in the University community.

“We’re looking to get out there, to different places in the University and in the community,” he said.

Rionda added that they are planning to hold senate meetings in different places on campus, rather than in their chambers (GC 150) to get other students involved.

According to him, SGC-MMC is experimenting with the possibility of taping all senate and cabinet meetings to be available to the student body through the Internet.

“We’ve attempted this at several meetings. We’re looking into either using YouTube or an independent video hosting Web site so that students will be able to see what we are doing,” he said.

Also included in the “Summer Goals” list was the possible purchase of more laptops to be made available to students and faculty in the Green Library as part of the newly approved Technology Fee.

“It’s all about how to make the overall University experience better,” Rionda said. “This is a new time of transparency and student service within student government.”
Neistein said. “We are in a recession. If you do
the math and you pay eight cents per page, you’re
paying $40 per ream of paper.”

Beginning Summer B, students will receive a $20
credit every semester to their Panther IDs, according
to Zach Trautenberg, IT and market-
ing specialist. Students will be able to get 250
all-black pages or 80 all-color pages per semester. Any additional printing will be 8 cents for black and 25 cents for color.

To print, students must swipe their
Panther IDs during each use, and they
will also be able to see the remaining
balance. However, any remaining bal-
ance will not roll over into the next
semester, and it’s a credit that can only be used for
printing.

Free printing was at one point accessible
to students. Due to student abuse, it was revoked
and prices went up to 8 cents for black and 25 cents for color per printing page.

“Students should take advantage of the pro-
gram wisely and only print what is needed. Any
credit remaining will be reimbursed into the
SGA budget and used for future programs and
funding,” Trautenberg said.

For students, saving money on a pack of print-
ing paper is no longer an option: it’s a necessity.

“$2000 out of a $12 million budget is not so
much,” Neistein said. “It’s money, but it’s money
put into good use, and it’s efficient and fiscally
responsible because all students who will use
that service will benefit.”

Charles Mahy, a junior and television major,
likes what he sees so far.

“It’s good to know I have one less thing to
pay for, and that there is someone looking out for
the students,” Mahy said.

A junior double majoring in biology and psy-
chology, and the 2008-2009 SGC-BBC speaker
of the Senate, Neistein started his term as 2009-
2010 SGC-BBC president on May 4.

“I knew that it would be a ton of work, but I
know myself, and I know I can make it work.”

Running against former SGC-BBC Vice
President Kenasha Paul, Neistein won with 232
votes. Stepping into the SGC-BBC presidency,
Neistein believed he had a lot of work to do, but he
says students should expect a different SGC-
BCC than that from past years.

“There’s a lot that needs to be changed in a
positive way,” Neistein said. “We are not going
to be competing nor combating with the admin-
istration. We are going to work more with it.”

He also believes that for a successful 2009-
2010 SGC-BBC council, all members must
work closely with students and the University,
and make full use of the tools they are given once
they step into office.

“Students who were part of SGA in the past
didn’t take initiative to fulfill the power they
were given,” Neistein said. “There’s going to be more
programs that SGC-BBC is going to be part of,
not only monetarily, but physically.”

Recycling initiative brings more
bins to both campuses, community

...
Struggle shatters misconceptions of Iranian women

Like most Iranians, in the past it has been impossible to pull myself away from Twitter or CNN for more than 10 minutes. As much as it pains me to see my countrymen and women being killed in the streets, I am going to be selfish and say that I do see a silver lining in all the wrong that’s going on there. From all the images that are coming in from Iran, I am glad people can put to rest the stereotypes that have been made about Iranian women.

I would tell people that women do have the right to vote in my country, and a college education. Since these recent events, I cannot tell you how many times I have heard people say, “Did you see all the women out there in the streets? I didn’t think they were allowed to do that.”

The lifestyles of Iranian women are not as oppressive as those in other Middle Eastern countries and the public should recognize that. People can see that Iran is farther ahead than they once thought, but it’s heartbreaking that it took such events to make the world see that.
Tuesday, June 24, 2009

LIFE!

www.fiusm.com

Wednesday, June 24, 2009

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Animation convention to take over Gramercy Center

ANA ALVAREZ Contributing Writer

Japanese animation, known to its fans as anime (commonly pronounced an-a-may), is an artistic world of highly stylized, futuristic cartoons that have taken much of the world by storm.

What do you get when you combine the sights, sounds and food of Japan with anime’s futurist and vibrant culture? The two-day festival of entertainment and fantasy coming to FIU: Yasumicon.

Hosted by the FIU Anime Club, “Anything Goes Anime Film Club” (AGA), this year’s festival will include live music, video gaming and costume contests, and plenty of surprises.

Yasumicon, an annual anime convention held at FIU, is Flori- da’s largest free-to-the-public anime convention. Established 7 years ago, it is the fastest growing anime convention of its kind and will be taking place July 11 and 12.

The entire Gramercy Center at the Modesto Maidique Campus is reserved for a weekend of fun, anime panels, live music and entertainment, which will be open to guests of all ages.

“Last year, 3,300 people attended to the festival. It was the largest record of attendance ever. This year, we are expecting anywhere between 3,000 to 4,000 people,” said vice chairman of Yasumicon 2009, Ben Badger.

Doors will open at noon on July 11 and the festivities will run until midnight. On the following day, the festival will commence at noon and end at 6 p.m. Food and refresh-ments will be sold, both in their own cafe which offers authentic Japanese cuisine, and at certain Aramark food locations, which will be available for the event.

Artists will have ample time to display their works, which are inspired by anime culture and video games. Music will also be a big part of the festival. Performing at the Yasumicon Festival this year is the musical band Arm Cannon. Based out of New York, Arm Cannon performs a fusion of video game, anime and 1980’s music, aiming to put their own spin on theme songs from “The Power Rangers,” “Megaman” and “Ghostbusters,” among others.

The Yasumicon festival attracts all types of people, from high school students who are considering attending FIU to current students and anime aficionados from around the state.

“A lot of prospective students will come with their parents to see FIU for the first time. Our objective is to share our passion for Japanese culture with them, as well as create a space where other people who love the medium can meet and interact with each other,” said Pedro Cortes, chairman of Yasumicon 2009.

Two of the biggest draws are the cosplay and costume contests, and this year a new wrinkle has been added to heighten the excitement. Cosplay, which is short for costume play, is judged based on how well individuals or groups can dress as characters from their favorite anime or Asian pop or rock bands, then acting as those characters on stage. The costume contest judges participants based on the quality of their homemade costumes.

“Something unique about the way that we are doing the costume contest this year is that we are giving out Chairman Awards. The chairman and I will walk around the hallways, and if we like a particular costume, we will give them a Chairman Award right there on the spot,” Badger said.

“This is great for certain people who are not bold enough to go on stage. AGA puts months of work into planning the convention, but to its members, the payoff is more than worth it.

“Yasumicon is the culmination of a ridiculous amount of work put in by members of our club. It’s the reward we get for spending months on the phone and on the computer to get it running. It’s a sweet prize to me,” Cortes said.

For more information about the Yasumicon Festival, please visit www.yasumicon.com.

Restaurant Review

Asian eatery offers affordable cuisine

JASMYN ELLIOTT Staff Writer

If you’re craving tasty Asian food then head over to Pei Wei, located at 13616 North Kendall Drive. Although this restaurant is an offshoot of the more upscale P.F. Chang’s Chinese Bistro franchise, don’t let the casual atmosphere fool you. The quality of the food is just as good, but much more affordable. As prices range from about $4 to $9, plus tax.

For the less adventurous diners I highly recommend the Lo Mein Noodle Bowl. You can choose between chicken, beef, vegetables, tofu or shrimp (shrimp at an additional cost of $1) and features the familiar garlic-infused sauce along with the egg noodles topped with carrots, scallions, bean sprouts and shiitake mushrooms.

Another favorite is the Honey-Steamed Chicken. Although it has a honey glaze, the skin is crispy and there is the added bonus of choosing white or brown rice topped with scallions, adding a refreshing kick.

If you’re looking for something spicy, you have a few choices. Try the chili sauce on the table or order the Orange Peel Signature Dish with the choice of chicken, beef, shrimp or tofu. Other dishes similar to this either over-season the orange peel or the spice of the peppers; Pei Wei manages to strike a near-perfect balance.

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Two friends ready for pros

DRAFT, page 7

picked up earlier. Afterwards, I was just happy I got picked,” Mollica said.

Townsend said the draft order is not too important.

“It doesn’t matter what round he was drafted in. He’s good enough to play in the minors right now.”

In the afternoon of June 11, Mollica’s father, Tony, heard on the radio that his youngest son was drafted by the New York Mets.

New York is Ryan’s birthplace and the city where many of Tony’s relatives reside. So Tony was not surprised Ryan was overlooked again.

“He was always good but under the radar,” Townsend said. “He was never the big kid or the superstar. His intangibles and leadership are amazing, but no one sees that until you’re on the team with him.”

His father noticed he was a bit disappointed but gave him a handshake and hug.

Then he gave his 23-year-old son a one-minute speech about why he should feel excited that the Mets called his name.

“You’ve got this shot,” he told his son. “This might be good. It was fitting you got picked late. Now you can prove to people what type of ballplayer you are.”

Mollica went from feeling cheated to wanting to once again prove himself.

“Finally, being able to get a chance to play at the next level, not only for me but for my family,” he said. “They’ve stuck with me through everything.”

FAMILY AFFAIR

Both players have baseball families.

“My grandfather taught me everything. He played in the Cubs organization,” Townsend said. “My dad’s been my coach since I was 3. I started playing when I was 2 or 3 in T-ball. My whole family is big on sports.”

Townsend’s grandfather passed away a few years ago, but the 21-year-old ballplayer knows his mentor would have been proud.

“I know he would’ve been very proud of me yesterday,” he said in a phone interview following the draft.

Mollica’s grandfather played for the New York Giants in the 1940s.

He is currently in the hospital but was pleased to hear Mollica could one day be a New York Met.

“I told him and he could tell it lifted his spirits,” Mollica said.

His father played in college, and his brother is a minor league umpire.

“We’ve got a baseball family,” Mollica said. “Once I walked in I started playing Wiffleball in New York. I’ve had baseball around me since I was born.”

Townsend’s coach from the time he could walk, his father Pete, said he didn’t teach his technical aspects of the game. He taught him how he should conduct himself on the field.

“When I was his coach, if anyone was going to make an example of it, it was Tyler,” Pete Townsend said. “Looked like he might not be fair, but I never yelled at him for striking out or making an error. I yelled at him when he was slacking.”

Even with minor league seasons starting so soon, both players did not miss Father’s Day.

For the Mollica family, Father’s Day began in an airport.

Mollica’s father sent off his son at 5 a.m. to begin his minor league career with the Kingsport Mets, whose season starts this week.

But the elder Mollica was not disappointed to spend just a few minutes with his son on Father’s Day.

“He sounded pretty happy, the younger Mollica said about his father. “No one is more excited about me playing than me. I thought it was a pretty good present.”

Townsend spent it at home trying not to think about the minor league contract he has yet to sign, even though his team started its season on June 19. If he does sign, he will miss one family tradition.

Tyler, the Philadelphia Phillies fans, goes to Wrigley Field with his father to watch a Chicago Cubs vs. Phillies game every year.

His father loves the pastime and understands his son might not make it this year due to the minor league season running throughout the whole summer. Sometimes it feels like breaking tradition. But it’s not a bad way to break it,” his father said.

TOWERS, page 8

and Mike Martinez going to continue improving, but there is a slew of talented incoming freshmen who should be able to replicate last season’s crop.

Last year’s recruiting class ranked 15th in the nation, and had some of the top high school players from all over the country so you know they’ll be well prepared to contribute.

The biggest key is the young pitching, which takes a little while longer to develop and which didn’t quite pay the dividends their hitting counterparts did.

Guys like Mason McCoy, Justin Leith, Aaron Arboleya and Andre Vasquez will have to step up and find some consistency to their obvious talents for the pitching to make up the difference for some of the lack of offense.

THE NEXT STEP

Scott Rembisz started off strong, but faded down the stretch, and he’ll really need to step his game up in order to be a legitimate ace.

Smart money is on him again, as leading the team in 90 IP Rembisz was a horse, and some of the fade down the stretch might be attributable to fatigue.

With a full year in a Division I conditioning program, that shouldn’t be a problem again.

Tim Joe is also a solid bet to go to the next level; like Rembisz, he is a strong FUCO transfer who showed the ability to carry an offense for games at a time.

When Joe isn’t Townsend’s level, it isn’t a stretch to assume he’ll be able to anchor another strong offense.

Joe isn’t the polished hitter Townsend was and doesn’t have his

Basketball team stays on track

BAKSETBALL, page 8

form of postseason banishment.

In order for the team to remain free of penalties, it must maintain its improvement in hopes of eventually raising its four-year rolling average.

The four-year rolling average includes the previous four academic years, and the University must maintain that average at .925.

The basketball team currently stands at 874, but the 2007-08 campaign was a drastic improvement for the basketball team.

Garcia hopes will place the team on track.

The team’s 2005-06 single-year score of 815 and the score from 2006-07 was enough for Garcia to realize there is still much work to do to get the multi-year results where they need to be.

The team intends to keep it on that track under new head coach Isaiah Thomas, who has never coached at the college level before.

Garcia said she sat down with Thomas and discussed the matter the first week he arrived on campus, and Thomas will be assisted by an experienced individual.

According to athletics, Thomas is not allowed to comment.

“He has hired an assistant head coach in Anthony Anderson from Texas Christian University and he understands,” Garcia said. “He has taken on a very active role in what we do here.”

The basketball team was not the only FIU team to improve, as only the baseball team was in line for a penalty, and it was waived.

“What I love about FIU, is that every kid that comes to FIU and plays for FIU, we are committed to them,” Garcia said.

“That’s how every single one of my coaches think, and that’s what makes it so easy to be able to improve scores, because they are not just numbers.”

Looking back at the 2005-06 year, for all these sports, those kids were absolutely just numbers. When I came here I was floored because they are not just numbers here. Athletic Director Pete Garcia was unavailable for comment after numerous attempts to reach him.
MAKING THE GRADE

Men’s basketball increases APR score by 155 points

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

The men’s basketball team saw a four-win improvement from the 2007-08 season to the 2008-09 campaign and advanced the farthest it had in the postseason since 2005. The slight betterment on the court was just a marginal amelioration compared to the jump the Golden Panthers made in the classroom last season.

When the NCAA released its Academic Progress Rates (APR) for this year, the team improved its score by a whopping 155 points, relieving the team of any penalties the NCAA could have imposed.

The slight betterment on the court was just a marginal amelioration compared to the jump the Golden Panthers made in the classroom last season.

DRAFT DAY

Townsend was the first Golden Panther selected in the 2009 MLB First Year Player Draft on June 9 at 10:30 p.m. He was drafted in the third round, but has yet to sign because of a contract dispute with the Baltimore Orioles. The two parties don’t agree on the contract’s worth just yet. If he does, he will play with Aberdeen Ironbirds, a single-A team affiliated with the Orioles.

Mollica saw Townsend develop throughout the three years at FIU.

“He always had a nice swing, and he’s a good kid,” Mollica said. “I thought he really surpassed what I thought he would be.”

Mollica also saw three of his teammates get drafted before him and on the last day, he almost lost hope. He was the second-to-last second baseman selected. “It was bittersweet. I was hoping to get this level.”

The team went from an 800 score in the 2006-07 campaign to 955 during the 2007-08 year. It was the largest improvement of any FIU team when this year’s single-year scores were released.

The NCAA uses the APR to estimate how many student-athletes from each program are on pace to graduate.

Each student-athlete is worth up to four points: one point for staying academically eligible and another for remaining enrolled with the institution.

The APR scores are calculated by dividing the team’s accumulated points by the maximum number possible, then that number is multiplied by 1,000.

The team scored 955 in 2008, and 800 in 2007. The APR scores the NCAA releases are based on a four-year average. Athletics provided Student Media with the single-year scores.

Avoided were a contemporaneous penalty, which can limit the amount of scholarships a team can give, and a historical penalty, which places even further punishment on teams in the

PLAYERS DEPARTING

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PLAYERS RISING

So coach, once again congrats. Guess what your prize is for one of the more remarkable turnarounds in FIU baseball history?

You get the opportunity to try to avoid doing the exact opposite, as all four of those players have decided to take the money and go play pro ball.

You are one of the top recruiters around these parts, and you’ve managed to build a pretty good talent base in your short time here.

I’m sure you aren’t too concerned, as it’s the reality of the situation, and something you have dealt with in your numerous years at this level.

However, your fans will undoubtedly be worried. That is what fans do, after all.

So to put their minds at rest, here’s a list of reasons why the team should be able to stay afloat next season.

YOUTH MOVEMENT PAYS OFF

You’ve made a point of stockpiling youngsters and have lived up to your reputation as a great recruiter so far, adding a ton of freshmen and junior (community) college (JUCO) transfers who were able to step in right away and contribute.

Not only are returning sophomores like Pablo Bermúdez, Raiko Alfonso...