FOOTBALL

Team looks for first win versus familiar rival

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

When FIU played Toledo during the fourth contest of the 2008 season, they came away with their first Football Bowl Subdivision victory ever against an out of conference opponent.

On Sept. 26 at FIU Stadium, the Golden Panthers will look for their second. The Golden Panthers (0-2) will host the Rockets (1-2), who are coming off a 38-0 loss to No. 11 Ohio State on Sept. 19. Even with the lopsided loss, Toledo is ranked No. 23 in the country in total offense (442.3) and is averaging 28.3 points per game.

The Rockets are favored to win 23-14. They are averaging 191.2 yards against Toledo's defense.

DEFENSIVE TEST

Toledo features a strong aerial attack led by senior quarterback Aaron Opelt. The veteran signal caller has tossed for 939 yards and seven touchdowns in just three games. Opelt's main target is Williams, a 6-foot-5 All-American candidate. Freshman Eric Page has burst onto the scene as a weapon for the Rockets as well, and leads the team with 21 receptions.

Among Toledo's slew of offensive weapons is running back DaShane Collins, who has 209 rushing yards on the season. The Golden Panthers have allowed 435 rushing yards through two games. For the Rockets, those numbers are 303 offensive yards. But the Golden Panthers forced five turnovers and found success on the ground with 141 rushing yards. FIU took advantage and scored every time they were in the red zone that game.

FIU will need the running game that is ranked 119 out of 120 rushing yards last season. Toledo had a total of 431 rushing yards against the Golden Panthers last season. Toledo had a total of 431 rushing yards against the Golden Panthers last season.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The University's environmental push continues with the opening of the School of Environment and Society.

The SEAS, founded in the beginning of the Fall semester as part of the College of Arts and Sciences, came from the college’s desire to put together like-minded faculty to increase opportunities for faculty and students to participate in environmental projects, according to Michael Heithaus, director of SEAS and associate professor of biological sciences.

“The faculty and the dean’s office have been thinking about how to highlight our strengths in environmental issues for a lot of years,” Heithaus said.

The idea for the SEAS came from Kenneth Furton, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, according to Suzanne Rose, senior associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

“He had the idea to build around environmental issues because the University has a very strong marine science program,” Rose said.

The idea had been worked on since Furton came to the University three years ago, and now was the right time to have everything come together into a single school, Heithaus said.

“We already have a great faculty dealing with environmental issues, from the social and natural sciences to the humanities, so one of the things the school does is that it brings these great faculty and programs together, and helps package them and let people know what we do,” Heithaus said.

The program has a key impact in the city of Florida, where the organization was involved in the early years.

When she moved to the University, she began to give back by volunteering with UNICEF and eventually learned about the Campus Initiative.

The first program of its kind in the state of Florida, UNICEF has come to FIU. It is a branch of UNICEF that was founded on the belief that college students have a role in helping distressed children survive.

“I believe that children are our future and many organizations deal with adult issues,” Flores said. “But the goal of UNICEF is to help children succeed in life.”

The initiative came to be when several FIU students with a history of working with UNICEF decided that the diverse city of Miami could use such an organization.

Flores is the first president of UNICEF at FIU and, along with the vice president, Anabel Pino, approached the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program Coordinator Aileen Landy with the idea of starting such a program on campus.

Landy agreed to become the organization’s advisor. With a child of her own, she understood how important the organization can be in any child’s life.

In a matter of months, Flores and Pino were able to complete the requirements to make UNICEF at FIU an official school organization and recognized partner of UNICEF.

The functions of the Campus Initiative are to educate, advocate and raise funds through community events.

UNICEF at FIU will be hosting lectures on women’s rights, advocating through letter-writing campaigns and a community news-letter, and conchaling with several fundraising events throughout the semester.

Although still a young campus organization,
**Campaign strives to relieve stress**

**It helps students blossom into their true self and encourages them to ... put their values into perspective.**

Amanda Williams, yoga instructor
FIU Yoga Club

There is a genuine interest in helping the cause, along with spreading the word and education.
new school focuses on studies of environment and society

SEAS, page 1

BBC will be used to form the base of the school because of its location by the Biscayne Bay, according to Heithaus, who joined the University in 2003. But the SEAS will involve the entire University, not just one campus. “I don’t want people to get the feeling that this is just a Biscayne Bay school. It really is meant to integrate across the whole university,” Heithaus said.

The focus of the school will be to understand how environmental systems work and how human relationships work with those systems. It will encompass natural sciences, earth sciences, biology, chemistry, physics, social sciences and humanities.

“One of the cool things about this school is that it is an institutional刚好 you can look at similar issues from lots of different angles,” Heithaus said.

Although there isn’t a specific curriculum set yet because the school has many components to it, according to Heithaus, students pursuing any of the existing degree programs in the College of Arts and Sciences can have a concentration in environment and society. Students become part of the SEAS by taking environment and society-oriented classes.

Aside from these degrees, like bachelor’s in creative writing and one in English, international relations, liberal studies, environment and society. Students become part of the SEAS by taking environment and society-oriented classes.

The classes that will be offered in the SEAS are the environmental courses that are currently offered within the department of natural sciences. Classes from the department of earth sciences, such as policy and environmental economics classes, will also be included in the school.

“At BBC, with the coastal initiative we’ve had for the last few years, there have been new classes for marine policy and literature of the sea, so we’re going to see continued development of new classes in some of these areas,” Heithaus said.

The school will invest in video conferencing equipment so that courses, particularly at the graduate level, can be offered at both campuses, according to Rose. Classes would take place at BBC, but students who are based at the Modesto Maidique Campus would be able to participate in the classes from there. The SEAS staff expects students to gravitate toward being enrolled full-time at BBC if they wish to concentrate on environment and society.

Unlike other schools, students do not have to apply to the SEAS to become part of it, according to Heithaus. Students will be involved with the school by simply taking classes on environment and society.

The school will not hire new professors, because the SEAS classes are already existing classes. These professors, however, are trying to develop new angles to their courses, or potentially new courses that fit the theme of the SEAS, according to Heithaus.

“Hopefully as we go forward, we’ll be able to hire new faculty that fit within this school, and help to bridge across some of the strengths we already have and build links across departments,” Heithaus said.

Although the SEAS has been officially created, there is no formal curriculum for it yet. It is still in the organizational stage. Rose said that although SEAS is a school, it is not quite as the same as other schools that are currently at the University.

“SEAS is an umbrella for degrees that were plotted together thematically. At some point in the future, we will offer specific degrees for the school,” Rose said.

However, students will be able to get bachelor’s degrees in other areas and still be a part of the school.

“SEAS will enhance opportunities for every- one,” Heithaus said.

Bismark Asante, a senior biology major, thinks the SEAS is a very good idea. “Everything around us is biology, so if we understand our environment better, we’ll know how to dispose of non-biodegradable substances,” said Asante. “Anything that is environmentally related is good.”
Young adults lose perspective in a world of debt

Consumerism traps students

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

The recession has done much to high-light the dangers of financial extraava- gance, bringing to light the importance of prudence in a society of legendary over-spending. In one very era, the Information Age owes its beginning to question our thriftiness habits, a contributing factor in the near collapse of the economy.

Many statistics have been thrown around about how we Americans are spending beyond our means, holding more in debt than in actual money: try about $15,000. This is a hard number to believe. Moreover, this trend has only grown worse as of last year according to The Economist.

Along with talk of having one of the world’s highest obesity rates, growing gap between rich and poor, one can certainly get the grim impression that we’ve crossed the line in terms of consumption. All this holds particular significance to the students and youth of America. It should be noted that younger people are the largest and most voracious consumers in the nation. We’re the ones who embrace the Internet, engage in social networking, try out all the new gadgets and flocks to movies in droves.

We drive the economy through our demand. Our consumption even defines our social status. According to a recently deleted post, SGC-MMC “used their dark influence to encourage young people to $$.”

Their Farmville accomplishments have been less unsettling. According to a recently deleted post, “SGC-MMC dug up some delicious truffles with the help of their pig in Farmville.” This is certainly a laudable accomplishment, as truffles are a tasty treat for man and pig alike.

Whether SGC-MMC should be meddling in the affairs of Farmville is questionable. While it is good to know that SGC-MMC and its noble pig are toiling to spread them around like a wildfire, they are now largely hidden to the public.

Many writers and/or members of SGC-MMC have been achievements and position in the areas of agriculture and entertainment.

Not surprisingly, we’re the focus of many corporations and advertisers seeking influence and tap into us as early as possible, so we may carry on with spending for a lifetime.

As college students, we’re walking a particularly shaky tight rope. With tuition rising, the struggle between material tempta-tion and demanding education gets more precarious.

We can barely differentiate between luxuries and necessities or tell needs from wants. How many of us claim to be “broke” while maintaining the sort of lifestyle truly impoverished persons would know.

Suddenly, our standards of comfort become skewed; not being able to eat out every day or get the latest widget on the market leaves us feeling overinfrachished. We know that the basic needs we take for granted – food, water, shelter – are luxuries to millions who can scarcely afford them, let alone anything unessential.

Some other demographic has the oppor-tunities we have. And no other can so horrifically squander them as easily either. Indebted enough by the demands of an education, we’re driving ourselves into the escapist and hedonism of a consum-mist society. Educational attainment was once something ascetic, achieved through hard work and diligence. Now the lure for things like credit and enticing mass commercialism, has left us unfocused.

A compilation of studies by Ben Wosley and Matt Schulz gives a grim picture: 76 percent of undergraduates have credit cards, and are subsequently expected to pay off that debt by the time they graduate. Half of all undergraduates have a whopping four or more credit cards, a percentage that is increasing each year and nearly 20 percent of all 18 to 24-year-olds are in debt. Young adults have an average debt of nearly $25,400.

But all of this needs to be a bad thing. After all, what’s wrong with a little bit of convenience to help make our stressful, studious lives more comfortable? Nothing at all, if we should measure restraint in our spending habits.

Without a doubt, we need to scale back our love of things and the culture of material dependence that has us more burdened than ever. It all comes down to us; spending is a product of our actions, dictated by our willpower and nothing else. We have to merely let go of the bigger picture. Yes, it’s easier said than done, but it’s also easier done than paying back debts for the rest of our lives.

Glenn Beck has right to be seen by everyone

CHRISTIAN BAUMAN
Contributing Writer

Protests swarm through the Washington streets on Sept. 12. The protests were not to consider Beck’s performance as the eightieth anni-versary of the terrorist attacks that claimed the lives of Ameri-cans, but rather to spawn a polit-ical movement. Fox News talk show host Glenn Beck gave a name to this movement: the 9- 12 Project.

The object: “Bring us all back to the place we were on Sept. 12, 2001 – the day after America was attacked.” Then, we were not obsessed with Red States, Blue States or political persuasions. We were united as Americans, standing together to protect values and principles of the greatest nation ever created,” according to the movement’s Web site.

Beck shows no intention of jokery. For America, Sept. 12, 2001 was a very difficult time to be a citizen. But parties were put aside because the heart of our nation beat and bled with hurt, sorrow, anger – and worst of all, fear. I take pride in how far we’ve come eight years after the tragedy, especially in regard to the fear of right and religion, like Muslims here in America. To me, the 9-12 Project is an attempt to create a label for the disorganized Obama protests.

Those inspired by Beck’s 5 p.m. broadcast stormed the streets of our nation’s capital in support of their host, protesting with fists closing and an American flag waving in the Washing-ton wind.

However the protests were not to end any war, nor to make any new policies, not for any civil rights, but to voice disdain for President Obama.

The demands of the 9-12 protesters were unclear. They became merely voices demanding a president’s impeachment. They carried hand-crafted signs, crying against a communist conspiracy, and an epic game including dozens of “Obama” jokes replacing “Yo Mama” jokes.

They called him a fascist and then a socialist. An atheist and then a satanist. A bleeding heart liberal and then an unproper-sionate killer of grandmothers. But there is another demo-graphic for Beck’s program: those who watch the 2 a.m. broadcast, like my hippie friend Chase. Beck is now his late night fix.

When I first heard that he enjoyed watching Beck I assumed how.

“No.” I asked.

“No. Less sober the better. It, man. It just happened one night after a grueling battle of wine pong, I tuned in. He’s funnier than Jimmy Fallon.”

Chase understands that some may find it weird how he kicks a smile when Beck’s emotions arrive at an ultra- jokes. He’s all about the climax or when for instance, calls his followers to preserve precipitation of GDP by a notable margin by 2010. The percentage of Americans that believe America is becoming more debt than in actual money: try about $15,000. This is a hard number to believe. Moreover, this trend has only grown worse as of last year according to The Economist.

Along with talk of having one of the world’s highest obesity rates, growing gap between rich and poor, one can certainly get the grim impression that we’ve crossed the line in terms of consumption. All this holds particular significance to the students and youth of America. It should be noted that younger people are the largest and most voracious consumers in the nation. We’re the ones who embrace the Internet, engage in social networking, try out all the new gadgets and flocks to movies in droves.

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Glenn Beck has right to be seen by everyone
Local cafe’s organic offerings won’t break the bank

SPECIALTEA LOUNGE, located at 10766 Coral Way, has set up shop to make its mark in the world of cafe spots.

The neutral, pan-Asian, minimalist atmosphere of the restaurant is indicative of its relaxed cuisine but, unfortunately, it is made up of its lack of seating options of two small nooks with coffee tables and four two-seat tables.

The lounge tries its hand at 21st century menu display with their offerings being displayed on a plasma screen television but the location of the menu – right next to the door – could make it a possible crowd control hazard.

Furthermore, the constantly flickering screen and periodic ad interruption makes it somewhat difficult to choose a menu selection and retain the order mentally on the way to the register.

On a positive note, the interactive magnetic display of teas do offer the unique experience of seeing and smelling them before making a final decision.

Although a staff of one individual would be a frightening thought, the lone cashier was prompt, personable and maintained a pleasant attitude.

SpecialTea continuously makes up for what they’ve lost in aesthetics in the quality of their food, especially in their area of expertise. One tea variety that stands out is the Acerola Barbades Cherry, whose vivid red hue matches up with its robust, tart flavor. For those looking for a lighter tea, the Asian Pear tea is one to consider.

Coffee and espresso drinks are also available, which are served as “fair trade” and organic. Although the coffee was bitter for my taste, it would appeal to one with a stronger palate.

If a hot beverage is not on the agenda, there are ice cold fruit, herbal, honeybush and rooibos tea varieties.

They also have cold frappe drinks that are based off of various sweet treats such as ‘smores, cookies and candy bars. The chocolate cake batter frappe is a notable variety that could also suffice as a post-meal dessert. As of now, the only soda available is chilled Coca-Cola served in a classic glass bottle.

Speaking of meals, the offerings are based off of five basic varieties that can each be prepared in three ways: a pressed wrap, a grilled panini and a salad.

Out of the ones I tried, the one that stood out the most was the Caribbean Mango Chicken Panini. The chicken was lightly seasoned and the over-the-top chase...
Dedicated fans more likely to enjoy Brand New’s darkest album to date

DIANA GALBAN
Staff Writer

Something about Brand New’s music makes you feel so helpless, like a child with no hand to hold while crossing the street.

The Long Island group’s music has always been dark, from their punk beginnings with Your Favorite Weapon to their most complex and obscure record up to now, The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me.

Three years from that release, the dark cloud that floats above their horns has gotten darker, resulting in their latest effort, Daisy.

Originally named And One Head Can Never Die — a much more appropriate title — Daisy is not a far stretch from the sound Brand New have developed with their recent records.

For those unfamiliar with their work, however, this new album may seem way too loud, insane, sloppy and unwelcoming.

“Vices” is the opening track, starts off as a sort of golden-age Hollywood ballad performed by a woman and a piano before being jarringly interrupted by frantic screaming and loud feedback a minute and a half into the song.

“Bed” follows with the worst transition on the album, starting off as a sort of golden-age-Hollywood ballad and immediately giving way to a minute and a half of noise.

For those unfamiliar with their work, this record is definitely harder to get acquainted with than their earlier material, but if you know Brand New at all, you know you’ll have the next three years while they make their next one to get used to it.

Driving down South Beach, those rows of color and grandeur make me nervous — the drunks I mean — to make me nervous — the high-rise condos. Seeing them in women’s clothes and knee-high boots as they entreat bar patrons will fill me with a mix of anxiety and guilt. I feel bad if I stare but I couldn’t relax unless I could make sense of what I saw.

Why would a man put on a dress?

Drugs minute must have the amazing power to sense fear or anxiety. It is as if years of growing up feeling like an outsider could grant one with incredible powers once one is able to be free from social constraints and don a pink wig. My first experiences with drag queens almost always started like this: they spotted me staring in disbelief and caught me trying to look away when they made eye contact.

“Hey little twink in the purple shirt, come here!”

That was me. Twink is gay slang for any boyish-looking young man. It’s not exactly what I like to be called, but I’ll enjoy references to my youth while I still get to ride them.

“Come up here baby, don’t think I don’t see you papi!”

Whether they are bringing you up on stage to try a booby dance contest where there is no prize for first place, or just to crack a few jokes and possibly get you to show off your abs, drag queens are masters of the stage. Sociologists and experts in queer theory have argued that gender in all social settings is simply a performance.

When you get up in the morning, dressing up in the appropriate gender uniform is no different than an actor backstage getting ready for a scene.

The drag queens at Voodoo Lounge, located on 111 S.W. 2nd Ave., Fort Lauderdale, have taken this concept and made Sunday nights the home for their weekly drag show, “Life’s a Drag.” This weekly show is a collection of some of the most talented drag performance artists you will find under one roof in South Florida. Daisy Deadpetals is the hostess with the grossest jokes, and when I saw her stage a few years ago at the now defunct Coliseum nightclub, she was the first drag queen to make me see that their only intention is to show us a good time.

TP Lords is another famous drag queen who performs at Voodoo Lounge but her act relies more on having the stage presence of a dragon and lip-syncing to intense choreography with her muscular torso of backup dancers. Her outfits are usually a dazzling avant-garde toss-up of 80’s day-glo and punk, and she’s not afraid to go wigless.

My sister once approached her to shower her with compliments, to which she gracefully replied, “Darling, it’s beautiful women like you that inspire us to be the way we are.”

It’s clear to me now that drag queens do not simply try to become femininity — they incorporate it. By accepting the beauty in both genders, and in all its forms, drag queens are destroying those rigid rules that keep us from wearing and becoming what we really are.

I’m reminded of a powerful scene in the movie To Wong Foo, Thanks for Everything! My sister once approached her to shower her with compliments, to which she gracefully replied, “Darling, it’s beautiful women like you that inspire us to be the way we are.”

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Team chemistry will help erase last season’s meltdown

BONILLA, page 8

Panthers win three consecutive games without losing one set. Freshman Jovana Bjelica also helped alleviate some of the weight off of Rosa’s shoulders by recording 96 kills in eight games.

Besides senior experience, Vergun understands the frustration of missing playing time because of injuries.

She did not play one game last season due to injuries. Rosa needs a teammate to relate to, because of injuries.

This is Rosa’s senior year and last chance to make an impact in the NCAA tournament. Last season’s early exit in the Sun Belt Conference tournament was a disappointment for a team who crushed tournament last season. Yet, New Orleans ousted FIU in the second round of the 2008 Sun Belt Conference tournament.

Another late season meltdown will have the team wishing it could turn back time.

Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away. Now it looks as though they’re here to stay.

Singing this tune from January to August of next year will leave the players feeling like they’ve wasted the whole year.

There’s a shadow hanging over me. Oh, yesterday came suddenly.

If the Golden Panthers don’t hit up against any opponent, the end of the season will be comprised of memories worth reliving, not regretting.

McCall to start game, has high expectations

FOOTBALL, page 1

120 in the FBS to produce in order to have similar success to what they had against the Rockets in their last meeting.

Starting running back Darriet Perry leads the team with 50 rushing yards, but is getting just 2.5 yards per rush. The offensive line could set the tone for rushing success, but it is an area of needed improvement.

FIU is allowing the most sacks in the FBS. When quarterback Paul McCall has been the most efficient. The senior has completed 58 percent of his passes on the young season, but relates his pass rush from Alabama and Rutgers during the team’s first two games have put McCall in a tough position.

They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable.

MARIO CRISTOBAL, head coach Football

“Protection was an issue last game and the second half of our first game, and a lot of that is attributed to us playing very mature defensive lines,” Cristobal said.

“You work with your linemen at becoming technique maniacs at what they do to continue to increase your understanding of what’s going on.

“They are going to improve. I want to emphasize capability because they are capable.”

MCCALL WILL PLAY

Despite a sprained knee sustained in the Rutgers contest, McCall will start against Toledo. McCall said the 2008 Toledo game was the turning point, paving the way for the Golden Panthers to win five of their last nine games.

The Rockets are in the bottom five in the FBS in scoring defense, so the possibility of a high scoring game is realistic.

“Brings a smile to my face,” McCall said. “But if we win 7-6 I’ll be happy, and that’s what we’re hoping for from our defense.”

CLASSIFIEDS

JOBS

South Beach based father seeks part-time nanny/helper for 13 yr old son. Light cooking, errands, help son with homework. Non-smoker. English speaking, hours are late afternoon and early evenings. Must be able to live in when father is away on occasion.

Send CV and recent photo to: DSL, APT 3001, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Part-time work, good English skills, mornings or weekends – knowledge of music and photos helpful. Call 305-551-6926.

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Hurricanes in the third set to win the opener vs. the University of Miami. True freshmenLibero Chanel Araujo and Jovana Bjelica have been able to come in and make an immediate impact on her team. “I recruit players that would be able to come in and start for us,” Tomic said. “Both of my parents were athletes, so they wanted me to be an athlete, too,” Bjelica said. “First my mom wanted me to do track and field. And then my dad wanted me to be a volleyball player.” Fortunately for FIU, she listened to her father and chose to pursue volleyball. Bjelica’s Golden Panther debut was held back as Tomic and the rest of the team waited for the NCAA to grant the freshman from Belgrade, Serbia clearance to play. When she finally got an opportunity to play, she didn’t disappoint. In her first collegiate match, Bjelica led the team with 13 kills against Kansas on Sept. 4 and has not slowed down since. In eight games, she is third on the team with 96 kills on the defensive side of the game. Jovana Bjelica has already made her mark on offense.

Coming from a family filled with athletes, it was clear that Bjelica was likely to be a successful athlete herself.

As she was escorted off the court, Araujo hails from Seal Beach, Calif., where she was able to develop into the strong defensive player she has become. At Rosary High she stood out on defense, earning Defensive Player of the Year honors three times.

From the first time she took the court as a Golden Panther, the 17-year-old realized the game at the Division I level was different from what she was normally used to. “At first coming out I was anxious to play and it was really exciting,” she said after playing in her first match earlier this season. “The game is a lot faster; it’s more relentless than any other level.”

She’s been a staple of the Golden Panthers’ defense, compiling a team-high 169 digs, averaging 4.12 digs per set. Her play so far earned her Sun Belt Defensive Player of the Week honors after helping the Golden Panthers sweep the Jayhawk Invitational. “It was an honor to receive it, but also there’s a lot more work I can do,” Araujo said. “I’m focusing a lot more. I’m really getting into practice because that’s where you improve the most.”

When asked about what stood out about Araujo’s first experiences at FIU, she said, “My teammates have helped me a lot and my coaches, too,” Bjelica said. “I felt very well on the court.”

As the Golden Panthers prepare to begin conference play, the team is happy that Araujo and Bjelica have been able to step in and both of them are hoping to enjoy further success on the court.

While Araujo has established herself as a staple of the Golden Panthers, the 17-year-old realized opponents. Millions of fans and critics have already dissected the lyrics of every Beatles song ever released. But the band’s music is so timeless that its songs are able to outline the Golden Panthers’ 2009 season and what the team must accomplish to finish strong.

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