Club offers charitable spring break alternative

MELISSA CACERES
Contributing Writer

For next spring break, Robert Tassy plans on spending time under the tropical skies of Costa Rica. Yet instead of soaking up some sun or relaxing in a five-star hotel, he will be saving the environment.

“Tassy, a site leader for the FIU community service org-

Rational Break. The program initiates breaks at the University’s first choice for coffee and puts ashtrays within 20 feet. The initiative would be enforced and made permanent, he said. If the University really wants to make it smoke-free, move the ashtrays,” said Thompson.

Other concerns brought by the MMC were discussed, including the cost of the program. Some said the University could not afford to make it smoke-free by July 2010.

SGC-MMC Comptroller Cris-

With the MMC talks about that proposal. “It’s smart on their part. If they take the budget in comparison to BBC, and the MMC, that’s our central president. Students? You want to burn down our home?” he said, referring to BBC.

“The two campuses have different demographics. Does that mean we are headed in different directions?” No, told Student Media.

The resolution, which Johnson Student Media could be presented as early as the Oct. 19 senate meeting, if passed, would be a non-binding state- ment by the senate. He hopes that it will start as a statement and lead toward an eventuality. Johnson said the resolution has backing of other senators.

The specifics of the resolution and the way a centralized student govern ment would work are still being worked out by Johnson and others but the defense needs lots of work.

The proposed campus smoking ban is unfair to students.

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The proposed campus smoking ban is unfair to students.

The proposed campus smoking ban is unfair to students.
SGC-BBC Web site provides incorrect numbers

Students offer helping hand to communities in need

Attendees disagree with ban
Baby boomers go to class

Courses cover current events, art, language

LAURA DE LA FE
Contributing Writer

Unlike most students at the University, Leonard Gonzalez goes to class, but not to pursue a degree. He doesn’t earn any class credit.

“The person who’s lived a full life has a book in them, that’s why I’m taking the creative writing course because everyone has an interesting story to tell,” Gonzalez said.

Like Gonzalez, there are a few students over the age of 50 walking around the Biscayne Bay Campus, and most of them belong to the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, according to its Web site.

The institute is to serve the community, to expand their studies and opportunities for students over. The institute offers intellectually stimulating courses, according to its Web site.

The institute currently has about 1,000 members, with 250 of those currently enrolled in at least one course. However, this number tends to fluctuate, especially between Thanksgiving and the winter months, the peak seasons for OLLI, according to Clara Barman, the program coordinator.

This is the time when seasonal members, those who live out of town, come to Florida and take the courses.

“The goal of the institute is to serve the community, and bring FIU out to the community,” said Jorge Browner, who is also a former student at the institute. “People start making suggestions about the type of classes they would like to take.

Some of these suggestions come from student focus groups and surveys taken around the end of the semester, which give OLLI staff feedback about the institute. Other courses are known as the “tried and true,” and are offered on a regular basis due to their popularity.

“As a student, I was very pleased with what I saw. There are a wide variety of courses, and the staff is really conscious of what students need,” said Browner, who is also a former student at the institute. “People start making a network of friends – a community of people taking courses.”

In order to start taking classes, students must register with the institute and pay an annual fee. There are two types of annual membership fees, and it is part of the University College, a division that offers classes for professionals and adult learners wanting to continue their education.

The University College offers classes online, in the evenings, and on weekends to fit an adult learner’s schedule. Although the institute’s general students are people age 50 and over, they accept students of any age and background. The only requirement is a thirst for learning, according to Ellie Browner, OLLI community outreach liaison.

Course instructors are experts in their respective fields and include community leaders, educators and FIU faculty.

OLLI courses cover topics such as the arts, current events and language. Courses include: the Current Events Forum, which was designed to help students understand and discuss the current situation and the economy of the country; Floral Design, which takes place at a Miami Gardens florist shop; and Creative Writing, which is taught by a winning author, professional editor and journalist Hindi Diamond.

The classes offered at the institute depend on different factors, Barman said. Students often make suggestions about the type of classes they would like to take.

Soccer players, or those fans who would like to emulate their favorite athletes, will be able to score a goal or two on the field and on TV.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council will host a FIFA Tournament on Oct. 14 in the Wolfe University Center Room 141. The game will be held in the field behind the basketball courts near Bay Vista Housing, and will be played according to traditional soccer rules with 25-minute halves.

Other games that will be available during the tournament include dominoes and Madden NFL 10 for people who may prefer football over soccer, but there will not be a tournament for the Madden NFL 10 game.

The Recreation Center also offers students rental services for different video game consoles, including Nintendo Wii, Xbox 360 and PlayStation 3, for a fee of $5 for the first hour, and $8 for every additional hour.

At the BAY
WINDY AND RIPPLY

FIFA contest for soccer enthusiasts set for Hispanic Heritage Week

The first type is an individual visit of $50. A partner membership is also available for $80 and allows two students to sign up together.

Apart from the membership fee, the students must also pay for their courses, which can range from $75 to $150 depending on the course.

Classes take place Monday through Friday during the daytime, and visitors are welcome to sit in on classes if there is enough space, Barman said.

The classes are offered at the Kovens Conference Center, Wolfe University Center, ACIL, and some are also offered at locations off campus and in the community.

“OLLI is one of the most important community outreach initiatives the University has, aiming at providing lifelong education and noncredit personal enrichment opportunities to adults,” said Jorge Zumaeta, University College director.

New classes start Nov. 3 and end Dec. 18.

To register, visit the OLLI Web site at http://olli.fiu.edu, call the institute at 385-919-5910, or go to ACIL 110.

WATER’S EDGE: [Top] Joanna Villar, a senior biochemistry major (left), and Michelle Almonte, a senior English major (center), prepare to kayak on Biscayne Bay Oct. 9 with help from Jonathan Torrey, a recreation coordinator (right). [Bottom] Miriam Fogel, a freshman psychology major (left), and Jose Silva, a visitor to the campus (right) enjoy cruising around on the teal waters of the bay Oct. 9.

For more information, call 305-919-5280.

SERGIO MONTAÑARE
Staff Writer

Soccer players, or those fans who would like to emulate their favorite athletes, will be able to score a goal or two on the field and on TV.

The Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council will host a FIFA Tournament on Oct. 14 in the Wolfe University Center’s Panther Square from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

The game will be played according to traditional soccer rules with 25-minute halves.

Other games that will be available during the tournament include dominoes and Madden NFL 10 for people who may prefer football over soccer, but there will not be a tournament for the Madden NFL 10 game.

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For more information, call 305-919-5280.
Pope’s views still relevant in politics

ROMNEY MANASSA
Staff Writer

For a man in his 80s, Pope Benedict XVI is certainly energetic. On Oct. 4, he held a high-profile meeting with bishops to discuss Africa and its humanitarian crisis.

It’s not the first time he’s sounded the call with regard to the continent. He’s visited over a dozen countries, met with political and religious world leaders and held public masses for thousands.

It’s no surprise that Benedict seems as influential as he is, as an irreligious person. I can concede that he has as much stock in global and social issues as any world leader.

So it was surprising to hear of the controversy surrounding the Pope’s proactive take on environmentalism. Echoing the sentiments of his political and scientific counterparts, Pope Benedict has called for the world to be more environmentally responsible and to cut overconsumption.

This is hardly the first time he’s taken up such causes. Like his predecessor, John Paul II, Pope Benedict has rallied across numerous social and humanitarian issues, even going so far to critique American-style capitalism and its “false promises.” In fact, the Catholic Church as a whole isn’t limited to taking on only the usual religious fare, such as abortion, premarital sex and same-sex marriage. It’s officially pro-U.N.-anti-death penalty, an opponent of arms-trading and yes—environmentalist.

So said and perhaps perturbing as it might be for a religious figurehead to take up traditionally “non-religious” issues, it’s hardly breaking the mold.

Besides, whatever one’s thoughts on religion or the church, we should maintain a critical eye: the Pope maintains enough influence to make a considerable difference, and in a world with so many daunting issues, every voice counts.

He invoked the importance of dialogue and human rights in a time when Cold War tensions were high. He bridged the divide between Catholicism and other denominations, and even improved historically strained relations with Judaism.

I do not agree with everything Pope Benedict has to say, nor am I defending every cause he has taken up. Like any of us, his opinions are varied and complex—but he has every right to take up these issues just as we have every reason to seriously consider them.

Calls for consumer prudence or environmental responsibility are as justified as they are reasonable. Sure, the Pope is no economist or scientist; his expertise is on religious matters.

But who among us, expert or not, can seriously argue that Benedict doesn’t have a point?

Perhaps we object to having a religious figure take a stance on worldly issues. Maybe our own secular and modern society finds it utterly unacceptable for it to involve itself in such sociopolitical topics.

The fact is Pope Benedict is still an important figure among Catholics the world over. Like some celebrities (think Bono or Angelina Jolie), businesses (Jimmy Buffet and Bill Gates) and fellow spiritual leaders (the Dalai Lama), he’s tapping into his status as a public figure to get the message across.

It’s his right to do so, just as it would be ours.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Building lacks green facet

Architect Le Corbusier said, “A house is a machine for living in.” If so, students, we see the buildings across campus as four walls to have classes in, nothing more. What we don’t take into consideration is how these buildings can be something else, incorporating 21st century “green” technology. The Nutrition and Health Sciences building is a prime example of this.

HOK Architects, the designing firm for the building, says the NHS building will be “one of the most technologically advanced buildings.” I disagree; it’s just another typical building on the Modesto A. Maidique Campus.

No effort was made to make it truly sustainable.

The NHS building is oriented with its larger facades facing east and west, and would have benefited greatly if solar panels had been placed there. Instead, this orientation will only cause the building to heat up, needing more electricity and impacting the environment even more.

Architecturally, it is significant that Miami is a natural fuel source and the primary energy cost of most buildings is air conditioning. Wind could have been used as a great resource for cooling the building. Radiant slab cooling can lower the costs of cooling by 40 percent.

Even when we look at the NHS building right now, we see no features of it being an environmentally-friendly building in stark contrast to the University’s aims of a “greener” campus. The only “green” element the building will display to students is the “green” roof, which will have grass.

The new NHS building, like most buildings on campus, will make us feel like we’re in a prison cell for 50 minutes – just you, the teacher and a door. Too bad it’s already constructed.

Juan Manuel
Senior
Architecture

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Smoke-free campaign does not accommodate community

After hearing much debate over the new smoke-free campaign, FIU is planning to implement it. I felt the need to say something.

I agree entirely that smoking is a hazard to everyone’s health.

With that said, I do not agree with the campaign itself because I think FIU has inadequately informed us of its 20-foot no-smoking policy near buildings.

I have attended FIU for over two years and have never heard of any such rule until now. Now we are penalizing the smokers who were not aware of this rule? FIU on the contrary has visually allowed smoking because of its placement of ash trays along building sides and lack of no-smoking signs.

It would be wiser for FIU to create designated smoking areas in order to accommodate both smoking and non-smoking students and faculty.

Fair is fair, FIU has an obligation to all its students regardless of whether they smoke.

Martha Rosa
Senior
English
Women’s Center serves FIU community

MARGO BARTLETT
Contributing Writer

For more than 15 years, the Women’s Center at FIU has worked to provide services for both male and female students on campus. The center began in 1994 after a proposal was made by members of the faculty and staff to provide a program that focused on women’s growth and development, gender issues, body image, assertiveness and educational and career decisions. The center provides a wide array of services and events geared toward educating and inspiring women, according to the center’s director, Suzanne Onorato. All the services provided are available at both the Modesto Maidique Campus and the Biscayne Bay Campus.

“The Women’s Center aims to provide female students on campus with opportunities for professional and personal development and seeks to help them recognize their full potential and become self empowered,” said Sendi Colquitt, a student and program assistant at the Women’s Center.

“The center’s director feels that she has a strong sense of purpose relating to her work,” said Onorato. “I believe that I was put on this Earth to help women and men recognize the changes that can be put into place to achieve equality in society,” Onorato said.

As director, she provides wisdom and guidance while letting students make decisions that directly affect the organization, she said. The students involved in the Women’s Center are given the opportunity to share their ideas and incorporate them into the plans for events. In Onorato’s view, the center is not just for the students, it is, in part, run by them.

Among the center’s projects is the mentoring program, which offers 42 female students the services of a mentor. The mentors are alumnae and staff members. The women are able to meet as often as they like and services are provided to help facilitate that.

Another program offered by the center is the Sisterhood Retreat, an event that involves a diverse group of 40 women and is designed to help them build relationships with others as well as engage in activities that promote self-reflection and self-improvement.

“At the end of the retreat, I felt as if I’d made a whole group of new friends,” said program assistant, Sarah Paulick.

Take Back the Night helps to promote awareness about sexual violence. During this event, students provide information and statistics about sexual violence. The event includes speakers and information stations with pamphlets relating to the prevention of sexual assault.

Strong Women, Strong Girls is a national program that is geared toward helping girls and young women become strong women in their future, according to Onorato. The program includes about 20 FIU students who mentor 150 girls at 10 different sites in the Miami-Dade area. The students mentor children between the third and fifth grades at middle schools and community schools. The 10-week program is offered as an after school program and its curriculum focuses on building “strong women.” The program also aims to build self esteem and self confidence within its participants, according to Onorato.

The center also holds annual conferences that are geared toward female students. The Women Who Lead Conference focuses on women who are leading in different aspects of their careers. Professional women come to FIU and share their experiences and how they were able to become successful in their field. The conference includes a main speaker as well as discussions and workshops geared toward creating more successful women in the work force.

Women Succulent is a forum held every month where women celebrate their “inner succulence,” which the center’s director defined as people’s innermost feelings and strongly held personality traits – what makes every person unique.

Though the title of the event may make it seem that it is meant exclusively for women, it is open to men as well. At the forum, a topic related to women’s issues is presented and the audience discusses activities and dialogue relating to the topic, which is usually intended to be controversial.

For more information on these events and the Center in general, visit its Web site at women.fi.edu or www.fi.edu/~women or call 305-348-1596 (MCC) or 305-919-3339 (BBC).

Cruise promotes Christianity on campus

ADRIANA RODRIGUEZ
Contributing Writer

For both religious and non-religious students, information on Christianity at FIU is available online through the FIU Campus Ministry site. The site allows students and faculty to learn about Christianity as a religion and as a way of life. For students interested in learning more about Christianity, the site provides information about places of worship on campus, chapels and study areas, as well as events and lectures related to the religion.

The Campus Ministry site also provides information about Campus Cruize, which is a Christian student group on campus. The group is open to all students, Christian or not.

“The one thing that I think is most important is that God was speaking to me,” said Chris Cabral, a senior at FIU and a member of the Campus Crusade for Christ. Cabral said that he joined the group when he was a sophomore.

“We had 200 people during our first meeting, and we have 52 now,” Cabral said.

Cruise, which was founded in 1996, is a Christian club that focuses on helping students find their purpose in life and connect with others. The group is open to all students, regardless of their religious affiliation.

“Being in Cru is like having a family there for you,” said Cabral.

“The ministry is designed to help students with their personal relationships with God,” said Cabral.

Students interested in joining the group can find information about meetings and events on the Campus Ministry site. For more information, students can also contact the Campus Ministry directly at 305-348-3165.

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Useless applications still often mildly entertaining

**TECH, page 5**

home screens. The AppStore process and the iPhone software development kit allow developers to innovate and create apps that are ready to use on the store for all to have.

The SDK empowers developers to innovate using creative tools to push the iPhone OS to new levels. However, sometimes they use these tools to make fakr machines and apps that allow you to wave your iPhone around like a lightsaber.

The best thing about it though is that, in most cases, I can’t force myself to delete these apps.

I need to know that if I am bored one day and want to see how old I am in dog years I can log on to the app store and look and behold there is the “DogYears” app. Though I will laugh with people with useless apps on their iPhone, I think it speaks a lot about the platform and the consumers that use it everyday.

“iPhone users are a creative bunch, people who don’t take themselves seriously and who, in the end, have a great phone that can not only manage our daily lives but cheer it up every now and then.”

“Fifitaful of Tech” is a weekly column on all things technological.

College Republicans work for ‘government restraint’

**ADRIAN ESPINOSA**
**Contributing Writer**

Even in a time when the Democratic Party controls both houses of Congress and the White House, the FIU College Republicans are still championing the conservative cause.

Passing out bumper stickers, flyers and buttons, they work to promote their preferred candidates, especially during election season. The club is bound together by a shared commitment to government restraint, according to the club’s president.

“We all philosophically subscribe to the idea that government should be limited and individuals should have the most choice in their own lives as possible,” said Nick Autiello, an international relations major and president of the club.

The club is bound together by a shared commitment to government restraint, according to Autiello.

This is the mantra that most Republicans adopt, according to Autiello, and it is this belief that he feels embodies the spirit of the club. Every so often, guest speakers come to events and students get a chance to interact with prominent Republican figures in local government, he said.

Sometimes elected officials come in to give a speech and other times candidates running for office in an upcoming election do the talking. The club is also active in helping members receive congressional internships, giving them the chance to construct a network of connections to important government officials, according to Autiello.

During the 2008 presidential elections, they accepted tables in the Graham Center for registered students to vote. At the same time, they told students about Senator McCain’s platform and the republican platform for America. The current vice president of the club, broadcast journalism and political science major, Maria Concha is currently working for Republican candidate for Florida’s Chief Financial Officer Jeff Atwater and plans on assisting Mario Diaz-Balart in his campaign for re-election to the U.S. House. She is proud of the group’s efforts on behalf of different political causes.

“We help recruit volunteers for different Republican campaigns and create online groups to encourage students to join the campus campaign movement.”

FIU-CR is also preparing for the upcoming 2010 midterm elections with Charlie Crist and Marco Rubio vying for Florida’s Chief Financial Officer’s seat, and inviting guest speakers on campus.

“They strive to not only engage other non-member students to come out and support the candidates, but also to encourage other students to become involved in national politics in general when it comes to political causes.”

According to Autiello, involvement in national politics is the main goal of the club and they strive to not only engage other non-member students to take part in the political process.
IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR OPPORTUNITIES, WE HAVE OVER 100,000 MILES OF COASTLINE TO FIND THEM.

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PANTHERS POUNCE BACK

Players step up while Hilton injures knee

JONATHAN RAMOS
Asst. Sports Director

On his first throw of the game, FIU quarterback Paul McCall found Greg Ellingson down the middle of the Hilltopper logo for a 32-yard gain.

On his second attempt, McCall tossed a dart to Coll Anderson for a first down in Western Kentucky's red zone.

In just his third try, he capped the opening drive with a 19-yard pass to Ellingson for a touchdown. It took less than three minutes for FIU to get on the board in its opening drive.

It was the first touchdown in the Sun Belt Conference in rushing offense. McCall was 14-of-22 and recorded 280 yards and two touchdowns to lead FIU (1-4, 1-1 Sun Belt) to a 37-20 win against the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers (0-5, 0-1) on Oct. 10 at L.T. Smith Stadium. The senior signal caller completed seven consecutive passes to start the game, tying Josh Padrick for the third most consecutive completions ever by an FIU quarterback.

The Golden Panthers scored a season-high in points despite losing star sophomore T.Y. Hilton to a knee injury in the first quarter. Hilton left the game and was fitted for a knee brace after catching a pass from McCall and landing awkwardly.

“It’s one of those things where somewhere along the line every team needs that gut check,” said Coach Mario Cristobal. “When their best backs go down and their best players go down, it’s a blessing. I have been working hard, as the team has the capability of going on and becoming a champion.”

McCall was not alone. Ty Frierion and Greg Ellingson combined for eight catches for 198 yards and two touchdowns to provide enough aerial firepower for the offense, and Duante Owens had career highs in carries, yards and touchdowns to lead an efficient rushing offense. He finished with 86 yards on 17 carries with two rushing touchdowns.

“BEAUTIFUL”

The Golden Panthers ran for a season best 206 yards as a team, led by Owens and Darriet Perry. FIU pounded WKU with a heavy dose of running as the team rushed 49 times with a healthy 4.2 yards per rush.

“It’s beautiful; it’s a tribute to what those guys up front have been doing all year,” McCall said. “It’s no surprise. We have been trying to establish the run all year.”

The Golden Panthers entered the game last in the Sun Belt Conference in rushing offense. Owens, who Cristina said earned more playing time of late, has waited a long time for his opportunity. Owens had just 55 carries in his first three seasons at FIU, but made the most of his 17 on Saturday. Owens rushed for two touchdowns, and had a critical carries of 5, 4, and 7 yards in a third quarter drive that set up a McCall touchdown pass to Frierion to extend the lead to 24-14 after the Hilltoppers closed to within three on a Kenan Jakes 10-yard run.

“I owe it to my offensive line. They played on their side of the field tonight,” Owens said. “It’s a blessing. I have been working hard, staying positive, and keeping the other running backs popped up.”

Perry ran for 85 yards on 21 carries, a season-high in both categories. McCall noted the change of pace that Owens is from the powerful Perry, and Owens has embraced it.

“We work together because he’s more like a bruiser, and I’m more like a slasher, speed guy,” Owens said. “We both take care of our business.”

MOMENTUM

The game against WKU is the first win for FIU in which Hilton did not score a touchdown since the talented receiver debuted in 2008. The running game also got going, with 206 yards on 49 carries for an average of 4.2 yards per carry.

“Adversity is going to happen all the time,” said linebacker Toronto Smith. “We’re just tired of losing. We made up our minds that we were going to dominate and now we have to take that same mind-set next week when Troy comes to our house.”

HOT HANDS: Greg Ellingson catches a touchdown in the first half against Western Kentucky on Oct. 10. Ellingson led the team in catches and yards without T.Y. Hilton.

BOXXSCORE

FIU  WKU
First Downs  23  20
Rushes-Yards  49-206  43-263
Passing  280  118
Comp-Att-Int  14-22-0  16-26-1
Return Yards  124  127
Punts Avg.  3.41-3.4  7.43-7.4
Penalties-Yards  5-49  8-52
Fumbles-Lost  1-1  1-1
Time of Possession  28:24  31:36
RUSHING — FIU: Perry  21-85, Holmes  4-62, McCall  1-17, Booker  8-64, Jakes  18-81
PASSING — FIU: McCall  14-22-0  280
WKU: Jakes  15-26-0  118
RECEIVING — FIU: Ellingson  5-132, Hilton  3-55, McCall  3-28, Booker  2-26, Sheppard  2-13

Now that is more like it.

It took five games, but the Golden Panthers finally got into the “W” column this season.

FIU radly welcomed Western Kentucky University to the Sun Belt Conference in a 37-20 victory in the Hilltoppers’ first conference game.

Even playing most of the contest without T.Y. Hilton, who only touched the ball twice before leaving the game with a right knee injury in the first quarter, the Golden Panthers enjoyed their best offensive day of the season, scoring in every quarter and racking up 486 yards of total offense.

Despite FIU’s dominance on offense and impressive play against the pass, the defense’s biggest hole has yet to be filled with the Hilltoppers rushing for 263 yards on 46 carries for an average of 5.8 yards per carry average. Let’s take a look at what the Golden Panthers did right to earn their first win of 2009.

BALANCED ATTACK

This was the type of day that was expected from this team when it came into the season talking about contending for a conference title and making a bowl game for the first time.

The defensive line finally got some pressure on the opposing team’s quarterback, forcing freshmen Kawanu Jakes, sacking him twice and forcing an interception into the hands of Toronto Smith.

The running game also got going, with 206 yards as a team, including an 85-yard day from Darriet Perry. More importantly was the impressive running of senior Daunte Owens, who rushed for a team leading 86 yards on 17 carries with two touchdowns. Owens is a slightly larger back than Perry and freshman Darriet Mallary, and he has shown glimpses of his abilities when healthy.

That was the running game FIU was looking for all season, and Coach Mario Cristobal and offensive coordinator Bill Legge’s patience finally paid off with the big game on the ground, which opened up the offense and allowed Paul McCall to look deep for 280 yards and two touchdowns, including a 65-yard pass to Greg Ellingson and a 40-yard touchdown catch for Ty Frierion.

NOT ALL POSITIVE

The Golden Panthers were still gashed on the ground once again. Jakes, the mobile freshman quarterback, was held to just a 2.8 yard per carry average, but the Hilltoppers still managed to exploit the Golden Panthers’ biggest weakness.

Credit must be given where it is due, and FIU deserves credit for this win. FIU, favored for the first time this year, was supposed to beat WKU, and it did it in convincing fashion.

However, FIU had an opportunity to shore up its defense against an inferior foe and still gave up huge numbers on the ground. The team has a week to solve the issue before the defending conference champion Trojans visit FIU at home next week for the biggest matchup of the season.