FOOTBALL: FIU 20, ULL 17 (OT)

The Golden Panthers have been inching closer to blocking a kick recently. “We sit in this meeting room every single Sunday and review film, and I can’t tell you how many times, probably two dozen times, where we’re watching film and we are this close to blocking a field goal,” said Golden Panthers coach Mario Cristobal. “I’m talking millimeters.”

The Golden Panthers (2-4, 2-3 Sun Belt), finally got that extra measurement when Tourek Williams blocked Tyler Albrecht’s field goal attempt in overtime to secure a 20-17 victory over the University of Louisiana (4-4, 2-2 SBC) on Oct. 31 at FIU Stadium.

The 6-foot-4 defensive end extended his left arm and tipped the football as it was kicked from 29 yards out, sending the Golden Panthers’ sideline into commotion and drawing the 8,593 announced fans to their feet.

New garage to add 2,000 parking spaces

Jorge Valens
Asst. News Director

Next year, students will be able to park their cars in a new parking garage that will offer the University community more than just a place to park.

The yet-to-be-named garage, called “Parking Garage 5,” is currently being constructed in the Modesto Maidique Campus, across from the Chemistry and Physics Building and the Red Garage, running along the University’s border with 8th Street.

Parking and Transportation Executive Director Bill Foster said that a plan to build PG5 has been in the works for years. “Once PG1 was awarded the medical school, we had a master plan done to identify the best location that would support our current demand and the expected growth in the years to come,” Foster said in an e-mail to Student Media.

The new six-floor parking structure will add 2,000 parking spaces. Though Foster said that the specific designation figures have yet to be determined, he expects approximately 1,500 of those spaces to be available to students. The remaining 500 spaces, Foster said, will be distributed to accommodate those with higher-level parking permits, such as faculty and administrative staff.

Currently, there are 9,553 parking spaces available to students on campus. In the last fiscal year, Parking and Transportation circulated 30,000 student decals.

“This ratio has worked pretty well since students come to class during the morning, afternoon, nighttime, different days of the week, Saturdays, etc.,” Foster said.

Along with parking, the new structure will house Public Safety. FIU Public Safety Chief Bill King said that the creation of the new offices has been “long awaited.”

“We’re really anxious about a new facility for the police department,” King said. “Officers have been waiting for a new facility for such a long time.”

King said that Public Safety has occupied the Tamiami Airport Tower “almost from the beginning.”

FOOTBALL, PAGE 7

Faculty, students debate global issues in weekly talks

Gabriel Arrarás
Staff Writer

To stimulate newspaper readership and contribute to the new global learning initiative, the University launched a series of open discussions with faculty and students that will focus on global issues reported by The New York Times.

The Student Government Association, The New York Times, Global Learning for Global Citizenship and Quality Enhancement Plan have partnered with each other to host a weekly series of events named Tuesday Times Talks, at which faculty and students will use The New York Times stories to stimulate discussion on global issues every Tuesday.

The QEP is a new initiative that specifically focuses on students’ ability to see the world in multiple perspectives: to become more globally aware and to engage in problem solving with other students, according to its Web site. Most importantly for University administrators, the QEP is a required part of the University’s new reaccreditation in 2010.

Stephanie Doscher, the associate director of the University’s Global Learning Initiative, sees the initiative as beneficial to students.

“Until you step outside of your comfort zone, you’re not really aware of the world beyond your own little spot,” Doscher said.

SGC-MMC pays about $11,000 a year for 400 copies of The New York Times distributed every day on campus. SGC-BBC pays about $8,000 a year for around 150 copies to be delivered everyday. Both councils’ funds come from students’ Activities and Services fees, paid at the time of enrollment. However, SGA considered ending the newspaper subscription because it wasn’t meeting its goals, Doscher said.

“We felt the students weren’t necessarily just reading the papers, but that they were not interacting with it. The paper wasn’t [role-
Surveillance camera feeds to be centralized in PG5

PG5, page 1

“The Tower is the oldest facility on campus... and it’s been deteriorating, as far as condition, for a good number of years,” King said.

King added that the department had promised new facilities as far back as eight years ago, however, the state budget cuts stood in the way.

Public Safety’s new officers will be located on the first and second floor of the southwest corner of the garage.

The first floor will house the department’s dispatch office and patrol operations while the second floor will contain administrative offices and the department’s investigatory unit.

Besides the Tower, Public Safety, particularly patrol operations and investigations, currently inhabit the space behind the University’s Dealing Center.

After the new facilities are built, King said that all of the entities would be united under one roof. King said that this would make it easier for the department to “connect and communicate.”

King added that even with the new facility, Public Safety’s presence in Everglades Hall would remain unchanged.

Public Safety’s new office will also allow the department to create a larger dispatch center, which is currently situated in the Tower and handles dispatch operations for both MMC and Biscayne Bay Campus.

One of King’s goals for the larger, newer dispatch center is to create a centralized location where police can monitor the entire surveillance camera feeds across both campuses.

Currently, departments who employ the use of surveillance cameras, such as Facilities Management, Education Capital Outlay funds, and Business Services, the University, with approval from the Board of Governors and the Florida Board of Bond Finance, issued bonds to be sold to generate revenue for the project.

According to Foster, once these bonds were issued and sold, the money was transferred to the project account. PECO funds were allocated to cover the cost of Public Safety’s portion of the Education Capital Outlay funds, and Business Services.

Parking and Transportation and Housing & Residential Life, monitor their own camera feeds.

Aside from more space for campus officers to unify and newer facilities, space allocated in the structure will also allow Public Safety to park patrol cars and other department vehicles safely in the garage.

According to King, no spaces have been designated for staff or officers’ personal vehicles.

Parking for the garage will come from three different sources: bond sales, Public Safety, and the Department of Housing.

The project is currently on schedule and is expected to open in August 2010.

Public Safety expects to be fully situated in its new offices by October 2010.

Watchdog over police

Bill King, chief of police

Public Safety

OFFICERS HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR A NEW FACILITY FOR SUCH A LONG TIME

The official opening of the new police station, which is expected to take place in August 2010, has been eagerly awaited by the officers who have been serving on the force for years. The station will be located in the PG5 garage, which is currently under construction.

The new facility will house the police department’s dispatch center, patrol officers, and administrative staff. The department currently operates out of the old police station, which is located in the Everglades Hall garage.

The new facility will provide the department with more space and better facilities, which will allow the officers to better serve the campus community. The new facility will also allow the department to expand its operations and provide better service to the campus.

The police department has been working closely with the construction team to ensure that the new facility meets all of the department’s needs. The department has also been working with the university administration to ensure that the new facility is properly funded.

The new facility will be the result of years of planning and hard work by the police department and the university administration. The department and the university are excited about the new facility and are looking forward to the official opening in August 2010.
New graduate classes have high student enrollment

MAUREEN NINO  
Staff writer

The School of Journalism and Mass Communication created two new graduate programs, which have attracted more students than previous years. But the increased enrollment is not benefiting graduate students like Jodi-Ann Reid.

“Classrooms are very big. There are about 45 to 50 students,” said Reid, a student in the Global Strategic Communications master’s program. “It’s a big issue. Teachers don’t give their full attention to the workload or material.”

SJMC created the GSC master’s program, which started this semester and has two tracks: GSC and GSC Creative, which emphasizes more on advertising.

This program is replacing the Integrated Advertising and Public Relations graduate program. SJMC also offers the Spanish Language Journalism program.

“SJMC is the largest advertising and public relations master’s program of its kind in Florida, and is fully accredited by the Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communication, according to SJMC’s Web site.

“We wanted to provide students a curriculum that is more in line with what is happening in today’s world,” said Fernando Figueredo, department chair of Advertising and Public Relations.

According to Figueredo, the program will integrate advertising and public relations courses, and fuse global aspects to provide students with the ability to succeed in the field.

Tania Williams, a graduate senator in the Student Government Council at Biscayne Bay Campus and a GSC graduate student, knew that like her, other students were concerned about the number of students in the class, so she founded the SJMC Graduate Student Association during the Summer. She introduced the SJMC GSA, of which she is president, “to bridge a gap that exists.”

“A lot of the students felt that they weren’t getting the full grad school experience, so we formed this association to provide not only a voice for the students, but hopefully resources that we can all use,” she said.

According to Williams, students are complaining about the deficiency in class size, the lack of support at a graduate level, and the lack of classes and professors.

“We have good faculty on our staff, but we don’t have enough for a program that is continuously growing. It’s great that the program is growing, but on the flip side, something is going to suffer if you don’t balance it,” she said.

According to Figueredo, there are approximately 180 students in the program, including both tracks, and 20 students in the Spanish Language Journalism program.

Figueredo attributes the increase in enrollment to the recession and lack of jobs. “With the downturn in the economy, we have had an increase in interest,” he said.

“People have decided to use the resources that we can all use,” he said.

Williams is currently working with Fiske to resolve the problem and create graduate student resources such as symposiums, workshops, and internships and an in-house agency, she said.

“People have decided to use it,” said Figueredo. “We are in the process of resolving the problem.”

One of their solutions is to shift undergraduate professors with Ph.D.s to graduate level courses, but they must be certified first. Currently, there are 24 professors that are qualified to teach at a graduate level, Figueredo said.

“I just think it is such a disservice for FIU to have such a phenomenal program, and we don’t have enough resources or professors to support it,” Williams said.

Williams said students need to approach the department with their complaints.

“If students are feeling this way, they need to make it known in writing to the dean, chair or myself,” she said.

“They see the problem when you don’t bring it up to the right people.”

Making the Cut

ASHLEY SALAMANCA  Contributing Writer

While American media have long covered the struggle for peace between Israel and Palestine, there is little known about the conflicts that divide Palestine between the Hamas and Fatah factions.

Jonathan Schanzer, deputy director for the Jewish Policy Center, a non-profit think tank in Washington, D.C., was the guest speaker at “The Internal Palestinian Conflict: Implications for Israel and America,” a lecture held at the Biscayne Bay Campus’ Wolfe University Center on Oct. 28.

The lecture was co-presented by the Middle East Senate, Judicis Studies Program, Jewish Community Relations Council, Hillen Second Generation and the Student Government Association.

Within Palestine, there is a stark difference between Hamas, the governing power of the Gaza Strip, and Fatah, the governing power of the West Bank. Each territory has two different governments, each with very different objectives, separated by roughly 30 miles of the Negev Desert. There is a potential split in the state of Palestine, according to Schanzer, and it needs to be addressed before an Israeli-Palestinian peace agreement can take place and be successful.

If Israel were to cede from the West Bank, which includes pulling out of all settlements and tearing down all checkpoints, there would still not be a chance to develop a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine, Schanzer said.

“Even if all of these things were ceded tomorrow, there would be no one on the Palestinian side to ratify that agreement,” he said.

“The primary reason for that is that the Palestinians are too divided.”

Schanzer said his assertions may seem pessimistic to some, but his goal is to alert policymakers of the internal Palestinian conflict, a major pitfall to the development of a peace agreement.

“To my chagrin, in Washington, members of Congress and the White House continue to overlook this problem despite the fact that it is staring them right in the face,” Schanzer said.

The internal Palestinian conflict began in 1987, when Yasser Arafat, leader of the Fatah movement, orchestrated the first intifada, a Palestinian resistance movement against Israel.

Arafat coordinated the fighting and demonstrations from his base in Tunisia, where he was exiled by the Israelis in the early 1980s.

He was welcomed back in 1993, under the condition that he would begin negotiating peace in the Oslo Accords, which sought to find a two-state solution between Palestine and Israel.

As the intifada gained popular support in Palestine, Hamas was formed.

An offshoot of the Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt, Hamas adopted a more Islamic vision for the future of Palestine. Hamas is most known for adopting jihadist tactics to not only attack, Israeli, but to defeat Fatah’s leadership through attacks and suicide bombings.

They slowly started gaining support and became a threat to Arafat’s rule.

In 2000, Arafat launched a second intifada in response to the threat of losing power to Hamas, ending the peace process between Israel and Palestine, which was spearheaded by President Bill Clinton.

Known as the Al-Aqsa intifada, it was steeped in Muslim symbolism, leaving behind the secular style of government Arafat once led. Fighting between Israel and Palestine ensued.

When Arafat died in 2004, Palestine was left in chaos. In 2006, Palestinian elections named Hamas the winner by a significant lead, which Fatah rejected. In June 2007, civil war erupted between Hamas and Fatah that continues to this day.

Schanzer suggested that if Palestinians cannot reach peace and stability among themselves, there may need to be a three-state solution to include the two sides of Palestine, instead of the two-state solution between Israel and Palestine that the U.S. Department of State and the media tend to emphasize.

“What we are really looking for [in Palestine] is a charismatic leader. A Martin Luther King Jr. or Mahatma Gandhi, somebody that could come up through the ranks to capture the imagination of the Palestinian people to bring them together,” he said.

Lecture highlights Palestine

CARVING: Paul Asho, a senior in advertising, carves a flamingo for a jack-o-lantern at the Pumpkin Carving event held at Bay Vista housing on Oct. 29.
Smoking marijuana not a crime

CHRISTIAN R. BAUMAN
Staff Writer

To those of you in 14 states with prescrip-
tions, you can light your prescription-grade
without the paranoia. You are no longer a federal
criminal. This page narrows down the
punishments given by the Department of
federal prisons, as opposed to state
carceral. In those 14 states,麻果, kea,
ecstasy and LSD are legal. OxyContin,
ocaine and PCP are not. In the remaining
states,麻果, kea, ecstasy and LSD are
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states,麻果, kea, ecstasy and LSD are
legal. OxyContin, cocaine and PCP are not.
FIU student runs local lounge

IVAN FLORES
Staff Writer

For Olgaly Combarro, beer tends to go nicely with business. Combarro is a junior business and finance major at FIU and is co-owner of Pitbull Sports Bar. While Combarro’s mother Barbara is the owner on paper, Combarro oversees the day to day operations and is responsible for the employees.

Pitbull Sports Bar is located at 11865 SW 26th St., less than a five-minute drive from Modesto Maidique Campus. The bar is nestled between the AMC Palace 18 movie theater and a Chinese restaurant that is curiously named, El Canton. The bar is lined with Florida Marlins, Miami Heat and University of Miami logos. The FIU football schedule is posted on the wall by the bar and the away games mean no Florida Heat games.

According to her, she bought the bar because she wanted to run her own business and she loves sports. “Basketball, football, baseball – I love to watch them,” she laughed while she said, “I can’t play any, but I love them.”

Pitbull opened to the public on July 4, 2009. Combarro joked that she opened the bar that day solely because her license to sell beer came in on July 2. “No, honestly,” she laughed, “it was to celebrate the American independence.”

Combarro explained that the knowledge she has gained at FIU has helped her run the operations of the bar. “One of my professors used to say, you can give away all the free food [you want], if you don’t promote yourself you’ll never go anywhere.” Combarro said, who also noted that all FIU students who show their IDs get 10 percent off their total order. According to her, she attended FIU’s School of Business for its prestigious reputation.

I visited Pitbull on Tuesday, the night the bar hosts a karaoke party. To help lower inhibitions and bring in more patrons, the bar boasts $1 domestic drafts. Karaoke is provided by Kara-O-King, who has been providing DJ and karaoke services since 1998. The owner Robert Bedrosian described the collection of songs available for karaoke saying, “We have over 100 and 10,000 song titles and that number grows monthly when we receive updates of hot and new songs.”

There is a woman singing karaoke in the background, a small crowd cheering as she sings Madonna’s “Like A Virgin.” Combarro takes the beers to the three men that sit at the back table.

A fourth man, with a beer in hand, goes up to kiss the singer and congratulate her on her performance.

The next singer that takes the microphone starts to choke within the first 30 seconds of the song. She starts and then hits the right pitch. The men sitting in the back table begin to jeer loudly.

The karaoke jockey rests his forehead on his palm, eventually standing up and declaring, “That’s it! Someone else is up after this.” A man wearing jeans splattered with white paint and a dirt-stained shirt takes the microphone.

He begins to sing Trace Adkins’ “Swing.” The DJ smiles, sits back down and begins to drink a beer as the singer keeps the melody.

Combarro is pouring more drafts, the four men in the back asking for another round. Gloria Lynch, a junior biology major at FIU, sits at a table near the men in the back. With a beer in hand she motions for Combarro to bring another. Lynch has been going to Pitbull since it opened.

“My friend Andre told me about this bar with $1 drafts and I was sold. Everyone who comes in is fun loving and outgoing, it’s a very welcoming atmosphere,” Lynch said.

RAISING THE BAR

PANTHER’S PIT: Pitbull Sports Bar located on 11865 SW 26th St offers billiards, beer and food with a 10 percent discount for FIU students with their Panther ID cards.

W indows 7 has received much praise since its release, I’m adding another honor: Most Ridiculous Ad Campaign.

Microsoft released its latest operating system with much fanfare to a crowd of eager users desperate to put the home that was Windows Vista behind them. The company has spared no expense in marketing both itself and the new software, hiring famed ad agency Crispin, Porter & Bogusky back in February 2008.

These guys have given us such gems as the “I’m a PC” commercials and those annoying commercials where two people go buy a new laptop and just so happen to pick a PC.

The marketing campaign leading up to Windows 7’s release has been more bizarre than annoying. In Japan, Microsoft partnered with Burger King in a cross promotional event to introduce the “Windows 7 Whopper”! This particular burger sports seven beef patties and, with all the appropriate accessories, sticks five inches tall and will happily donate over 2,000 calories to your body, all for the low price of ¥1,450 or $18.17.

In order to reach out to potential customers here in the U.S., however, Microsoft prepared a cheesy, six-minute YouTube video explaining to people how to have a proper “Windows 7 Launch Party”. The video shows four people, each representing a specific age, ethnic group and gender, demonstrating what is no doubt Microsoft’s ideal Windows 7 launch party scenario.

In a lot of ways, you’re just throwing a party with Windows 7 as the honored guest,” said Paid Actor No. 4.

The video goes on to describe all the fun things you can do while huddled around a computer with Windows and all your friends.

“Leave your computer on and running and let people mess around,” said the creepy old man.

Microsoft needs to realize that just as Apple will never be Microsoft, Microsoft will never be Apple. Microsoft has an established fan base in business markets and enjoys a large market share percentage because of it. Microsoft’s image is made up of it. Microsoft’s image is made up of it. Microsoft’s image is made up of it. Microsoft needs to realize that just as Apple will never be Apple, Microsoft will never be Microsoft. Microsoft has an established fan base in business markets and enjoys a large market share percentage because of it. Microsoft’s image is made up of it.

“Fistfuls of Tech” is a weekly column on all things technological.
The Beacon – Monday, November 2, 2009
www.fi usm.com

LIFE!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2009

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST
WHEN: 9:30 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 340

BAHAMIAN STUDENT ORGANIZATION
General Meeting
WHEN: 3 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

DM ALUMNI SOCIAL
Fundraiser for Miami Children’s Hospital Foundation through FIU Dance Marathon Alumni.
WHEN: 7 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Red Ra, 317

JAZZ JAM/OPEN MIC
WHEN: 10 p.m.
HOW MUCH: $5
WHERE: Church’s Pub

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2009

CHILDREN BEYOND BORDERS
Meeting to help needy children
WHEN: 4 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 243

FRENCH CLUB - MOVIE
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 140

FREE CUBA FOUNDATION
Recruitment
WHEN: 10 a.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC Table

SISTERS IN SPIRIT
General Meeting
WHEN: 9 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

WEEDNEDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2009

STUDENT OCCIDENTAL THERAPY ASSOCIATION
General Meeting
WHEN: 12 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 335

TIBETAN SAND MANDALA CREATION
Painting with colored sand bricks
WHEN: 6 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: Frost Museum

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2009

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
General Meeting
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 314

ITALIAN CLUB
Meditation Event
WHEN: 1 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 343

Caribbean Student Association
General Meeting
WHEN: 3:30 p.m.
HOW MUCH: Free
WHERE: GC 347

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Target Wednesday After Hours are free and open to the public and take place from one Wednesday each month from 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Mark your calendars! Next Target Wednesday After Hours will take place December 9, 2009.

JOIN OUR STAFF!

The BEACON is always looking for talented and reliable individuals to join the staff. If you have an interest in writing, photography or even grammar, don’t be shy. Stop by one of our offices located in GC 210 and WUC 124.
McCall forces overtime, defensive line seals win

FOOTBALL, page 1

“He always says we’re going to block a field goal to win a game,” Cristobal said about defensive coordinator Phil Galiano. “It’s a self-fulfilling prophecy.”

Trailing 17-10 with 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Golden Panthers quarterback Paul McCall found Greg Ellingson open in the end zone to tie the game. The Golden Panthers then got a field goal from Dusan Risten in overtime to take their first lead of the contest. Linebacker Tyler Clawson had a crucial tackle for loss on third down to stop ULL’s drive in the extra period.

Williams’ left hand did the rest.

“Tourek Williams is a guy that you probably haven’t heard much about but he has been a co-starter since day one,” Cristobal said of the freshman. Williams’ finishing touch came on a day when the FIU defense manufactured its most complete defensive game of the season. The Golden Panthers’ front seven played tenaciously, and held the Ragin’ Cajun to 126 rushing yards on 44 carries. Ragan Cajuns running back Yobes Walker, who was coming off an impressive 105-yard performance against Florida Atlantic University last week, was stifled for 40 yards. The Golden Panthers entered the game second to last in the SBC in rushing defense.

“We had some pretty good defensive line play this game, we seemed to knock the line of scrimmage back more than we usually have,” said defensive tackle Jonas Murell. “I think the new scheme that we have put in with the movements that we are doing up front have really been working to our favor.”

The sudden success for the Golden Panthers’ defensive line was complemented by sound linebacker play. Williams pointed to discipline and players filling their gap assignments. Murell was encouraged by the consistent pursuit against the Ragin’ Cajun offense.

“They were coming downhill in a hurry,” Murell said. “There were several plays where I would come off the line and I would think ‘it might break’ and I turned around and they got a play in the backfield.”

Leading the group was sophomore Aaron Davis, who took the place of injured starting linebacker Toronto Smith.

The dreadlocked Davis, an imposing figure at 245 pounds, led the team with nine tackles and two tackles for loss.

“The kid’s a monster, isn’t he?” said Clawson, who had seven stops. “It’s definitely good playing beside him.”

Ironically, FIU has won its second game this season in a contest T.Y. Hilton did not score in. In 2008, Hilton scored in all of the team’s five victories. Hampered by a knee injury, Hilton was barely on the field for FIU, but freshman Wayne Times picked up the slack with five catches. After the game, Cristobal was asked to clarify if it was Murell or Williams who blocked the decisive field goal. Although he clarified Williams got the block.

“Doesn’t matter if the popcorn guy got it,” he said. “Bottom line, that thing was blocked, and we were able to pull out the victory.”
FOOTBALL: FIU 20, ULL 17 (OT)

HALLO-WIN THRILLER

The theme of the Halloween day game.

Winners must take on the largest crowds.

In keeping with announced attendance of 8,539 that must have nagged shoulder injury.

Due to injury, and All-Sun Belt Conference.

Their game. Starting middle linebacker replacements felt they had to step up

in particular the defense, that showed up on Oct. 31 was one we haven’t seen since about

The Ragin’ Cajuns picked up three first downs and ate up a ton of clock running right at 8:10. Topp jumped on it, it seemed somewhat like a script that has played out numerous times this season, starting the Golden Panthers as the team that just comes up short.

DOING OVERTIME: Dustin Rivest (top) is carried by his teammates following the 20-17 overtime win and blocked field goal attempt by the Ragin’ Cajuns. Rivest’s 24-yard field goal proved to be the game-winning score in overtime. Darrion Mallory (bottom left) shifts arms a Ragin’ Cajuns defender. Colt Anderson (bottom right) tries to gain more yards after a reception.

The last time the Golden Panthers volleyball team (22-2, 12-0 Sun Belt) played New Orleans, the Privateers knocked them out of the Sun Belt tournament leaving a bitter taste after the loss. In their first destination in the weekend road trip in Louisiana, New Orleans didn’t roll out the welcome mat in the rematch as the match went five sets.

But this time around, the Golden Panthers would return the favor.

New Orleans gave FIU all they could handle, but the Golden Panthers came away with a five-set victory on Oct. 30 at the Human Performance Center. The victory keeps them perfect in Sun Belt Conference play.

Both teams swapped sets with FIU taking the first and New Orleans taking the second, and in the pivotal third set FIU jumped out to a huge early lead on their way to a third set victory.

The Privateers, one set away from defeat, came out strong in the fourth and managed to stop a Golden Panther come-back attempt to tie the match 2-2 and force a match-deciding fifth set.

The Golden Panthers came out strong in the fifth set and ran away with it to earn their 15th consecutive victory.

Four players posted double-digit kills for the team, including Yarimar Rosa’s team-high 21 kills, to help push the team to a victory. The defense was also solid, with Andrea Lakovic recording five blocks. Natalia Valentin helped out on both offense and defense with 54 assists and a team-high 17 digs.

The Golden Panthers men and women’s cross country teams finished in 10th and 11th place, respectively, in the 2009 Sun Belt Conference Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Championships on Oct. 31 in Monroe, La. Running on a wet course, freshman Tai Canady led the women’s team with a 2:24:19 time. Estefania Fierro (24:54.11), Karina Oliver placed in 71st place (32:23.71).

For the men’s team, Sebastian Castillo came in 25th place and finished the 8k course in 19:01.76. Circip Mejia finished the race in 29:51.29 while Pedro Bigorra took the course in 30:58.35 and Jason Oliver placed in 71st place (32:23.71).

Western Kentucky’s Janet Jesang was the women’s individual champion. South Alabama’s Zac Edwards was the men’s individual champion, Western Kentucky’s men’s and women’s coaches were named the Sun Belt Coaches of the year. Western Kentucky and South Alabama won all the Sun Belt Conference postseason awards.

VOLLEYBALL, CROSS COUNTRY