Walk for cystic fibrosis premieres on campus

ALEXANDER MILLER
Staff Writer

The FIU Wertheim College of Medicine is sponsoring the first walk for cystic fibrosis to occur at the University to create awareness about the illness and get people involved as a whole.

Through the national Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, there are a series of walks (called Great Strides) for cystic fibrosis that take place around the U.S., but this is the first time there will be a walk taking place at FIU. It’s pretty exciting to be planning the walk and it’s the first time we’re having a walk for cystic fibrosis at FIU,” said Rebekah Kharrazi, FIU Cystic Fibrosis Foundation chairperson.

According to the organization’s Web site, cystic fibrosis is an inherited chronic disease that affects the lungs and digestive system of about 30,000 children and adults in the U.S. and 70,000 worldwide.

A defective gene causes a protein product cause the body to produce unusually thick, sticky mucus that clogs the lungs and leads to life-threatening lung infections and obstructs the pancreas and stops natural enzymes from helping the body break down and absorb food.

In the 1950s, few children with cystic fibrosis lived beyond the age of 10. Today, advances in research and medical treatments have further enhanced and extended life for children and adults with cystic fibrosis.

Many people with the disease can now expect to live into their 30s, 40s and beyond.

Kharrazi works on research directly related to cystic fibrosis in the College of Medicine’s Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases.

Program prepares freshmen for writing exams

MARIELLA ROQUE
Contributing Writer

The Common Reading Program for freshmen finished its first University-wide implementation this semester and will continue into this Summer and next Fall.

The freshmen-geared program has first-year students read a book chosen by the Common Reading Committee.

The program, which was initiated by Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies Glenda Belote and University Ombudsman Larry Lunsford, is a requirement for incoming freshmen.

It began as a pilot program in the Summer semester of 2008 at Biscayne Bay Campus, and has received high student approval ratings since.

The program is tied to the First Year Experience course, a University Core Curriculum prerequisite, in which professors assign the students a two-page essay based on the book as well as a quiz.

The program aims to prepare students for college reading and get them used to writing and taking tests on a book.

“They basically want to enhance [the students’] reading skills,” Lunsford said.

Originally, the late Jeffrey Knapp, director of the Academy for the Art of Teaching, was placed in charge of the project. But it was handed down to Assistant Dean for Undergraduate Studies Valerie Morgan after Knapp’s passing.

A committee of 10 faculty and staff and two student representatives leads the program.
Proposal includes a new council

Books to meet QEP criteria

GSA, page 1

Because of this system, graduate students who are members of graduate student organizations, which are within CSO, have to do this to earn conference funding.

All of the graduate students in attendance approved of getting rid of the point system.

The GSA advisory council will be made up of the four graduate senators, two student representatives to the Graduate Student Organization coordi- nator within CSO and other members appointed by GSA, SGA and other University-wide colleges and members of the GSA. In the proposal it will be the council’s responsibility to make executive deci- sions, such as managing graduate student open forums and Gradskellars. However, only graduate senators are able to allo- cate money.

The conference funding will be increased from $45,000 to $100,000 based on a stipend of $280 for 400 students. This model is similar to one the University of Florida currently uses, according to Rionda, and it was also one of major contention.

All graduate students at the town hall brought up the argument that $250 could barely cover the airfare for their confer- ences. Rionda said that number could increase, but then fewer students would be covered.

Several graduate students brought up the issue of GSA’s functionality during the town hall. Muhammad Saleem, one of the graduate senators, asked what the college’s role was for the restructuring.

Rionda responded by saying that $70,000 of conference funding was not spent, he asked how many people in the room have attended GSA meetings and only a handful replied and he asked who voted in the GSA elections or for their graduate senator.

Several graduate students said where their conference funding came from was not very important, what was important to them is how they found out GSA was being restructured and graduate student advocacy.

As for the advocacy, Saleem suggested that instead of an immediate restructuring, GSA could appoint GSA for six months to one year after warning them that they are not meeting certain criteria.

Saleem did not specifically address Saleem’s idea but admitted that graduate students were not properly informed of what was happening.

According to Rionda, for the restructu- ring were a lack of travel and conference funding during the summer, the GSA office not being able to accommodate the schedule of graduate students and the limited or no access students at the Biscayne Bay Campus had to the resources of the GSA office.

FlU promoted through fundraiser

This is a place for education and it’s an opportunity to raise awareness and it makes it a great thing.

Babak Khajehzadeh, FIU/cyclic fibrosis chairman

College of Medicine

WALK, page 1

“This is a place for education and it’s an opportunity to raise awareness and it makes it a great thing,” Khajehzadeh said.

Khajehzadeh added that the goal is to get as many people to participate in the inaugural walk, and that the event is a fundraiser.

“Whatever people feel like they can raise would be great,” Khajehzadeh said.

The planning committee for the walk is composed of students and professors, including College of Medicine students.

Other organizations have been instrumental in the planning and promotion of the walk, such as Beta Beta Beta, an honor society for the students of the Biolog- ical Sciences Department at FIU and for those interested in biology and related fields.

“It’s nice to be a part of the walk because the people involved are so passionate,” said Maria Donayre, member of Beta Beta Beta.

Donayre also said that they were urging all professional students to get involved with the walk. They have reached out to the Council for Student Organizations as well to help advertise to students on campus about the walk and get them involved.

“This event will put FIU’s name on the map and we are very excited,” said Dr. Kali Mathe, faculty member of the Department of Molecular Microbiology and Infectious Diseases at the College of Medicine.

Mathe added that the event will introduce people to FIU and knowledge of cystic fibrosis as a whole. Mathe has formed a team with her lab that has participated in this walk in past years, and like Khajehzadeh, her research deals directly with cystic fibrosis.

The walk, held on April 3, will begin at the College of Medicine building HILLS I and II at the Modesto Maidique Campus) and will go around the campus.

Registration will begin at 8 a.m. and the opening ceremo- nies will begin at 9 a.m.

Anyone is permitted to participate and is free to register for the walk as an indi- vidual or a team.

For more information and to register for the walk visit http://www.cfi.org/aboutCFI and http://fiu.gsa.fyi/a_walk/site/ index.cfm.
Team gives BBC a positive evaluation

MIKIALA C. TENNIE
Staff Writer

FIU is being pushed to make the most of the “I” in the middle of its name by a team from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Visits by this association generally bring the hearts of students, as SACS is responsible for the accreditation and evaluation of colleges and schools in the Southeast.

Edwin Rugg from Kennesaw State University and Terry McCann from Louisiana Tech University are volunteer members of the SACS team that visit schools based on a federal government requirement.

This visit in particular was to discuss the Biscayne Bay and the library met with the team personnel from Student Affairs.

“SACS visits are not supposed to be ‘goofah’ visits,” McCann said.

Members of student support personnel from Student Affairs and the library met with the team to discuss the Biscayne Bay Campus and the QEP.

“It used to be that anything less than 30 miles off of the main campus was a part of the campus, but your campus here is considered an off-campus operation,” Rugg said. “What makes this place special?”

The consensus was that BBC had an intimate community feel and that its environment made it a beautiful campus.

After getting a feel for why BBC is important to the University, the team focused on an aspect of the QEP that will bring more interdisciplinary courses to the school, with classes being taught by multiple professors from different areas of expertise.

According to Rugg, the school was supposed to have more than one of these types of classes up and running by this point. At press time, only one exists.

“What ways can the campus improve?” Rugg said.

One of the answers given was having additional courses on this campus and having more start-to-finish programs offered so students don’t have to travel between MMC and BBC as much.

The SACS team was guided through a brief tour of the campus, ending with a three-course lunch hosted by students from the School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. The lunch split the SACS team up between two tables, where they interviewed an array of BBC students from different programs at the under-graduate and graduate level.

In the next meeting of the day, the SACS team utilized the information they received from the students in a discussion with the deans from the campus.

“You should know your students are very happy with your faculty,” Rugg said. “Keep up the good work as you grow bigger and better. Keep to your roots of success as best you can.”

The final meeting consisted of faculty from all over the campus discussing how the University can go global with the QEP by being intentional about putting global aspects into courses, by linking academics with extracurricular activities and by focusing on end-of-program results rather than end-of-course results.

“We don’t just want it to be ‘Here’s a class, and here’s some extracurricular activity,’” said Elena Cruz, director of Upward Bound and meeting attendee.

“We want to integrate the two and SACS challenged us to go beyond just activities and class.”

The QEP is a five-year initiative to make the University live up to its name and be internationally minded with its approach to learning.

“We do think you’re on to something, especially with the ‘I’ in the middle of your name,” Rugg said. “You’re doing tough work, but you’re doing good work. Make the QEP show that.”
Music fest incorporates charity to aid, support farm workers

HECTOR MODENA Staff Writer

Every summer, thousands of music lovers flock to Miami for the annual Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival, which begins March 13 at 8:30 a.m.

The festival, which is held in Tennessee, is the largest music festival in the country. It features a wide range of music, from alternative to pop, and attracts thousands of visitors each year.

Although Bonnaroo is a popular destination for music lovers, there are many other music festivals that take place throughout the country. One such festival, Harvest of Hope Fest, is scheduled to take place on March 14, 2013. The festival is located in Coconut Grove, Miami Beach and features a variety of bands and artists.

Contact Us

For more information about Bonnaroo or Harvest of Hope Fest, please visit their respective websites or contact the organizers directly.

EXPLODING HEAD

EXCLUSIVE

Each spring break has a song mix to it

SMITH WESTERNS - DREAMS

This Chicago alternative rock band never wonders to the soul if played during a period of downer. Channeling early Beatles songwriting and lo-fi garage punk, Smith Westerns provide a perfect wave of beauty pop for the break.

WAVVES - SO BORED

After various thrillists and go-tobreakdown fashionasters, Nathan from WAVVES kept a low profile these past couple of months. He hooked up with Hella’s Zach Hill to invert the already-loud WAVVES sound to epic heights of memori-ous notes with powerwave-ous percussion. So this is a jolly but punchy portrait of slackerdude, the kind of behavior one would shun during Spring Break. It also sounds awesome so, they must try to expose college students to it more if they are more inclined to get.

DUM DUM GIRLS - JAIL LA LA

I’ve written about them before and it still sounds fantastic. I’ll keep writing about them because they sound so goddamned great. Jail La La is just all kinds of fun.

PAVEMENT - SHADY LAND

Classic indie/alternative rock band originally just reunited to play a huge tour and fun favorite Shady Land is just that ultimate definition of indie rock, I’m a bit biased because I first heard this song two years ago during Spring Break and just fell head over heels for Pavement.

6. GALAXIE 500 - SNOWSTORM

You kind of need a slow jam if you’re providing a soundtrack for someone’s vacation. This song is filled with serene reveries and all types of moody moods. Make sure to fall in love with someone to this song during your break.

JAVELL - LINDAY BROHAN

This group of producers pretty much cut and paste samples and chime beats to make some of the best electronic hip-hop work around. Aside from the fact that the song title is awesome and silly, the song is just very chill and ringing of dishes.

TORO Y MOI - CAUSERS OF TIMES

Remind me of what that Zach Morris would be playing in his convertible during Spring Break.

9. MEMORY TAPES - STOP TALKING

This whole album is actually just really interesting. It’s a mix of “chill wave” genre, which really never gets old to me, and genuine elements from the house camp. This one is good to listen to because it fits right in with a lot of the stuff coming down for Winter Music Conference, which is soon.

Exploding Head is a weekly column covering all music. Email: light@underground.com or Follow us on Twitter: @lightimpressions
CABRALITICS

FIU should trade Rubio for Crist, first round draft pick

Let’s face it. Marco Rubio isn’t going to be here much longer.
The state legislator, who is currently running for the Republican nomination in the race for one of Florida’s U.S. Senate seats, seems like an unlikely ally to handily defeat his GOP opponent, Governor Charlie Crist. When he currently leads Charlie Crist by 32 percent according to Public Policy Polling. Rubio, of course, has also taught a class part time at FIU since 2008.

His hiring attracted some criticism, as seen by the Florida House, he led the State Legislature in voting to cut billions of Florida’s education budget. Plus, some worried that this job was just something he’d be doing to kill time until he moved on to the next political race.

Now, as he prepares to do exactly that, and move up to the political big leagues, where he can finally cut education at the federal level, it’s time for FIU to act.

It’s time to make a trade. FIU should promptly swap Rubio for Charlie Crist.

Crist, I know, doesn’t really seem like that fair a deal. Rubio’s value is quite high right now, Crist, a longtime veteran of Florida politics, appears to be on the downside of his career.

But see, Rubio is probably going to leave our school no matter what. We might as well get what we can for him. If we act now, maybe we can get more people minority state legislators in the deal.

Crist would probably be a better fit at FIU than in the GOP primary. He’s been criticized by many as being too conservative for the average Republican voter. He’s also been called a ‘conservative’ enough, and for embracing the stimulus, which infused billions into Florida’s education budget.

Plus, the recent revelation that Rubio used the Florida Republican Party credit card to buy important things as a state legislator, like repairs to his family’s van and purchasing alcoholic beverages, probably makes some administrations think twice.

After all, other FIU employees were fired for doing similar things as an FIU credit card, and Rubio’s van might be due for more repairs soon.

Now, bringing in Crist would be very beneficial to the Florida governor. It would allow him to get a nice little job for a while until the next election cycle comes around.

No doubt such an option would be appealing to him; just look at how well that worked out for his opponent. He would also likely enjoy using the tanning bed at the salon in the Graham Center to refine his trademark orange hue.

Crist also fits the same profile as Rubio did when he took the job as a Republican with no actual training as an educator. That’s apparently exactly what is needed to teach that course.

Of course, there might be other options on the block. Maybe Kendrick Meek (FL-17) would be interested in having the job for a while.

Sure, he’s also had some problems with his party’s nomination for the same U.S. Senate seat as Rubio, and some might object to having a candidate running for office teaching students about politics, since they obviously have a strong political agenda to promote.

But, FIU administration seems to notice no problem with that whatsoever when it comes to Rubio, so why not bring in someone like Meek?

Oh, wait a minute. FIU would never go for that. He’s a Democrat.

Maybe Crist might not be interested in such a deal. Maybe another school offers a better deal. That would completely ruin this whole plan.

DISCLAIMER

The opinions presented within this page do not represent the views of The Beacon or the University of Miami.

SEND US YOUR LETTERS

Get a problem with parking? Want to give kudos to a faculty? Or do you just have something to say about FIU? Send your thoughts to the opinion@fiu.edu

FIU should trade Rubio for Crist, first round draft pick

Andrew Meyer

Special to The Beacon

Mainstream media failing us

Andrew Meyer

Special to The Beacon

On Feb. 1, The Beacon published an opinion column, written by myself entitled: “Rosenberg’s Salary Comes Well Deserved.” Toward the conclusion, I affirm that “…the University brilliantly executing a recent $8 million deal with beverage giant Pepsi…” is a plausible means through which the University bridges the budget gap, and thereby enhances student life.

A recent presentation to the University’s Board of Trustees held on June 1, 2009 discussed the University’s financial crisis, forecasting that for fiscal year 2011-2012, state cuts will equal roughly $52.7 million.

The presentation discussed solutions, citing a plan spanning three years primarily consisting of academic restructuring and incremental revenues to conserve $35.7 million, while $13.7 million can be salvaged through an incremental, three-year process of relying upon other funding and revenue sources and lowering operational costs.

In layman’s terms, the University can achieve a balanced budget through a combination of raising tuition and fees, reducing administrative functions and departmental costs unilaterally, and most importantly, through corporate and private sources of funding the University’s ventures, including the Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine.

The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine is a prime example of how donations have positively impacted the growth of the University.

The medical school’s mission is “to lead the next generation of medical education and continue improving the quality of health care available to the South Florida Community.”

A $20 million donation from Herbert Wertheim made this reality, with an inaugural class set to graduate in 2013. The Herbert Wertheim College of Medicine’s impact on the economy is exponential, to the tune of $1 billion and the creation of 8,300 jobs.

The aforementioned presentation asserted that the Medical College was 100 percent funded, with $10.9 million in recurring funds, $53 million in donations to date and $14 million in donations estimated during fiscal year 2009-2010.

The “Soap Box,” published in the opinion section of The Beacon on March 5 highlighted a fellow student’s concern: “…it seems the deal with Pepsi included not just new drinks, but propaganda, to which my interpretation perceives as ‘Drink Pepsi’ or ‘Drink Pepsi at FIU, not pursue knowledge’ or be ‘better citizens’.”

Some may agree, asking: Does corporate advertising really belong in the same place as education? What the students, faculty and staff at FIU and other public universities need to realize is that America will never become a socialist republic and will retain its identity as a meritorial, capitalistic society.

The reality of education in America is simply that it is a growing expense, with many university budgets struggling to maintain balance.

Donations like that of Herbert Wertheim to the College of Medicine and the multi-million dollar contract between FIU and Pepsi are examples of how officials put students first. By soliciting funding and donations instead of relying on the dwindling state budget and taxpayer funds, University officials are ensuring that FIU remains a research university – an institution in which quality education can be sought.

The aforementioned budget presentation re-affirms that despite the financial crisis, FIU is investing in quality educational professionals, research and employees, to the tune of $17.4 million. Whether it is via a corporation, a family, or an individual funding the University’s ventures, it is inevitable that advertising is brought into the realm of University life. Such advertising doesn’t hamper the educational process.

If it weren’t for private contributions, FIU, Miami’s only public research university, would just be Primera Casa and a small library, or even worse, a landing strip and a concept in the minds of many people.
Barrett earns SBC award for third consecutive week

STEPHANIE GABRIEL
Asst. Sports Director

FIU Pitcher Kasey Barrett (7-2) has put up staggering numbers this season as the Golden Panthers have enjoyed their best start to a season since 2005.

The Sun Belt conference has noticed.

The senior, who boasts a 0.37 ERA, has recorded three straight Pitcher of the Week nods from the SBC.

Her efforts last week include two complete games, a shutout, and two saves. In 20.0 innings of work, Barrett struck out 31 batters and allowed just five hits and a single run.

“I really think that our offense and knowing that there’s defense behind me to make all the plays has helped me out a lot,” Barrett said and knowing that there’s defense run.

allowed just five hits and a single run.

Before the season even began, McClendon told student media that Bri Rojas would be “the crowd favorite”.

She was right.

The freshman has shown outstanding ability early in the season and has turned heads with a team-high four home runs, while also paces FIU with a .483 batting average. In FIU’s most recent outing, a 3-1 loss to Bradley on Mar. 7, Rojas went 1-for-1 at the plate and recorded two walks.

“I can’t tell you how glad I am that she picked FIU,” McClendon said on Mar. 4, after Rojas knocked out a three-run shot to defeat Eastern Michigan 6-1. “Thank God she’s on our team.”

For Rojas, although the big hits come often, she says it’s always about having a good at-bat.

“It’s about quality at-bats every time,” said Rojas, who has eight walks this season. “I go to the plate feeling confident and I just think, ‘I have to help my team out.’”

UP NEXT

The Golden Panthers will host four games this weekend, beginning with a double header against Michigan State (7-12) today at 4 p.m.

FIU will look to continue their dominance at home, where they have a record of 9-2.

Leading the Spartans offensively is Lindsey Hansen with a .382 BA while Kelly Confer (2-5) leads the defense with a 2.06 ERA in the circle.

Meanwhile, George Washington University (2-6) will face the Golden Panthers on Sunday at noon and 2 p.m.

Both hurlers have just a win piece on the season and have allowed a combined 46 runs to opponents. The Colonials’ offense may become stagnant against FIU’s defense, as they have not a single player batting over .300, with Julie Orlandi leading them with a .286 clip.

Turtle Thomas has proven to be Pete Garcia’s best hire

TURTLE, page 7 WORKING

FIU shortstop Junior Arrojo enjoyed a breakout campaign in 2009 after slumping his first few seasons as a Golden Panther, and credited Thomas for turning his career around, saying he would be “nothing” without Thomas. The veteran coach is an offensive expert, in a college game where the coach does more than fill out the lineup card and switch in defensive replacements. If Thomas doesn’t get swayed away by a big program, potent offenses and a strong pipeline of recruits will continue to run through FIU.

Henry powers FIU in win

SERIES, page 8

more in the ninth.

FIU 18, BOSTON COLLEGE 14

Turtle Thomas has been shuffling and re-shuffling his lineup all season long, trying to find the right lineup to get things going for the Golden Panthers.

He might have found it as FIU hammered the Boston College pitching staff in what ended up being a shutout on Mar. 10.

The game lasted three hours and 44 minutes as both teams combined for a total of 32 runs scored.

“When we play this late, it’s way past my bedtime,” Thomas joked after the game.

After the Eagles took an early lead, outfielder Jabari Henry erased it for the Panthers with a grand slam in the bottom of the second and then hit a three-run homerun in the fifth.

Henry finished 2-for-5 with seven RBIs.

“I saw the pitch and I just exploded on it,” Henry said. “He left a hanging a curveball and I just took it out.”

Boston College retook the lead in the fourth inning, but FIU quickly jumped back in the lead, taking a 14-6 lead going into the sixth inning, but the Eagles picked up eight runs in two innings to tie the game in the seventh inning.

Pablo Bermudez hit a two-run homerun to give FIU the lead for good, as the bullpen held on to give the Panthers some momentum going into their weekend series against Rutgers.

“That showed a tremendous amount of heart by our bullpen,” Thomas said about the team’s ability to answer the Eagles comeback.

“That’s about as good as it gets.”
**INTRAMURAL SOCCER: FRATERNITY**

**Second half run pushes Fiji to first intramural title**

**ANDRES LEON**
Contributing Writer

Fiji shocked Pi Kappa Phi on Mar. 9 to earn the intramural fraternity soccer championship.

“What a great way to end the season, we really didn’t know what to expect, we’re a brand new team, we came together this year and push forward,” said Fiji captain Emmanuel Propst.

Late Monday night was the moment the fraternal world at FIU had been waiting for. FJs’ deep purple flag flailing in the distance, while the glistening gold of Pi Kappa Phi took the field at 10:00 p.m. Shortly after the first change of possession, Fiji scored.

Nicholas Fuentes playing central mid was constantly pushing the ball forward until the deadlock was broken and perfectly placed goal in the lower corner tied up the match, 1-1.

Shortly after the half Fiji forward Dustin Rivest scored the goal that opened the game up for Fiji, who took a 3-1 lead in the second period.

A late goal by Pi Kappa Phi forward Brian Cooke to give his team some hope, but in the end Fiji finished it off.

**BASEBALL: BC 11, FIU 5; FIU 18, BC 14**

**JOEL DELGADO**
Asst. Sports Director

The Golden Panthers (9-3) split a two-game weekday series with Boston College (5-6) after struggling to produce runs when they needed them in the first game, but lit up the scoreboard in the series finale.

**BOSTON COLLEGE 11, FIU 5**

Most times it is the first out which is the hardest to get. Usually, it gets easier after that.

But for FIU, taking on Boston College on Mar.9, it was getting the third out that caused headaches for as the Eagles ravaged the pitching staff, scoring all 11 of their runs with two outs already recorded.

“We didn’t swing the bat very well in Arizona and we didn’t swing the bat very well tonight,” coach Turtle Thomas said.

FIU posted two runs in the bottom of the second to open up the scoring, but BC responded with their own two-run inning.

With two outs, Robbie Antonatto tattooed a pitch by FIU starter Daniel Desimone into centerfield that tailed away from FIU outfielder Pablo Bermudez for an RBI double. Matt Hamlet followed with a single to right field to tie the game.

Things got dicey for FIU from there on out.

Hamlet came back to haunt Desimone again with another two-out RBI single to give the Eagles a 3-2 lead and then Mickey Wisnaw slammed a three-run homerun to bust the game wide open. Boston College would add one more in the inning to take a 7-2 lead.

Reliever Dillon Vitale got two quick outs in the sixth, but the Eagles roared back with a series of hits and added three more runs to their already comfortable lead.

The Panthers would strike back in the eighth with three runs of their own, powered by a two-run two-out double by Rudy Flores, but could not come up with two runs of their own, powered by a two-run two-out double by Rudy Flores, but could not come up with

**FIU making strides under Coach Thomas**

As the Golden Panthers exploded for 18 runs against Boston College Wednesday, FIU head coach Turtle Thomas’ hands were over the field.

Centerfielder Pablo Bermudez went 3-for-5 with five RBIs. Third baseman Garrett Wittels extended his season long hitting streak to 12 games with a two-hit performance. Mike Martinez and Jeremy Patton both had three hits.

And freshman leftfielder Jabari Henry hit two home runs, including a grand slam, to pad his seven RBIs game.

Thomas’ had his hand in recruiting each of the talented underclassmen who are shining under his guidance. On Wednesday, he got the chance to see it all come together for an offensive explosion at FIU stadium.

Those in attendance got to see it.

In fact, the few people in attendance at the game, including nearly as BC fans as FIU fans, had the opportunity to watch what has emerged as the best revenue sport the university has to offer.

**A GEM**

Under the FIU men’s basketball promotional pamphlets with Isiah Thomas’ face on the cover and the game day fireworks the football team has in place, Turtle has turned around the baseball team faster than T.Y. Hilton’s 40-yard dash.

Since his hiring in 2007, the Golden Panthers have improved every season with him at the helm, including a a 34-win campaign a year ago that led to a fast start this season.

Thomas is athletic director Pete Garcia’s best hire since he took over in 2006. Cris Cafaro and Isiah Thomas have shown they can recruit as well, but not near the level Thomas has, and they have not been able to control the level of success that could be achieved at FIU.

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**As the Golden Panthers exploded for 18 runs...**

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