In his career at FIU, Thomas’ record in the regular season was 26-65. He was 1-3 in the Sun Belt Conference Tournament, with his only win coming in 2011.

Isiah Thomas removed as head basketball coach

IGOR MELLO
Sports Director
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Isiah Thomas has been relieved of his duties as coach of FIU. Athletic Director Pete Garcia announced on April 6 that Thomas was no longer part of their future in men’s basketball.

An emotional Thomas sat outside the FIU basketball facility handing hugs to his former players. Thomas informed his players and staff that he would no longer be part of the program.

“We want to thank [Isiah] Thomas for his three years here at FIU,” Garcia said.

“However, we have decided to take the program in a different direction.”

Thomas had Chicago prospect Milton Doyle, as well as other recruits visiting the campus when he was informed of his firing.

“This isn’t what we were expecting today,” Thomas said. “We had a nice group of kids working in our gym today and...”

Farinas ticket wins presidency by 0.8 percent

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It was close.

The Student Government Association presidential election was decided by a margin of only 71 votes.

Presidential candidate Laura Farinas and her running mate Alex Castro won the student government presidency at the Modesto Maidique campus in an election that brought out almost the second largest student voter turnout in the State University System.

“We all saw it was going to be a tight race, and honestly I wouldn’t have it any other way because it made the experience all the more gratifying in the end,” Farinas said in an interview with Student Media. “We won by 71 votes, and I rather win by 71 than by 3,000 because it shows all the work that was put into this election. We want the same numbers to transcend to next year.”

The announcement on April 5 brought campaign supporters to the Graham Center pit, most from the Farinas/Castro ticket and Udhnani/Mautner ticket.

In his opening speech, Jose Toscano, assistant director of Campus Life, stated that voter turnout increased about 44 percent since the previous year.

“Donovan Dawson, Student Government Council at Modesto Maidique Campus Senate speaker, is hoping for the same energy from the candidates in the transition process into their positions.

“Voter turnout increased by 50 percent since the previous year. We haven’t had this much energy in my eight years as an advisor,” he said to the crowd.

Farinas was proclaimed the winner of the election by 0.8 percent difference from the Udhnani ticket.

“It was a toe-to-toe battle,” said Toscano. “If both tickets came to me now, I would not be able to advise them on what to do better.”

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“A lot of the results...”

See Results, Page 2
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END OF AN ERA

Time for the program to start fresh

There is one thing that the basketball program needed: A fresh start.

There should not be a surprise that comes from the sudden release of Isiah Thomas. A coach who has had a losing record in all three seasons at the University. A coach who had one eye on his duties at FIU while having a wandering eye on the NBA.

No, the firing is not surprising. Yet whatever direction Pete Garcia, Executive Director of Sports and Entertainment, decides to go with in the hiring of his next head coach could be telling of what to expect for years to come.

Thomas is a likable figure. He is fun to talk to. He can grab anyone’s attention when he walks into a room.

His players have the utmost respect for him as a person and a mentor. With that said, I was a strong advocate that Thomas’ stint here at the University was the sudden release that comes from what the decision was. We’re all kind of stunned.”

Thomas is a likable figure. He is fun to talk to. He can grab anyone’s attention when he walks into a room.

When he became coach, Thomas posted an overall winning percentage of .341 as head coach, third lowest in Knicks history. Just add the three seasons at FIU and the numbers equal one thing; Thomas is not a good coach.

There is no doubt that Thomas is captivating. In any room that he stands in, the focus immediately goes to him. His smile is infectious. There is passion that burns inside of him. Even standing amongst superstars such as LeBron James and Dwyane Wade during the star-filled “South Florida Classic” basketball charity game held at U.S. Century Bank Arena, Thomas had everyone’s attention whenever he spoke.

With such a hold that he can have over people, there are not many people who can be better at the recruiting game for FIU. That does not mean he could get the X’s and O’s down. Thomas has a mentor. With that said, I was here with every intention of building the program. They gave me five years to do it. The first year they said it didn’t count. I even gave back my salary for the first year. So really I’ve been here two years. I’ve had two recruiting classes and this would’ve been my third year coming up and we were poised to do good things,” Thomas said.

Rumors continually circulated about his future in the NBA while at FIU. Despite accepting a job as a consultant for the New York Knicks in 2010, which violated NBA by-laws, Thomas reneged and stayed at FIU at the time. But now with the free time, Thomas has decided to take a break from any coaching duties.

“I’m going to take some time off and kind of digest what has just happened here,” Thomas said.

THE AFTERMATH

With Thomas out as head coach, so may a few of his former and current players at FIU. Sophomore Dominique Ferguson, who was recruited by Thomas as early as 2009, used his social media account to vent his frustration.

“[I] Came here to play for one of the most genuine people I’ve ever met and now these people let him go. I hope I can get my release now,” said Ferguson on his Twitter account. “As much stuff as he’s done for this school for FIU to do him like this, he’s done much more things that have changed our lives us as men.”

Thomas will take coaching break

ISIAH, PAGE 1

out coaches were pretty excited about the foundation we had laid here,” Thomas said. “Four out of the top 50 players in the state of Florida had already given us verbal commitments, so I’m not sure [what the decision was]. We’re all kind of stunned.”

Thomas, a hall of fame point guard, signed a five-year deal worth $1.4 million in 2009 in which he donated his first year’s salary. He was 26-65 during his three seasons at FIU, including 7-25 in his first season as head coach.

“I was fully committed to building the program here. I came here with every intention of building the program. They gave me five years to do it. The first year they said it didn’t count. I even gave back my salary for the first year. So really I’ve been here two years. I’ve had two recruiting classes and this would’ve been my third year coming up and we were poised to do good things,” Thomas said.

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Heat teammates still believe James is the MVP

TIM REYNOLDS
AP Staff

Whenever LeBron James gets asked about the NBA MVP award, he seems to answer carefully, as if to avoid any suggestion that he’s campaigning for his third trophy.

In fairness, James doesn’t have to do much lobbying.

Everyone else in the Miami Heat locker room takes care of that. And they say the James-for-MVP movement should be going strong.

Not only did the Heat win a marquee game on Wednesday night — they beat the Oklahoma City Thunder 98-93 — but James won a head-to-head matchup against the player who is generally considered to be his top competition in the MVP race.

He finished with 30 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds, while Kevin Durant had his 30-point night also marked by a career-worst nine turnovers.

Yet even after Wednesday’s game, Durant thinks it’s too early to have the conversation — and that not only did Durant miss, that’s all happened while James has dealt with injury woes like a dislocated left ring finger, an achy elbow and the aftereffects of banging his head on the court in a hard fall against Phoenix last month.

On Wednesday, James twisted his ankle falling over a videographer, winced and grabbed his back after some inadvertent contact with a referee, took what he thought was excessive contact twice while attempting dunks — getting pulled down by Russell Westbrook from behind on one of those, a play James later described as “scary” and “dangerous” — and gritted his teeth after his finger started bothering him again down the stretch.

And even shooting 37 percent, Miami still won.

“I think he’s the best two-way player in this league,” Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. “He does it in a night-in, night-out basis and he does it in a way where most teams would not ask a player to shoulder that type of responsibility. But the fact remains: He must play at an MVP level at both ends of the court for us. We’ve talked about him playing like a defensive player of the year, to defend all five positions, while at the same time playing four positions offensively.”

James’ two biggest plays against the Thunder may be ones that don’t show up in the box score.

Oklahoma City had two possessions in the final 4 minutes where it had shots for a one-point lead. James snuffed out both. He ran Westbrook down and blocked a layup with 3:49 left — ironically, it was at the same spot on the court where Westbrook grabbed him around the left shoulder and right side of his waist and sent him sprawling to the floor two quarters earlier — to preserve a 92-91 Heat edge.

Then with 1:30 remaining, the score then 94-93, Durant backed James down on the low post and tried a turnaround. Durant contested it well, so well that not only did Durant miss, but his shot bounced off the top of the backboard.

Oklahoma City didn’t score again, and James and the Heat were soon enjoying their payback win. On March 25, James was held to 17 and the Heat lost at Oklahoma City 103-87.

“A great player,” Thunder coach Scott Brooks said of James after Wednesday’s game. “You’re not going to hold down a great player often. He missed some shots the first time we played them and we made him take some tough ones. He was feeling good. His jump shot was falling and he was getting some buckets in transition.

“It’s not a stretch to say that James wants his third MVP in four seasons, and in what probably is no surprise either, Durant acknowledged before the game that he would like to win the award.

Durant thinks it’s too early to have the conversation — and when it is time, he indicated he’d be like James, saying he’d rather not tout his own merits.

“I can’t worry about that,” Durant said when asked about his own MVP candidacy. “If you worry about that type of stuff, that’s when you take your focus off the game, start doing stuff that you don’t want to do on the floor. I can’t worry about that. It’s not in my control. All I can control is how hard I work, how hard I play, and whatever else falls in line after that, we’ll see.”

The Heat say they saw plenty on Wednesday.

“Two MVP candidates, you have to want that matchups,” Heat forward Udonis Haslem said. “LeBron accepted the challenge and that’s what we expect him to do as our leader and our MVP candidate. You have to step up to the plate and that’s what he did.”

Lebron James (right) is averaging 26.9 points per game.
Italian architecture at The Frost

MARCY DIAZ
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Italy is recognized as the birthplace of world-renowned art, such as the Mona Lisa and the statue of David. However, many of Italy’s most famous works can’t be found on the walls of any museum.

The majesty of Italian architecture was the highlight of The Patricia & Phillip Frost Art Museum’s Meet & Mingle event last Wednesday night. Tied to the Meet & Mingle event is the Metrople/Colony: Africa and Italy exhibition on the second floor of the Frost museum, where guest speaker Guido Montanari discussed the history and urbanization of Italian architecture during the Fascist Era.

Built during the rise of Mussolini’s fascist Italy, these structures were a symbol of unity and Italian pride. Simplistic, symmetrical and with hints of inspiration from ancient Rome, buildings like Roma Palazzo della Civiltà Italiana were built. During the event, Montanari said that the latest Italian architecture is heavily influenced by major architects of this time. Nonetheless, Italy continues to build while carrying the traditions of its past as it continues to be a nation of poets, artists, heroes, saints, thinkers, scientists, sailors and transmigrants.

- Metropole/Colony: Africa and Italy
- In the Wolfsonian Teaching Gallery at the Frost Art Museum
- January 17, 2012 – April 15, 2012
Green Market Breads offers natural breads to FIU

Every Wednesday afternoon, there is something I look forward to more than a fresh and flavorful loaf of bread from the FIU Organic Farmers Market Consortium. But as I went to pick up my favorite flavor of bread, zucchini, the saleswoman intercepted me and said, “We’re at the Green Market Breads.” After a week of bread crumbs, I was ready for a new flavor. I asked her how she got involved with bread-making, and she claims that she “was not very satisfied for herself with the bakery products here... The taste is just different and for my opinion way too sweet.”

Also, dissatisfied with the grain and sourdough bread in U.S. markets, she started to create her own loaves and soon caught the attention of friends and mothers from her children’s school. “My friends basically convinced me that I have a talent and should offer my bread to more people. So I started to sell my bread to the Farmers Markets about three years ago.”

How long have you been baking bread for FIU and what made you want to participate in the Green Market?

At the end of last year a very nice young woman asked me at the Organic Market in Coconut Grove, where I sell my bread on Saturdays, if I would be interested in offering them to the FIU Market. I accept the offer and now have a regular table at the market.

Describe the purpose behind using your all natural ingredients.

I like to feed myself and others with the purest food, without any preservatives or additives. The fruits and vegetables I use are from local organic places like the Glaeser Farm. I like to buy fruits when they are in season to get the most flavor, for example mango for my mango bread.

How do you determine when you have the perfect tasting bread?

When I try out new recipes, my friends are my guinea pigs. When I have a flavor in mind, I try as long as it takes to get the right taste and texture. Also, my kids are good judges.

What exactly is a “Cottage Food Operation”?

A “Cottage Food Operation” is basically a production from a home based kitchen. Since July 1, 2011 the Law in Florida changed and the state allows the production of non-potentially hazardous foods (i.e. cakes, cookies, bread, etc.) prepared in a personal residence using home kitchen appliances. But I do have to observe the same regulations of proper food handling that any bakery would.

What sets your bread apart from other “green” and “natural” type market bread?

Even though my breads are considered “sweet breads,” they do not contain a lot of sugar. Instead I substitute with fruits or coconut milk or other natural organic ingredients like raisins or nuts etc. I only use fresh products, no additives or preservatives.

Which flavors are the best-selling?

It is very interesting that each market I go to has its own favorites. My customers in North Miami like the banana nut breads. But in Coconut Grove, I am selling more vegan pumpkin or blueberry banana breads.

What are the health benefits associated with consuming your products?

They have less sugar and more fruits or vegetables. I also offer vegan and gluten free products.

While last week wrapped up Green Market salessrc=’’ for the semester, you can be on the lookout for Frederique’s delicious and healthy breads fall semester for four dollars.

Ratasha Iribaren is a fitness instructor at the Recreation Center.

Beta Breakdown garners competition for good cause

Beta Breakdown is one of the most pivotal events at FIU. The whole student body coming together for a good cause makes it even more meaningful,” said senior Andres Wu, who was a candidate for the vice presidency position in SGA and majoring in liberal studies.

“It’s a great event and it’s for a good cause. If you have a late class, [the event] gives you something to do at night and it’s a great way to spend time with friends,” said Alexandra Hernandez, junior and criminal justice major. Roly Gutierrez, president of Beta Theta Pi, said, “I would like to thank everyone for coming out tonight to benefit our philanthropy for the American Cancer Society. Relay for life was able to raise $90,000. For the American Cancer Society, we are trying to help them reach their goal of $100,000.”

Betty Bruno, a staff member of the American Cancer Society and one of the five judges of the event gave a speech about their cause. “In regard to the $100,000 goal, the goal is to save lives. Helping people in need is our main concern,” said Bruno.
Barbaric phenomenon prevalent in United States

In Morocco, conservative social norms pressuring victims of rape to marry their abusers resulted in the death of 16-year-old Amina Filali, who committed suicide by swallowing rat poison. The reasoning behind the law pressuring victims to marry their rapists is twofold.

The stigmatization of rape in Moroccan culture ultimately contributes to a culture of shame for the female. Its own families, such as the case with Filali, pressure victims to marry their rapists.

Secondly, the Moroccan justice system, a system under a great deal of scrutiny because of this recent death, also pressures victims to marry so that their accusers do not have to be held accountable.

Despite the fact that Filali was raped at knife point, there was a peculiar confusion as to who should be blamed. A week after Filali’s suicide, her mother in an interview with the Associated Press said, “I had to marry her to him, because I couldn’t allow my daughter to have no future and stay unmarried.”

These statements illustrate the culture of shame surrounding being raped. Filali’s mother heartbreakingly admits that the alternative of her daughter not marrying her attacker was a bleak future.

In an interview with The New York Times, Fatima El Machrafi, a prominent employee of a non-profit organization working to provide resources to women who have been abused, said, “The aim of the law is to restore the lost honor of the victim and her family. What it does is legitimize the crime. The rapist can marry to dodge punishment. If the family doesn’t want it, the judge can impose it. The victim isn’t taken into account.”

It is because of stigmatization and a legal system that put the victim’s well-being at the forefront of their consideration of the crime that this type of atrocity has occurred. But while it seems easy for the West to imagine this phenomenon as particular barbaric and antiquated, it is worth noting that current reproductive health legislation, initiatives that seek to rescind abortion rights, is also quite barbaric and has serious potential to emotionally and physically harm women.
SCHOLARSHIP

Ceremony to honor international students’ efforts

STEPHAN USECHE
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Taking advantage of great deals while helping others is an uncommon deed.

The Multicultural Programs and Services managed to do so by organizing the ninth annual silent auction, the Scholarship Awards Global Excellence.

The fund raising reception will be taking place April 13 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Wolfe University Center ballroom at the Biscayne Bay Campus.

SAGE awards international and full-time transfer students who have shown to be hard workers, involved on campus and have a high grade point average.

The scholarship awards $1,000, $750 and $500. SAGE also provides students with assistance in paying for their tuition, textbooks and other academic expenses.

“Next year we want to reward more students,” said Lisa Zuniga, graduate assistant of MPAS. “We want to improve each year and make it bigger and bigger.”

This year MPAS will be obtaining their auctioned items from booming donors. Some of these items include Marlins tickets, a Miami Heat basketball autographed by the players, a Hilton Fort Lauderdale Beach Resort two night stay, Island Queen Cruises tickets, Fairchild Botanical Garden annual membership, PF Chang’s gift cards and Edible Arrangements gift certificates.

“This year we reached out to different donors we didn’t reach in the past,” Zuniga said.

A laid back ambiance will be transmitted by a live band, different snacks to nibble on and the silent auction.

“It’s going to be more like a reception feel, very laid back,” Zuniga said. “It’s not going to be like a sit down and eat. It will be more like a chat, walk around and bid on things.”

MPAS is expecting the support of the faculty and students.

“This event will be free for FIU students and $5 for the community. “It’s really hard to find these kind of scholarships, especially for international students,” Zuniga said.

HOLI COLOR WAR

As part of the Biscayne Bay Campus Student Programming Council’s FIU LIVE week, SPC and the Indian Student Association teamed up to host the Festival of Colors on April 5. The festivities featured a barrage of colors, foam pit, with water balloons and colored dyes flying through the air.

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY - BISCAYNE BAY CAMPUS PRESENTS

An evening with

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TICKETS ARE REQUIRED FOR ENTRANCE!
FREE FOR FIU STUDENTS, FACULTY, STAFF & ALUMNI WITH TICKETS
GENERAL PUBLIC $10 IN ADVANCE, $20 AT DOOR
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FIU-BBC INFO DESK (305) 919-5524
TICKETS FOR FIU ONLY AVAILABLE AT:
FIU-WMC CAMPUS LIFE OFFICE (305) 348-2138, (GC 2240)

Presented by the Office of Campus Life at Biscayne Bay, Division of Student Affairs. FIU/BBC. Funded by SGA. Qualified individuals with a disability requesting an accommodation in which this event must make the request no less than the working days in advance of calling 305-919-3824 or via TTY, via FIU 7-1-1 or Facilities 7-1-1. For additional event information please call 305-919-3824 or visit 2UWC, FL 01 in the Biscayne Bay Campus.