Panthers prepare for winning season

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It's time to put the last few seasons in the past. Making it to the Beef O’ Brady’s Bowl in 2011 marked the last time the football program was a fixture in their conference. After having a 8-5 record and winning a bowl the previous season, it seemed like FIU was becoming a Sun Belt Conference powerhouse.

That thought ended quickly when fan favorite Head Coach Mario Cristobal left for bigger and better things. The departure of Cristobal was bad news to the program as many were disappointed and that meant only one thing: rebuilding. The bad news didn’t end there; the program was moved to Conference USA, which on paper was a tougher conference.

The last two seasons the program had a mediocre record of 5-19. At the helm was new Head Coach Ron Turner who took on the role of leading a team back to the top of the standings. His first season was not a good first impression for fans after going a jaw dropping 1-11 on the season. Surprisingly, attendance dropped to almost 2000 fans the following season for good reason. The team was making a slow, gradual climb to try to be a competitive team during their second season in C-USA. Finishing with a 4-8 record gave a small glimpse a hope for FIU football and finally something to look forward to.

In regards to this upcoming season Turner had this on his mind when it came down to performing this year, “Just take another step”, get better, execute at a higher level more consistently and learn how to finish those close games that we were in last year that we didn’t finish.”

There are high expectations for this team as they have shown improvement little by little under Turner and are expected to finish with a 500 record at 6-6. That record could ultimately lead to a bowl game appearance.

Leading this offense is sophomore quarterback Alex McGough who is looking forward for this season and finally being the full time quarterback. “I think we all have more confidence now we are focusing on one goal, everything has been going smoother and more effective.”

SEE WINNING, PAGE 4

Parking system now virtually managed

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Students no longer have to wait in line to park on campus. The University has adopted a fully virtual parking system that does not require a physical decal nor permit renewals as of July 1.

In previous years, a physical decal, which was normally placed on the rear windshield, was needed for vehicle authorization. Now parking permits are tied to each vehicle's license plate, getting rid of decals altogether.

“We started working on this idea about a year ago,” said Mohamed Ghumrawi, parking and transportation coordinator at the University.

The University paired up with NuPark, a company responsible for designing a software that uses license plate recognition technology. “We really took our time in finding the right software company we wanted to use,” Ghumrawi said.

The new parking system automatically renews permits to returning students for their current vehicle on file and allows for easier new student and guest vehicle registration through the Parking & Transportation website.

“It's a more efficient system,” said Ghumrawi. A license plate reader vehicle moves across campus parking lots and reads each license plate with its cameras, he said.

Although the LPR system links a license plate to the system, students feel that physical decals are a more obvious way to recognize unauthorized cars.

Mario Avalos, a junior English major, took to Twitter to express his opinion, responding to a tweet by Parking & Transportation Saturday, Aug. 22 — which read: “Skip the Lines...virtual permits are easier.” Avalos responded:

SEE PARKING, PAGE 2

2015 FOOTBALL TAILGATING GUIDELINES

New tailgating guidelines for the 2015 football season have been provided to students in a University-wide e-mail Aug. 17.

To secure a space for tailgate, reservations must be made in advance with a $10 refundable fee. Notice of cancellation is required 48 hours prior to game kick-off. Reservations are on a first-come, first-served basis depending on lot/trail availability via: parking.fiu.edu/tailgating.

Designated Tailgating Lots and Trails will be accessible from 8 a.m. until two hours following the end of the game.

General tailgating areas include the Diamond Lot, Nature Trail and Panther Trail. Visitors are encouraged to park in the Blue Garage, Panther Garage or Lot Five where tailgating is not permitted.

For mid-day games four hours prior to game start, the University’s open-container waiver will be in effect. For evening games, the open-container waiver will be in effect six hours prior.

Tailgating will close down 45 minutes prior to game kick-off. FIU Police Department and Parking and Transportation personnel will walk through all tailgate areas prior to kick-off to ensure compliance.

For further questions, contact Parking and Transportation at parking.fiu.edu.
President Obama to rough it on Bear Grylls's show

President Barack Obama is going wild. NBC announced Monday that Obama will explore the Alaskan wilderness with survival expert Bear Grylls in a special episode of the docuseries “Running Wild with Bear Grylls.” The episode will be taped this week as part of the president’s three-day trip to the Last Frontier, intended to bring attention to the issue of climate change. The “Running Wild” appearance is Obama’s latest attempt to get his message out to the public using nontraditional media outlets.

Iranians hope to fill vacuum as US lowers its MidEast profile

Iran’s agreement to curb its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief by world powers was welcomed at every level of society here, but nowhere more warmly than in the foreign policy community, which foresees a big boost for the Islamic Republic’s regional role, especially as the U.S. lowers its profile. There is even gloating about what many expect to be the major spinoff from the accord _ a U.S. loss of interest in the Middle East and many conflicts, opening the way for Iran to play a leading role in the region.

Turkish warplanes hit Islamic State in Syria as part of U.S. coalition

Turkish warplanes struck seven Islamic State targets north of Aleppo, Syria, in the first Turkish contribution to a U.S. coalition to weaken the Islamic militant group’s grasp on much of eastern Syria, according to the Turkish Foreign Ministry: “Our jets started last night to carry out air operations with coalition forces against IS targets in Syria which pose a threat to our security too,” the ministry said in a statement Saturday.

SIGMA TAU DELTA INVITES EDITOR OF HARRY POTTER

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In a room filled with Hogwarts wands and circular glasses, Cheryl Klein shared her experiences on the British book novel series, “Harry Potter.”

Klein, executive editor at Arthur A. Levine Books, was invited by the English Honor Society, Sigma Tau Delta and Betsy-South Beach’s Writers for Young Readers to talk about editing and writing Friday, Aug. 28. Klein was editor for J.K. Rowling’s last two Harry Potter American editions, “Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince” and “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.”

She also edited books by Lisa Yee, author of, “Absolutely Maybe” and “Bobby the Brave (Sometimes),” and she wrote “Second Sight: An Editor Talks on Writing, Revising, and Publishing Books for Children or Young Adults.”

The event is the first in a series of four guest speakers like E.E.Charlton-Trujillo, William Alexander and Kathi Appelt. FIU’s partnership with Betsy is focused on bringing in a diverse group of writers to the University. “Hispanic, African American, [lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender]... Our series with the Betsy has made it a brand to bring exactly that kind of writer to FIU,” said James Sutton, chairperson of the English Department.

Klein said it was during her college years when she first read “Harry Potter.” She recalled being captivated by the series. She said she attended the release of the fourth book, “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire” and was the oldest “non-parent” there. Klein also said she was always drawn to literature, but mostly children’s books.

College is a great place to experiment with courses and activities you would never think you would like until you try it. “I took a marinha course when I was college,” Klein said. “Take this opportunity to both go deep within your passions and try something you don’t think you will like at all.”

Carlos Paolini said that as an English major, he can relate to Klein. “It’s more encouraging to have someone out in the real world that I can easily connect to,” said Paolini. After graduating in Minnesota with a bachelor’s in English at Carleton College, Klein took a course in publishing at the Denver Publishing Institute. She was hired as an editorial assistant at Arthur A. Levine imprint of Scholastic and worked closely with Arthur Levine. [She shows that] if you take a chance, you’re gonna end up somewhere really big,” said Chloe Gonzalez, a participant at the event.

Sigma Tau Delta hopes to expand to diverse readers, not just English students, said Alexis Lopez, a junior majoring in English and president of the English Honors Society.

Students from other majors also came to see Klein. By the time she finished her speech, they became interested beyond the realm of experiences with Harry Potter. They asked about the popularity of young adult novels and the lack of racial and ethnic diversity in writers within the genre.

“We’re trying to create events that are relevant today,” Lopez said. Editors are aware of the issue, said Klein. She said they are trying to encourage different voices to tell their narratives to reach out to more than just American readers.
Scout’s pride should extend to all

JOHN SUTIJA
Contributing Writer

"I don’t know if all Boy Scouts are gays, they could probably tie the knot in, like, fifty different ways."

Bo Burnham begins his song "I'm Bo, Yo" with those lyrics, and while it may be fun to make jokes about the Boy Scouts of America, their short shorts, wacky handshake and neckerchiefs all being prime targets, the issue of homosexuality in the organization has always been a serious one.

The issue is so big, it has its own Wikipedia page and it goes back to the organization’s founding. Over the last three years, though, the Boy Scouts of America has changed several policies.

In 2013, the decision to accept gay boys into the organization was made, and last month, gay leaders were officially allowed. Of course, just because they weren’t officially allowed to be involved does not mean they weren’t - in many troops, the influence of the central policymaking body was simply ignored. These official decisions are just concessions by BSA leadership.

Regardless of how much of a victory for LGBT+ rights this may be, it is still a victory. By officially accepting openly gay members, the BSA has become a much healthier space for Queer boys. The initial inclusion of openly gay boys in 2013 was designed to lift a burden from their shoulders. However, if you’re from where I’m from in the Midwest, that wouldn’t be enough; accepting gay boys into a community run by evangelizing conservative Christians is worse than having them play straight. It makes them targets. Now gay boys can turn to people capable of understanding them.

With these steps, the LGBT+ movement has firmly rooted itself in the BSA, and the next big step should be clear: transgender Boy Scouts.

When someone who is defined as female at birth decides to align with their innermost identity and then wants to join the Boy Scouts, what can they do? According to the BSA, go join the Girl Scouts. Akin to the exclusionary policies that kept gay boys from becoming scouts, the BSA officially does not accept transgendered individuals. However, the Girls Scouts do - gay, queer, and trans peoples are all welcome.

Less progressively minded people will argue that "girls" do not belong in the Boy Scouts. Except for the fact that these aren’t girls we’re talking about, they’re trans-boys, who are still boys. Moreover, that argument does not follow, since girls are allowed to join the Boy Scouts, and have been since 1998 when the Venture Crew program was founded.

All the framework is already in place for the Boy Scouts to reverse their stances on "non-traditional" memberships and fully become the organization they should be: welcoming all walks of life to help people realize their potential and teach them useful skills.
Panthers ready to start winning era

WINNING, PAGE 1

Last year McGough finished the season 138-274 and threw for 1,680 passing yards with 14 touchdowns. His 1,680 passing yards was ranked tenth of all-time in a single season. His 14 touchdowns is ranks number 3 of all time in a single season. He received All-Freshmen team honors in C-USA. At the end of the day it’s a “family first” mindset for the team win or lose. “First and foremost family is the most important thing and there’s accountability for the family here on the field.” That type of leadership has spread throughout the locker room to the players and it specially had an impact on the leader on the field, McGough. “We’re a team now, when you are able to look from your left and to your right and say that’s my brother, that’s what brings out in everything.”

The sole difference between last season and this upcoming season for Turner is short but to the point. “More wins.” Fingers crossed for the football team as they scratch and claw back to the top of C-USA contention.

Maxwell out, still have good depth in the backfield

The backfield took a blow two weeks ago when running back return specialist Napoleon Maxwell tore his ACL. The sophomore running back will be out the whole 2015 season. Maxwell made his mark last season as a freshman when he rushed for 254 yards with 54 carries and one touchdown. The good news is that the running backs could still be the biggest strength for the Panther offense. The backfield will be led by a one two punch rotation in sophomore Alex Gardner and fifth year senior Anthon Samuel. Both combined for 1,164 rushing yards. Alex Gardner, who received All-Freshmen honors in C-USA, is a change of pace back who can make a defender miss and can bounce inside or outside the line of scrimmage. Now at 5’11 and 192 pounds, expect the Jacksonville native to attempt to get more carries and more inside runs now that he’s gained a few pounds in muscle weight.

Anthon Samuel is the power runner and the strongest back in the group at 5’11 212 pounds. The fifth year senior finished last season with five touchdows, the majority of which were in the redzone. Samuel will return as a goal line threat or short yardage play. If all else fails there is senior back Lamarq Caldwell who also has starting experience and played in nine games last season. Silas Spearman III, even though he was redshirted last season, has plenty of game experience when he played 10 games as a true freshman in 2013. He finished that year with 132 carries for 368 yards and four touchdowns. Or maybe, just maybe we might see true freshman Anthony Jones in the backfield for a couple of package plays because of his potential as an offensive weapon he is to this fast paced offense.

Whoever is in the backfield, they are in good hands with running backs coach Tim Harris Jr. With his winning experience as a former elite high school head coach at Booker T. Washington High School, he can give his knowledge and wisdom to the young backfield.

FIU plays UCF Thursday, Sept. 3 at 7 p.m. on CBS Sports. The first home game is on Saturday, Sept 19 against North Carolina Central.
New-Look coaching staff looks to lead FIU football to new heights

Why Alex McGough will have a breakout season

FOOTBALL 2015

Quarterback Alex McGough protects the ball as he gets tackled at the FIU vs Pittsburgh game on September 26, 2015. Brian Thurston/The Beacon

McGough unexpectedly came in and played the majority of the season opener against Bethune-Cookman University, and started every game for the rest of the season.

It is very rare for any true freshman to start almost an entire season at quarterback for a Division 1 football team, especially when they enter camp as a relatively unknown longshot to win the job.

Now that McGough has gone through camp knowing with 100 percent certainty that he’d be under center from the start, I think it will allow him to feel a lot more comfortable and evolve as a quarterback and as a leader.

When I spoke to him during spring practices he seemed more confident than ever, and I think that’s a direct result of the fact that his first year is behind him and Coach Turner has publicly vouched for McGough being his starter from the beginning.

The Panthers have a very inexperienced receiving corps, but as long as they avoid major injuries there are many playmakers on the offensive side of the ball that can help McGough improve an offense that had a lot of trouble scoring a season ago.

The addition of speedy freshman wide receiver Anthony Jones gives McGough another much-needed weapon to go along with star tight end Jonnu Smith and sophomore running back Alex Gardner.

Say what you want about Alex McGough and FIU’s struggles offensively in 2014, but this season has the potential to be a drastic improvement across the board - both for McGough and the Panthers team as a whole.

To replace Conklin, FIU brought in the former Pitt defensive coordinator Matt House. House led Pitt (who are coincidentally also named the Panthers) to 26th in the country in total defense, which was slightly ahead of FIU’s 2014 ranking, but Pitt ranked just 116th in takeaways.

Now a sophomore and leader of the defense, was All-American honorable mention, the defensive line coach Lukabu will be tasked with improving on the 31 sacks that the FIU defense had last season.

Michael Wakefield and Denzel Perine (both of which were named to the 2015 Lombardi Award watch list) led the 2014 Panthers with 8 and 6.5 sacks respectively, and each of them being back for their senior campaigns will give Lukabu two reliable elements of a successful defense and as the defensive line coach Lukabu will be tasked with improving on the 31 sacks that the FIU defense had last season.

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Tem Lukabu is another new addition to the staff that will have a key task in 2015. Being able to put pressure on the opposing quarterback is one of the most important elements of a successful defense and as the defensive line coach Lukabu will be tasked with improving on the 31 sacks that the FIU defense had last season.

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All in all, FIU appears to have a lot of talent on their coaching staff that underwent many key changes during the offseason. After months of practices and camps that gave all of the new coaches an opportunity to work with their players, it’s finally time to see just how much better the FIU Panthers can be in 2015.

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The latest Korean beauty trend

Here in America, women and even men strive to be fit, toned and healthy.

Having that “bikini body” is in and more people are hitting the gym than ever. In South Korea, thin legs, a slender waist and pale skin have long dominated the ideal beauty standard, but now, women are moving away from this preference for working their bodies to emulate the “bikini body.”

So, what exactly is going on? Well, there are a few reasons why this trend is becoming the new wave in Korea. One reason is that the current trend for women to take pictures from the side to show off their defined “apple hips.” An “apple hip” is essentially when the shape of a woman’s hips down to her buttocks emulate the “apple” shape of a woman’s hips.

Many people might be quick to think that these catchy designations are nothing but mere marketing gimmicks encouraging Korean women to harshly evaluate their body and strive for changes either through a healthy lifestyle or more popularly, plastic surgery.

While there may be some truth to this, it is important and interesting to note that the Koreans are very creative with their way in communicating complex relationships of shape and balance. They are also more descriptive and in better taste than many American slang counterparts.

With more of a preference for working towards a healthy and sexy image rather than a thin and slender look, handfuls of active women with toned bodies have been receiving positive attention. The “apple hip” has even taken over the current trend with many female idols such as SISTAR and Girls’ Day striving for a healthy and sexy image. One such group, Hello Venus, even released a single titled “ Wiggle Wiggle” which talks about shaking one’s sexy butt and in one of the song’s verses, a member sings “I know you looking at my apple hip.”

Though South Korea is creative with their ideal beauty standards, it’s important to remember that everyone has their own individual body and the best way to achieve any ideal body type is one that you are comfortable and healthy in. Korean women are not exempt and it’s great to see them strive for a healthier image, but it’s not healthy to obsess over appearances and certain physics.
Why ‘Empire’ rules network TV and you should pay attention

RICK BENTLEY
TNS Staff

“Empire” caught everyone by surprise. The FOX family drama that plays out against the cutthroat world of the music industry became strong when it launched as a mid-season replacement in January. What no one expected was for the ratings to climb each week until the season finale attracted almost 17 million viewers.

It’s been a decade since a freshman series (“Grey’s Anatomy”) has ended with such high ratings.

“We all loved the show. We thought the show was great. Even when we saw it in the pilot form. I think we were all surprised that it did that well, that every single week it climbed and continued to sort of live on a trajectory that was going forward,” says Brian Grazer, an “Empire” executive producer.

Even bigger is this: It is the first one-hour network drama with a predominantly black cast to get a second season.

I think that what we were trying to do was tell a story that was universal. It happened to be in the hip-hop world,” says Daniels. “It was really based on ‘The Lion in Winter.’ It was a dynasty. It was the American dream that it’s not just about an African-American experience. Yes, I’m African-American. It’s my experience. But it’s the American dream that we were trying to tell.”

The show is using the same soap opera form that has made programs from daytime dramas to prime-time offerings, such as “Dallas” or “Knots Landing,” so successful.

These are people who live in a world of privilege, but they face the same kind of emotional trials and tribulations we do in love, adultery, sibling rivalries, greed, success, betrayal and lust.

The challenge for the show’s creative team and actors is to keep making the emotional stakes higher. Star Taraji P. Henson hasn’t seen this approach on network television in a long time.

“Primitivism” network television has been safe for so long. And I think that’s why ‘Empire’ has had the impact that it has had. It’s about something beyond just a clickbait moment and provoking a reaction of shock or indignation,” Daniels says.

“The show’s creators have put a lot of thought into its writing and production, which has led to its success.

“American Idol,” which was a hit in the 2000s because it was always the water-cooler topic the day after an episode aired. These days with social media, there’s no reason to wait until the next day to discuss the latest events on “Empire.”

The producers, directors and writers of “Empire” know immediately what fans like and don’t like about the show.
Scientists worry because coral reefs provide a habitat for the world's most diverse marine ecosystems. People are taking tons of fish, areas where there's a huge impact on the ecosystem. The trend would be the same as the Panthers 25-17, 26-24, and 25-19, in three straight sets. Castro once again helped propel the team with her match-high 18 kills and .455 hitting percentage. Katie Friesen finished with 22 assists and 15 digs and Maria McMullin had a match-high 17 digs. The Panthers forced USF to a total of 22 errors and a hitting percentage of .484 throughout the match, giving the team its second straight victory against the Bulls. Overall, the team won the event winning seven total sets, one more than both USF and UNF. With a 2-1 start to the season, the Panthers will travel to Birmingham, Alabama to partake in the UAB Tournament, a two-day event starting Friday, Sept. 4 and ending Saturday, Sept. 5. The team will face off against the University of Alabama at Birmingham, Austin Peay State University, and Savannah State University, respectively. The team will look to use its momentum it gained from the final two games of The Panthers Challenge to defeat these next opponents.

Remote volcano may hold key to Florida reefs

**JENNY STALETCHOVIC**
TNS Staff

Scientists trying to size up the toll that climate change will take on Florida reefs may have found their answer at the bottom of the ocean on the edge of southeastern Florida. In a study published in the journal Nature Climate Change, a team looked at an ancient, buried volcano near the Mariana Islands in the Pacific Ocean where carbon dioxide bubbles from the sea floor mirrors predictions for future levels of ocean acidification. The results? A real-world yachting trip. The team found hardly any living coral. They captured images using new equipment that allowed them to photograph huge swaths of sea floor up to nearly 11 yards at a time. Closest to the vents, the team found hardly any coral and the sea floor matted with algae. For the first time, researchers were able to document a complete shift from coral to algae. While a recent study found some coral might acclimate to increased levels of acidity, Enochs said near vents in Maug, where acidity occurs in amounts projected for the next century, coral did not adjust.

"It absolutely gives us a measuring stick," Enochs said. That measuring stick could help researchers better understand how much acidity reefs can tolerate and what events might hurt or help them. For example, scientists know that hurricanes can stress reefs. After Hurricane Isaac passed by Florida in 2012, Enochs said researchers recorded higher ocean acidity as sea life struggling to breathe released more carbon__like a winded runner___in the churned-up water. Likewise, some elements of the ocean can help counter rising carbon dioxide. Three years ago UM researchers found South Florida seagrass beds, like forests, absorb carbon to help protect reefs. For now, trying to place Florida reefs on the Maug measuring stick is complicated because the pollution and over-fishing that damage Florida reefs don’t stress the remote Pacific Island tract. The team is planning more research, he said, but pointed out that if a reef as pristine as Maug’s collapses at predicted levels of acidification, South Florida’s already stressed reefs will almost surely suffer.

"If a reef so far removed is still seeing collapses," Enochs said, "it casts a scary shadow on what might occur on Florida reefs."