SVA awarded at national competition

ERICSA SANTIAGO
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Thursday, Jan. 7 to Sunday, Jan. 10, members of the FIU chapter of the Student Veterans of America, a national organization dedicated to providing resources, advocacy, and support for active duty veterans and their dependents, represented the university at the SVA National Conference in Orlando FL. Over the years the SVA National Conference has grown to be a center where veterans come together to facilitate “connections between thought leaders, stakeholders and veteran advocates.”

Johnson also explained the chief conference serves as an opportunity for many Veterans to get reacclimated into society via employment fairs and internships.

One major opportunity at the conference is the annual national business plan competition. During the competition, SVA chapters from across the U.S. compete for up to $3000 in grant money for their chapter. “This is our second year competing in the competition and last year we were in the top six in the nation,” says Christopher Johnson, an Information Technology major and IT committee chair for the FIU chapter of SVA. The competition serves as a way for SVA chapters to earn large grants that could be used towards facilitating the services of SVA and further expanding SVA chapters.

Participants must present a business plan that summarizes how the chapter generates revenue, how the revenue is used and the future plans of the chapter. A budget must be included in the presentation.

The competition starts accepting plans around August of every year. This year over 100 chapters submitted their plans and the top six went on to present in front of a panel of judges. The top two competitors go on to present in front of the whole conference. From there, votes from the audience combined with ratings from the judges determine the winner.

This year, not only did SVA’s business plan earn them a spot in the finals, but they also earned second place and took home a $2750 grant for their chapter. “We can use the money to help service veterans on campus, provide resources and fellowship events,” says Johnson.

FIU SVA also plans to provide a scholarship for veterans at financial risks.

Johnson credits Amal Rosario, president of FIU SVA, and the FIU SVA team who came together to represent FIU in the business plan competition. “It’s important to understand this was done by a team of 10 people who worked really hard,” says Johnson.

He goes on to credit Rosario with organizing their participation and planning out the trip to the conference. “She’s the one who drives the train,” says Johnson. The Student Veterans of America is an organization that seeks to provide support and advocacy for active duty veterans and dependents. Johnson says that it is important for there to be an organization and safe space for student veterans because often times they have a difficult time relating to fellow students. This has to do with many of the veterans training and personal experiences, as well the fact that the vets are much older than some students and have families of their own. Johnson himself, who did three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as an Army National Guardsmen, is in his 30s and has two children of his own.

Non-veteran and dependents are encouraged to join as well. Johnson says this is because civilian students could actually benefit from learning from and getting to know FIU’s student veterans. “One of the biggest things [students can do with veterans] is talk to them. We have so much knowledge to share,” says Johnson.

Colleges across country ban hoverboards citing fire risk

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Due to fire hazard concerns caused by the hoverboards lithium-ion batteries, colleges and universities have taken action to ban the popular scooters from campus buildings. In emails and letters this month, campus officials told students who live on campus not to bring hoverboards with them after the holiday break.

The boards have been prohibited from residence halls of Campbell, Duke, East Carolina, Meredith, N.C. Central, St. Augustine’s, UNC-Chapel Hill, William Peace University and recently Florida International University.

The rules at most campuses forbids students from using, charging or storing the hoverboards in dormitories and university buildings.

Monday Jan. 11, FIU External Relations notified the student body via email explaining rules and regulations pertaining to the devices on university property. According to External Relations, hoverboards are covered by the university regulation, FIU-115; this same regulation addresses the use of skateboards, longboards, scooters, skates and other transportation devices on FIU campuses.

The FIU-115 prohibits the use of hoverboards inside any university building. Hoverboards, along with other devices mentioned in the FIU-115, may only be used on university sidewalks and crosswalks.

Many universities are concerned about the batteries in hoverboards and similar devices due to the fact they seem to be prone to spontaneous combustions, thus creating a safety and fire risk.

Similar to other the aforementioned universities, FIU’s Department of Environmental Health & Safety will be conducting a review of best practices concerning hoverboards. The report will take into consideration the results of investigations conducted by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. The bans don’t extend to private, off-campus apartment complexes, but several institutions are looking to formulate a broader campus policy governing hoverboards.

For the time being, hoverboards cannot be charged anywhere on FIU property. External Relations warns that those harboring hoverboards in campus housing must remove the hoverboards immediately, otherwise they are in violation of housing and Residential Life policy.

Universities are following the lead of major airlines that have banned hoverboards in recent weeks out of concerns about fire. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is investigating a series of incidents where hoverboards burst into flames while charging or being used.

Allan Blattner, director of UNC-CH’s Housing and Residential Life policy, says “Then of course, if the groups that are looking into their safety come back and give us the all clear, we’d love to give students the opportunity to use them - if it’s safe for everybody to do so.”

The Daily Tar Heel newspaper published a tongue-in-cheek column, suggesting alternative modes of campus transportation such as skateboards, Segways, rolling chairs and Heelys, or shoes with embedded wheels.

The ban, columnist Alexis Hinnant wrote, came as a sad surprise for students, “because I’d say after toothpaste, soap and face wash, hoverboards were a solid number four on the packing list. But now, students are just left with an empty space in their hoverboard cases of what could have been amazing bonding time with all of the cyclists on campus. As well as the unfortunate burden of actually walking to class.”

UNC’s student body president, Houston Summers, said he hadn’t heard any complaints about the new rule. He
US decries rising violence in Central America

The United States is growing increasingly concerned about rising violence in Central America even as it launches a large-scale effort to round up Central American families and deport them to their home countries.

Twice, senior U.S. officials, including President Barack Obama during his State of the Union address, have recently listed Central America as an area of concern for the coming year. Additionally, the U.S. suspended the Peace Corps program in El Salvador, citing security concerns. But the U.S. Department of Homeland Security insists it will continue to conduct immigration raids aimed at Central Americans.

Miami, possible venue for trial of ‘El Chapo’

U.S. and Mexican officials are engaged in high-level talks to determine whether Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman will be tried in Miami or New York on drug-trafficking charges following his anticipated extradition to the United States from Mexico.

Federal prosecutors in six states have filed indictments against Guzman, but the Eastern District of New York and the Southern District of Florida have overlapping cases that could be combined, and the headquarters sites of Brooklyn and Miami have emerged as the leading contenders for the sensational trial.

Venezuela’s new government threatens Chavez’s legacy

In December, voters, blaming Chavez’s United Socialist Party of Venezuela for the country’s economic crisis and soaring crime rate, gave the opposition a majority in the National Assembly, Venezuela’s legislative branch. The new lawmakers are scheduled to take power.

Many say an opposition-controlled legislature will try to remove Chavez’s successor, Nicolas Maduro, through a recall and unwind Chavez’s socialist policies by repealing laws that regulate prices and authorize the government to seize private property in almost any circumstance.

Such moves are likely to encounter opposition not just among socialist politicians but also among a sizable number of Venezuelans who still refer to Chavez as “el comandante.”

Ban on Hoverboards

said the boards don’t seem to be wildly popular at UNC, though he did see a few students zipping around campus last fall.

“They really weren’t that common on campus before the break,” Summers said. Hoverboards were a hot Christmas item until a few major retailers pulled them from shelves over safety concerns. Hospitals also reported an uptick in broken bones and other injuries related to the boards. Videos of hoverboard wipeouts have spread on the Internet, along with a video-trends Twitter account called @HoverboardFalls, which has nearly 27,000 followers.

Summers thinks the ban is a bad idea. “You don’t want students missing class and walking around campus with broken arms and everything else because they’re falling off these things -- even though I hear they are extremely easy to ride, once you get the hang of it,” he said.

BRIEFS

Alan Rickman dies at 69, Panthers mourn

The actor and director Alan Rickman died Thursday, Jan. 14 at the age of 69. He had been suffering from cancer. Rickman is known for his roles in Die Hard, Sweeney Todd and the Harry Potter franchise. Upon the news of his death, many FIU students took to social media to express their condolences and share the ways they were affected by his work.

Elementary education major, Genevieve Remy posted her thoughts on Facebook stating, “It’s not very often that an actor can jump between arenas as easily as Alan Rickman could.”

She goes on to say, “He could be so big enough so his audience could relate to him while he was on stage and he could pull it all in so he could be intimate enough with the camera.”

In reference to how close in time his death was with that of David Bowie, Remy says,”We’ve lost two immense talents this week. So sad.”

Victor Lopez, a junior public administration major, shared with student media the way in which Alan Rickman had a profound effect on his childhood.

“Alan Rickman was one of the most influential actors of my childhood. He had a way of speaking and acting that both intimidated but also brought the audience into the story.”

Lopez also expressed his admiration for the late actor’s work.

“His redeeming arc in the (Harry Potter) series is something that I hadn’t seen before and he acted the hell out of it. He could play a bad guy like no one else, from HP to Sweeney Todd. [In] Love Actually you sit there and admire his ability to express even the most minute changes in his expression and his deep booming bassoon voice only adds to that ability.”

Similar to Remy, Lopez also states “The world has lost a truly great actor today.”

Rickman was born Feb. 21, 1946 in Acton, London. Before acting in film, Rickman got his start in theater and acted in productions such as Romeo and Juliet and A View From the Bridge. Later, he would star in a variety of films, most notably as Hans Gruber in Die Hard and most recently Severus Snape in the Harry Potter franchise.

He was an active supporter of the research foundation Saving Faces and honorary president of the InternationalPiacth Trust, a charity that works to fight poverty amongst performing artists around the world.

Aug. 15 Rickman suffered a minor stroke which led to the diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. His diagnosis was kept private. Rickman died in London, in the company of his friends and family.
**Wolfsonian-FIU offers free tours**

**Leslie Ovalle**

Every Friday until Feb. 19, the Wolfsonian-FIU will be offering free guided tours from 6 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. Tours vary from week to week depending on the tour leader, who chooses specific exhibits or collections to concentrate on. This week, on Jan. 22, one of the museum’s curators, Silvia Barisone, will be leading the tour.

She will be focusing on the permanent collection, found on the 5th floor, and the special exhibition, “Philodendron: From Pan-Latin Exotic to American Modern,” found on the 7th floor.

Meg Floryan, the museum’s communications manager, recommends the museum’s permanent collection, “Art and Design in the Modern Age: Selections From The Wolfsonian Collection.” According to her, these exhibits are often the key component of the museum’s permanent exhibition.

The tours are free and open to all ages. Everyone is encouraged to attend and explore the museum’s permanent and temporary exhibitions.

For more information about the Wolfsonian-FIU’s collections and free guided tours contact the museum.

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**Garage band Hinds releases debut LP**

**Emily Afre**


Hinds serves sunny and surf-tinged, garage rock with a twist. The band is composed of four girls who play guitar, bass, drums and keyboard, creating a sound that is both raw and refined. Their music is a reflection of their youth and their passion for music. Their sound is a mix of 80s punk and 90salternative rock, with influences from bands like The Ramones and Sonic Youth.

On their debut album, the band explores themes of relationships, heartbreak and self-discovery. Their lyrics are honest and raw, reflecting their personal experiences and emotions. The album is a collection of 10 songs, each with its own unique feel, ranging from fast-paced rock songs to slow, introspective ballads.

The album has been well-received by critics and fans alike, with many praising the band’s raw energy and catchy melodies. The band’s sound has been compared to other garage bands of the past, such as The Ramones and The Velvet Underground, with a modern twist.

Overall, “Leave Me Alone” is a strong debut album that showcases the talent and creativity of Hinds. The band’s sound is unique and refreshing, making them a band to watch in the world of garage rock. Their music is a reminder that in a world of digital music, there is still a place for raw, honest, and passionate music.
Nihat's secret to flat abs and muscles

**Nihat Strider**

**SDA Health**

Whether you love it or hate it, broccoli is the superhero of superfoods. There doesn’t seem to be a middle ground for this dark green vegetable. So why should people learn to love broccoli? The nutrients packed in broccoli may prevent chronic disease, support energy production, elevate mood, and make the skin glow.

The reason broccoli is held in contempt may be due to human development in the earlier days of human existence, people associated bitter tastes with poison, which often resulted in illness and even death. Why would anyone associate broccoli with poison? According to the website, “World’s Healthiest Food,” the phytochemical known as isothiocyanate imparts a bitter flavor in the vegetable and trying to get kids to eat broccoli can be a challenge because of this bitter taste, and off-putting dark green color.

When my daughter, Emily, was little, she loved to watch “The Powerpuff Girls,” an animated show that, in one episode, portrayed broccoli as evil aliens invading the earth and enslaving all the parents. To free the parents, the children had to eat the broccoli and I thought this to be the best example of the love/hate relationship people have with this cruciferous vegetable.

To find out how to help incorporate more vegetables into family meals, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics’ website for kids has some great tips including hiding it in wraps or pizza, “Stendizerize” it into a superhero drink, combine it into one a dish casserole. What the kids don’t know won’t kill them and may keep them healthy for life.

It’s so important for everyone to get a good helping of broccoli every week. Broccoli, packed with powerful nutrients, such as riboflavin, folate and vitamin A, B6, C and K, support the health of every part of the body, from the inside out. Instead of considering it a villain broccoli should be viewed as the superhero of the vegetable universe.

All of these nutrients support the body in different ways. The most abundant nutrient found in broccoli is vitamin K. For understanding and preventing osteoporosis later in life.

The next most abundant nutrient includes vitamin C, often associated with preventing the common cold. The truth is, vitamin C does so much more, not only do the nutrients in broccoli act as an antioxidant, but it also helps the body absorb iron from meat, build healthy skin through the synthesis of collagen, and it converts the amino acid tryptophan into serotonin (the happy hormone).

One of the most important reasons for consuming broccoli is to prevent chronic disease. It is one of the leading causes of illness, and death in individuals throughout the lifecycle. Conditions such as arthritis, hypertension, osteoporosis, depression and cancer are all linked to a chronic inflammatory response in the body. In other words, the body attacks itself.

The antioxidant properties of vitamin C, combined with the anti-inflammatory, and energy promoting properties of riboflavin, as well as the phytonutrient isothiocyanate, can help reduce inflammation in the body and therefore alleviating all symptoms.

Broccoli is easy to work with and provides so many health benefits and it has all the nutrients that support the body in different ways. It can improve vision, reduce oxidative stress that causes cardiovascular disease, build healthy bones and radiant skin, keeps the brain happy and alert, burns carbohydrates and keeps the metabolism working efficiently. If you want to be at the top of your game, physically and mentally, broccoli offers the best bang per calorie.

Eat Broccoli, stay happy, healthy and young.

**SDA Health** is a weekly column written by members of the Student Dietetic Association. The column focuses on healthy eating and living. For more commentary or to suggest a topic email life@fiusm.com

**Tree of life: broccoli is the superhero of super foods**

**Weekly Events: Jan. 20-22**

**Wednesday, Jan. 20**

**Thursdays, Jan. 21**

**Fridays, Jan. 22**

**Motivation Monday**

LAURA PARISEAU

**SDA Health**

Wednesday, January 20, 2016

**The Beacon**

**5fiusm.com**

**LIFE!**

**The Beacon**

**Wednesday, January 20, 2016**

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**Nihat's secret to flat abs and muscles**

**Motivation Monday**

"Abs! How do I get abs?"

That is the primary question I get asked as a Trainer. And, well, the talk is simple; however, the walk is a bit tougher. The key is consistency in performance.

We all have abdominal muscles, it’s just the matter transforming them into the desired, tonified and defined muscles. Abdominal muscles work just like any other muscle of your body, strenuous exercise will cause it to be fatigued.

First, the plank—an exercise performed on a flat surface, forearms planted flat on the ground, face facing the floor, legs spread out at shoulder’s length, knees and flat back in the air. This is an integral exercise for the formation of abs. The amount of balance needed will keep your core super tight. At the beginning this exercise can be quite challenging, performing it in a series of short-timed intervals is best.

I recommend starting with three sets of 30 seconds. As you get stronger up your time—one minute! two minutes!

Here is one, of the many, big misconception about abs: being skinny is having abs. Solely dropping weight will not make your abs appear. More than abs you will see ribs. The same goes for a toned butt, you cannot achieve it by running all day, you will need to squat and do proper, muscle-building workouts.

Yes, it is true, abs are made in the kitchen! It is 30% workout and 70% nutritional diet. You can workout everyday but you will never see results if you have bad eating habits.

One myth is eliminating carbohydrates completely. Omitting carbs fully from your diet will only cause weakness in your body. Especially for a very active person, who goes to the gym regularly or even likes running, then your body needs carbohydrates for energy.

The smart option is choosing healthy carbs instead of the unhealthy ones. You can substitute all of the refined grains, like white rice, bread, pasta, etc., for whole wheat grains.

The most important factor is portion control. Just because it is healthy foods, that does not mean you should go and feast every single meal. To achieve and maintain your abs, you must have a very clean diet. Stay away from fried foods and sugary drinks.

Protein intake is very important when you are regularly working out. Fiber is a vital nutrition for your abs! Increasing fiber intake along with your ab exercises will help you form those abs faster.

Genes definitely play a role, some people might have a much easier time to form abs than others. However, despite genes, abs can be achieved by anyone. For example, imagine someone who has a natural talent of playing beautiful guitar tunes. However, if you practice with determination, it is possible for you to be great at guitar as well.

With healthy eating habits, portion control and proper exercises you too can walk around Miami beach showing off your abs.

If you do not see results after vigorous workouts and clean diet, you might have a layer of fat on top of your abs. This means your abs exist but it is just hidden under a small layer of fat. You must perform cardiovascular exercises to get your heart rate up and shred off that layer of fat.

Then you will see those abs form just like the celebrity fitness models. Now go get those ABS!

Motivation Monday is a weekly column covering fitness and health. Nihat is a certified personal trainer, for comments or questions please email life@fiusm.com
After watching the Panthers down the Louisiana Tech University Bulldogs in outstanding fashion, perhaps we should begin to ask: is 2016 the year of the Panther?

Everything went right for the FIU men’s basketball team (9-8, 3-1 in Conference USA) in their 88-74 win over LA Tech. Junior guard Donte McGill went on a tear, scoring a game-high 29 points on 10-18 shooting. Senior forward Davion Draper was able to cook up offense whenever the team began to stall - he finished with 18 points on 8-13 shooting. Center Adrian Diaz was able to play a team-high 36 minutes because he didn’t pick up a single foul in the first half.

“We talk about having the same type of effort every game that we play,” head coach Anthony Evans said. “It’s just a matter of going out and doing it consistently.”

FIU barraged the Bulldogs, crushing their press and confusing their coaches. They took the lead from the tip and never looked back, as if nobody told them that they were up against a 13-3 team with the conference’s most dangerous offense.

In this game, it was the Panthers’ performed better in all offensive categories than in past games. They shot 56.9 percent from the field and 50 percent from behind the arc. They passed good shots up for great shots. Many of FIU’s opportunities on offense revolved around the extra attention the Bulldogs paid to Diaz.

“When [Diaz] is not in foul trouble, we can throw the ball into him because teams have to double down and he’s going to create offense for other people,” said Evans.

Defensively, FIU held its own. Louisiana Tech is not the kind of program that often gets “shut down.” Going into the contest, the Panthers were either tied or in sole possession of the lead through the entire game. They gained it early thanks to McGill, who was 5-6 from the field with 12 points before the first half was even halfway over. LA Tech put a full court press on FIU early on, but retired the strategy after the Panthers routinely avoided the pressure. Junior guard Jason Boswell was also knocking down shots in the first half and helped space the floor - he ended with 11 points, adding 2 assists, 2 steals and a block. As FIU began to pull away, Evans kept the pressure on the Bulldogs and put in junior forward Elmo Stephen, who sank two triples with ease. At the half, FIU was on top 52-41.

Although his team had an 11 point lead, anybody who knows C-USA knows that FIU couldn’t afford to cruise through the rest of the game and expect LA Tech to give up. FIU knew it too, and continued to look for quality shots. Although Diaz only finished with 11 points, he proved his worth yet again in the second half, drawing defenders underneath to create open looks. Defensively, FIU performed even better in the second half, forcing LA Tech to shoot 38.7 percent. The Panthers improved their all-time record against the Bulldogs to 4-5.

Next up for the Panthers is a home game on Saturday, Jan. 16, against the University of Southern Mississippi Golden Eagles.
Freshmen dominate Clemson Tigers

PETER HOLLAND JR.  
Staff Writer  
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CORNER KICKS

GIANCARLO NAVAS

The Panthers’ track and field team traveled to  
Clemson, South Carolina Saturday, Jan. 9, for  
the Orange and Purple Classic. They showed their  
dominance throughout the day as 11 total Panthers  
finished in the top three and 38 in the top eight.  

Starting on the women’s side, two freshmen stood  
out during the high jump. Clarissa Cutliff came in  
first-place, recording a personal-best of 1.75m,  
which was a season-best for her high school track.  
Following her was Kenfolo Attilus, who jumped a personal-best 1.70m. This was her personal record, which resulted her in finishing in second place.  

On the weight throw, junior Chandra Fullwood threw a personal-best 17.57m, finishing in second place. On the shot  

put, Fullwood finished with a season-best 11.37m  
mark. She finished in sixth place.  

On the track, the Panthers finished in  
third, fourth and third in the 200 meter dash.  

Starting with freshman Sidnee Wilkerson, the  
Jacksonville native ran a 2:14.14 for a season-best  
mark. Coming from behind was returning seniors Cam’ree Jackson (25.70) and Shaniece King (25.85).  

On the 4x400 relay meter, freshman Kayla  
Woulard, senior Jaylaan Slaughter, sophomores  
Shaquita Smith and Sharniece King finished in  
third place overall.  

The Croatian native finished in first place by  
Cariić with a 1:55.73. Following behind was Senior Brandon Slaughter with a time of  
1:56.20. Ballard finished in second place. In the  
5k, freshman Ronny Greenup took out as well, finishing  
first place with a time of  
16:07.38, giving the Panthers another first place sweep performance.  

The Panthers next meet will be on Friday, Feb. 5. They will be traveling to New York City to compete in the Armory Track Invitational. This will be their third indoor meet of the season. Here are the res  
schedule of the season.

SPORTS

Built to fail: David Beckham’s nightmare

Major League Soccer is at last  
set to return to South  
Florida. After a  
constant will  
there won’t be a  
television announcement of its new  
home. When and where the stadium will be  
announced is anybody’s guess.  

Dave Beckhams United  
plans for an indoor stadium.  

The reason why this is such a  
problem is evident and David  
Beckham thinking?  

At the very least, there will be  
canopy to protect fans from the  
sun, but as of now there are no  
plans for an indoor stadium.  

The lack of a parking garage is astounding, but also under  
standable. The Beckham group wanted a downtown location  
and after failing several times it looked they might have use to use  
an area near Marlins Park in little Havana. So when the Over  
town location became available  
for the Beckham group to take over.  

So now we face the prospect  
of a team, in a not so great neigh  
borough that fans will have to  
walk through to get to a game.  

The reason why this is such a  
failure is because this market is  
awful. A large part of Miami soul. In the past  
few years, Miami has been host to many inter  
national soccer matches between clubs and national teams alike.  

Sports is a large part of Miami soul. In the past  
many years, Miami has been  
known as a treat to the local fans  
who are fans of Colombian soccer who  
be a treat to the local fans  

kind of culture — even the fans  
that used to walk in their country,  
they’ve gotten used to their cars.”  

How do you think it will  
work?  

Even Miami Mayor Tomas  
Regalado felt that the notion of  
what Beckham is thinking?  

“I don’t think there is that  
close to 100%, I think there is more  
kind of culture — even the fans  
that used to walk in their country,  
they’ve gotten used to their cars.”  

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who are fans of Colombian soccer who  
be a treat to the local fans  

One of the reasons for this  
problem is that Miami is not a  

But if the team moves what  
will the group do with the  
stadium? Because it is no bigger  
than the FIU stadium, it is an  
easy to lease to UM or lower divi  
sion soccer clubs like the Fort  
Lauderdale Strikers or the new  
North American Soccer League club Miami FC.  

This investment is full proof.  

If the team succeeds, great.  

David Beckham has brought his MLS  
team to one of this world’s  
marquee cities, and if it fails he  
and his group have options to  
still walk away with money. It’s  
awful future.  

Corner Kicks is a monthly  
column about professional  
soccer. To offer commen  
tary, email Giancarlo Navas at  
giancarlo.navas@fium.com

Representatives from Colombian national soccer league gathered Tuesday, Jan. 12,  

COLOMBIAN PROS BRING TALENTS TO FIU

SERGIO SALAZAR  
Contributing Writer  
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On Wednesday, Jan. 13,  
and Saturday, Jan. 16, the  
FIU stadium hosted a total  
of four soccer matches between  
the professional Colum  
bian soccer league, Liga  
Postobon. The teams, who  
are only just beginning their  
respective preseason, are Deportiv  
Olimpia; Deportivo Cali; America  
De Cali; Deportivo Independiente  
De Medellin; and the reigning Liga Postobon  
champion Atletico Nacional.  

Sports is a large part of Miami soul. In the past  
many years, Miami has been host to many inter  
national friendships between clubs and national teams alike.  

The craving for soccer  
events like these come into play.  

On the 16th, the Panthers will see  
Deportivo Cali and America De Cali  
face each other in what  
in another bitter rivalry match known as “el clasico paiza”. Both teams from  
Medellin play in the same  
Madison Square Garden, home of the New York  
Lakers and the Los Angeles Clippers.  

Although all teams are  
only at the beginning of  
their training camps and trying to compose a  
squad for the next season, the  
tension was palpable when asked if the clasicos  
Saturday would mean more than a  
preseason matchup. Several of the representatives from the teams  
mentioned that, aside from being a great opportu  

Colombian pros bring talents to FIU

Student support will bring in domestic athletes

A look at many of the FIU sport’s rosters will illustrate a difficulty that many coaches have continually expressed: Florida athletes aren’t very likely to pledge to the Panthers.

In fact, back when flat-tops ran the court, FIU’s men’s basketball coaches used to snip bitterly that they could recruit in Detroit easier than they could in Miami-Dade County.

“We have a better chance to get a higher level of kid internationally than we do domestically,” FIU swimming and diving Head Coach Randy Horner said.

The problem is, many domestic players opt for bigger named schools, especially our “big brother” to the southeast, University of Miami.

FIU men’s soccer Head Coach Scott Calabrese agreed. Calabrese thought FIU could compete for top international players with Promethean programs such as North Carolina or UCLA.

“That probably more the case than with the domestic players, who have a better sense of the pecking order of the major programs like a UNC or UCLA or a mid-major program like FIU,” he said.

Women’s sports such as tennis, golf and sand volleyball all need more student visas than Sun Passes. Former women’s basketball Head Coach Cindy Russo beat almost everybody but McDonald’s into Eastern Europe once it opened up in the early 1990s and the roster still reflects it - five from Florida and four international, including second-leading scorer Janka Hegedus of Hungary.

FIU might have the only swimming and diving team that got pulled out to draw fans to a football game and a season-opening basketball doubleheader. The squad always ranks among FIU’s top teams academically and brought home the University’s first Conference USA team championship in any sport last February. Last Friday Jan. 8, FIU edged No. 44 University of Kansas in a three-way meet.

(Also, no team supports its fellow athletes more – swimmers were half the student section at last week’s women’s basketball near-huge upset of Western Kentucky.) 17 of the 25 team members come from outside the United States. Six of the remaining eight are from Florida. Foreign-born swimmers hold all of FIU’s individual records.

While it can be argued that the reason that FIU has more clout internationally than domestically is because we are somewhat disadvantaged due to our location and Miami is a really well-known city everywhere, the same can be said for why a US born athlete would want to attend.

Yes, climate and location is a huge advantage for us, but the truth of the matter is that FIU simply doesn’t have.

The whole of the pecking order is based on big boys, that can hang with Bama, Ole Miss, UF and UM. Students and athletes want to attend a university that is known, but all of that comes from putting in work.

If we continue to refuse to support the team, the players will continue to leave once they capture the attention of a more advantageous school, our coaches will continue going overseas to bring in talent that is unaware of the pecking order.

We’re at the bottom of the totem pole not because of questionable administration decisions, but because we don’t support our athletics department the way favored schools do. As long as we continue to play ourselves, we’ll never get the major keys to success.

FIU is capable of greatness and drawing in local talent, but we’ve got to give our athletes and potential recruits a reason to want to be great and attend, other than to leave for greener pastures.

The Shade Locker is a weekly column offering commentary on various sports topics. The Shade Locker is published each Wednesday. To send suggestions or thoughts, email Cayla at cayla.bush@fiusm.com