



Volleyball off to historic start



NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

After a pair of home wins on February 1 against the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Greenville University, the Wabash volleyball team has jumped out to an impressive 5-0 start to the season. This marks the best start in the program's existence as the team continues to develop a name for itself in Division III volleyball.

"The weekend went well as we held our undefeated record against some tough teams, especially Stevens Point," said Graham Volk '28. "It was definitely more difficult than expected since our starting opposite Patrick Volk '26 came down with the flu this past Thursday."

The absence of their starting right side required the Little Giants to adjust. In his absence, an opportunity arose for younger players, including Graham, to take to the court.

"Although I'm usually a setter, I have a lot of experience playing right side in both club and high school," said Volk. "So when my coach asked me to step in for Pat, I was stoked. It was awesome to play with the starting lineup to contribute to our team's success."

Though the freshman performed well over the weekend, the team knew that a successful weekend would require increased efforts across the board.

"I think our outsides and setter really stepped up this weekend to make up for Pat being gone," said

Volk. "It was clear that we weren't at full strength, and those guys really stepped up their games and showed that we are a serious threat this year."

The volleyball team has continued to improve year after year. This year's larger roster full of talented players has continued to build by pushing each other and competing more often. One of the standout stars of this year's team, Bawibawi Thang '27, stepped up in a big

way during the two-game road stretch by netting 55 kills, which earned him the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League (MCVL) Offensive Player of the Week.

"Being prepared mentally has been a huge contributor to my success," said Thang. "This year I've been focusing on bettering how I control my game to improve the team overall. I've put in a lot of work in the weight room with Coach Dominguez and a lot of reps with my teammates outside of practice which has helped my game out a lot."

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PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Wabash students bring research to Carnegie Museum

Features lesser-known historical figures from Civil Rights Movement

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
FEATURES EDITOR

As we enter the first week of Black History Month this February, which has been a congressionally-designated month of celebration since 1986 but has roots going back more than 100 years, many members of the Wabash community will celebrate, learn and experience Black History in a new way, taking the chance to enrich their lives with history that has often been underrepresented and even suppressed in some schools. But some Wabash students will participate in Black History Month as teachers, not only students.

Men from Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman's "Politics of the Civil Rights Movement" course this fall created an exhibit for Crawfordsville's Carnegie Museum that features Black civil rights leaders and pays testament to their roles in the movement. The exhibit opened Saturday, February 2 and will run for the entire month of February.

While an exhibit created by students may appear to be completely out of the ordinary, the concept actually sprang out of previously-planned coursework. Gelbman had her class engage in a simulation where each student portrayed an attendee at a 1965 meeting of civil rights leaders that helped direct the course of

the movement. Students prepared for the mock-meeting by researching about their character's background, life and beliefs, and then sought to apply the persona of their character to their interactions with classmates' characters.

Seeking a way to share her students' work with a broader audience, Gelbman sought out Leann Parrish, the College's community partnerships coordinator, who put her in touch with Janna Bennett, the Carnegie Museum's curator, and they worked together with students and museum staff to make the vision of a student-research exhibit possible.

"They also had very different personalities and ideas for how to achieve change, and I think there's a lesson in that."

- Professor of Political Science Shamira Gelbman

On a recent episode of the "Crawfordsville Connection" podcast, Gelbman spoke about how one of the main purposes of not only the exhibit but the whole class was to educate people about lesser-known figures in the Civil Rights Movement.

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O'Bannon Grant recipients at risk

Financial Aid Office prepares for proposed state budget cuts that could impact over 150 students

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

State financial aid in the state of Indiana is set to change soon — and not in favor of students. January 8 marked the first day of Indiana's 2025 budget writing session, and the docket includes cuts to the Frank O'Bannon Grants. The proposed cuts would be capable of impacting over 150 Wabash students, along with approximately 30,000 other recipients across the state. However, the Wabash Financial Aid Offices have already begun preparations for the potential storm — a luxury they haven't had in the past.

"It's a bit unnerving," said Dean for Enrollment Management and Director of Admissions Chip Timmons '96. "[The cuts] are going to impact the students with the greatest need on this campus and others across the state of Indiana. We're going to have changes moving forward, but we can adjust for that."

But with uncertainty being at the forefront of the cuts, the office of Financial Aid has decided to begin preparing with the expectation that the cuts will go through when the Indiana state budget is passed in about four months.

"We're working under the assumption that this is the final answer," said Interim Director of Financial Aid Laura Frye. "We continue to work with our lobbyists, but we're working under the assumption that the cuts are a done deal."

Accepting the reality of the budget cuts may be unnerving to students — particularly those directly impacted by it — but Wabash students can do their own part to help those impacted most by the cuts.

"The deadline to file the FAFSA [Free Application for Federal Student Aid] for state grant recipients is April 15, but it is imperative that students file now," said Frye. "We need a critical mass of data not only to ensure that students qualify, but to analyze where we're

going to be sitting [financially]."

Financial aid data is critical for the Financial Aid Office's response to the proposed cuts. Having data allows them to run accurate predictions on how Wabash students might be impacted — and the sooner they can make predictions, the better the financial aid fortifications.

While the Financial Aid Office is focused on overcoming the proposed cuts, the admissions office is in a state of business as usual, because their usual has been unusual for the past four years.

"I think we are well positioned to be able to weather the storm. We continually weather storms every year."

- Interim Director of Financial Aid Laura Frye

"I don't think [the cuts] will be a roadblock for [admissions]," said Timmons. "Every recruiting year for the last four years has been covered with uncertainty — pandemic, FAFSA not coming out on time, state grant cuts. We're small enough and well resourced enough to manage through crises like this."

So while the Admissions Office is used to boarding up the hatches, the Financial Aid Office is still in a state of uncertainty. Without data, they are unable to make accurate predictions just yet. But the resources at their disposal have their confidence in finding a solution to the proposed cuts high.

"I think we are well positioned to be able to weather the storm," said Frye. "We continually weather storms every year. I think we will be fine."

Students that are Indiana residents are encouraged to fill out their FAFSA application as soon as possible. The deadline for state grant recipients is April 15.

Student Wellness Center: Making a mark on campus



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Students participate in the Mental Health Mile on September 19, 2024, one of many successful events put on by the Student Wellness Center in the 2024 - 2025 school year.

ASHTON MOORE '25
STAFF WRITER

The Wellness Center has been firing on all cylinders recently, leaving a much larger impact on campus than one might think for a building tucked away in the shadow of the Allen Center. The "Right to Be" presentation on February 2 marks the most recent in a slew of events that the Wabash College Wellness Center has set up to better student and faculty wellness on campus. Along with making QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) suicide prevention training a popular and common institution on campus, Tristen Myers and company have become a notable force on campus.

"Immediate goals are to continue building with the momentum we have going now. We are always looking to gain insight and feedback from students as to what they want to see out of wellness and what they feel like is needed."

- Student Development & Wellness Coordinator Tristen Myers

Men, as a whole, have a reputation for not taking care of themselves as well as they should. College-aged men, specifically, are on a different planet in terms of inability. As such,

it might seem that the Wellness Center would spend all of its time plugging holes in the boat, specifically working to help students most at-risk. However, the surplus of events showcase that the Wellness Center is thriving and also focused on increasing campus knowledge surrounding wellness as a whole.

These events are far from being just for show. According to QPR, on a national scale, for every 13 gatekeepers (people trained in QPR), there is a referral. But in a campus environment that is tightly-woven together like Wabash, the question of QPRs outreach is ever relevant.

"Every semester we're training about 50 to 80 individuals," said Myers. "We've planned to offer a minimum of two QPR training sessions per semester, but most semesters I think we're offer-

ing four to five based on interest. Student organizations have requested me to do QPR training specifically for them. I've done QPR for the MXI, Sphinx Club and also some fraternities that requested it."

Myers' statement highlights how vital campus and student engagement is for the Wellness Center to thrive. Seeing student organizations be so active in promoting wellness should reassure students that wellness is becoming interwoven with the fabric of student life at Wabash. Another example of this student engagement is the popularity of the Mental Health Mile, something that had only gained steam year after year.

"Another event that's working well is the Mental Health Mile," said Myers. "Immediate goals are to continue building with the momentum we have going now. We are always looking to gain insight and feedback from students as to what they want to see out of wellness and what they feel like is needed."

One of the main bridges between the Wellness Center and Wabash is through the Peer Health Educator cohort. While the word "wellness" might invoke a focus on mental health, the Peer Health Educators showcase the more holistic approach to improving the lives of students on campus.

"Our overall goal is to promote wellness strategies and educate on general health and provide resources so that people can live healthier lives," said Peer Health Educator Andrew Weeks '27. "I've been really excited about promoting wellness to others and helping other people out."

Weeks, through the Wellness Center, will be running February's focus on occupational health, and wishes to see more engagement through striking a cord with Wabash men's competitive spirits. Weeks is an active part of the Wellness Center as a sophomore and shows no signs of slowing down in his passion for helping out his fellow Wabash men.

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Wabash students bring research to Carnegie Museum

CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERS

The research of Wabash College:
The Politics of the Civil Rights Movement class

FEBRUARY 1 - 28, 2025

Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County

Wabash.

COURTESY OF THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Civil Rights Leaders exhibit will be open from February 1, 2025, until February 28, 2025, at the Carnegie Museum of Montgomery County in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

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"I think we all learn a little bit about the Civil Rights Movement in school," said Gelbman. "Everyone has some familiarity with the big names, the big places, the big events that happened and this course is an opportunity to say, 'we know these three sentences about the Civil Rights Movement, but what if we dig deeper?'"

Part of digging deeper into the Civil Rights Movement was understanding that it was a convergent movement, not just a campaign made up of a single group or type of person. It encompassed parts of the labor and economic freedom movements of the same period, and a wide array of leaders with different backgrounds, from professional baseball players to clergy to academics. Seeing how all those people and platforms united, and then dispersed, was one of the highlights for students.

"And just as much as the Civil Rights Movement was intersectional coming into the flash point of the early to mid 60s, we also saw that intersectionality branch out afterwards into all of these people's life work," said Hutch Norris '27, a student in the course. "They went in a million different directions, but all really in an effort to support the American people."

On top of students' deeper understanding of the nuances and variety of leaders involved in the Civil Rights Movement, Gelbman also thinks there was a more general lesson that was learned by her students — one that the audience who views the exhibit at the Carnegie Museum can also learn.

"While all of these individuals played an active role in Civil Rights Movement planning and knew each other through that work, they were very different otherwise — they were different ages, grew up in different places and had different types of 'day jobs,'" said Gelbman. "They also had very different personalities and ideas for how to achieve change, and I think there's a lesson in that: everyone can find what they as an individual bring to the table as far as interests, ideas, skills and talents are concerned, and great things can be achieved when such different people join forces."

The story of the Civil Rights Movement can be described in innumerable fashions, but it is perhaps most of all a story of how the gathering of forces achieved a great thing.

The Carnegie Museum is open from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. The exhibit, "Civil Rights Leaders: The Research of Wabash College Students," will run until February 28.



COURTESY OF THE CARNEGIE MUSEUM OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

The Civil Rights Leaders features lesser-known figures from the Civil Rights Movement.

News around the world

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27
STAFF WRITER

United States, Canada, Mexico and China

Given authority from the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, President Donald J. Trump signed multiple executive orders to enact powerful tariffs on imports from Canada, Mexico and China on February 1. The White House's stated goal for the tariffs are to stop the illegal immigration and drug smuggling coming into the United States from the three countries. In particular, one of the current administration's goals is to stop the inflow of fentanyl coming into the country, in which a majority of the drug comes from the northern and southern borders of the United States.

The executive orders will implement a 25% tariff on imports from Canada and Mexico, along with a 10% additional tariff on imports from China. Trump's orders sent much of the world into fear because of the possible trade war. Wall Street panicked on the morning of February 3, with the Dow Jones Industrial Average falling 122 points. However, after Canada and Mexico pledged to increase border security, Trump agreed on February 3 to pause the tariffs — an act mirrored by Canada and Mexico with their retaliatory tariffs. To ensure a pause in the trade war, the Mexican government is sending 10,000 National Guardsmen to the border to help alleviate both illegal immigration and drug trafficking.

Despite compromises in North America, China is still under attack by Trump's orders. On February 4, China announced that they would be countering the United States with tariffs of 15% on imports such as coal, liquified natural gas, crude oil, agricultural machinery and large-displacement cars. China is also responding to the American tariffs by investigating Google on suspicion of the company violating anti-trust laws in China. As tensions in North America temporarily cool, China and the United States seem to be locked in the start of a trade war that could affect both countries negatively.



COURTESY OF FORBES

President Donald J. Trump speaks with reporters on January 30, 2025, in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C.

Sweden

10 people were killed in a shooting at an adult education center in Örebro, Sweden. The school, Campus Risbergiska, offered primary and upper secondary courses for students over the age of 20. The damage done in the school was so intense that the authorities say that fatalities could be higher than what was reported. The shooting was a shock to Swedes and the rest of Europe, as gun violence is very rare in Sweden. In most cases, violence in schools is often committed with melee weapons such as knives or axes. Authorities speculate that the gunman acted alone and that

terrorism was not a factor. After raiding the gunman's home, the police were unable to identify any motives or warning signs. Swedish King, Carl XVI Gustaf, praised the response by the police and medical personnel that arrived on the scene.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Police officers walk near the scene of the shooting on February 5, 2025, in Örebro, Sweden.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

January 28 marked the most recent campaign made by the Rwandan-backed rebel group, M23, as they advanced through the eastern parts of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and captured the city of Goma. Civilians evacuated Goma to escape the violence, with some fleeing to the countryside and others trying to cross the border into Rwanda. M23 has been fighting for portions of the DRC for over 10 years. Goma, an urban center of the DRC that borders Rwanda, is now the site where M23 plans to set up a new government administration. The conflict between the two powers in the region originates back into decades of conflict between the ethnic groups of the Tutsis and Hutus. M23 claims that their purpose is to defend ethnic Tutsis in the DRC. Rwanda is backing this effort as the Rwandans claim that Tutsis are being persecuted by the Hutus in the DRC. Despite the violence, both sides are trying to prevent another genocide such as the one that happened in Rwanda in 1994. Due to the violence committed in 1994, many Hutus had fled Rwanda to the DRC. The DRC's rich mineral deposits are also a reason for the conflict, as both sides want to control the resource rich region that is worth \$24 trillion.

While M23 and DRC forces are the main stakeholders in the fight, multiple other factions are involved in the conflict as well. It is believed that thousands of Rwandan troops are fighting alongside the M23. As Goma fell, M23 captured Romanian mercenaries that were fighting with the DRC's forces. M23 had previously planned to take the conflict to the capital, but now has declared a ceasefire with the government as of February 3.



COURTESY OF REUTERS

Members of the rebel group, M23, look for new recruits on January 30, 2025, in Goma, Democratic Republic of the Congo.



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Student Wellness Center

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"It would be fun to have some different games and challenges relating to wellness or health, because that gets people motivated and there's that competitive spirit that all Wabash men have," said Weeks.

Another pivotal voice is Lead Peer Health Educator Hayden Lewter '26. His work is vital to making sure that the Wellness Center maintains a positive, present voice on campus. This is no easy feat, but Lewter makes use of the nuances of wellness to keep the conversation interesting and effective.

"We follow the eight dimension wheel that looks at all aspects of wellness," said Lewter. "We're able to talk about other areas of wellness that are just as important like physical, emotional, spiritual and financial health."

Lewter, as perhaps the student face of wellness on campus, holds a powerful role that he does not take lightly. He got his start

in working with the College during a summer where he worked with Tristen Myers as the Student Engagement and Development Intern. Lewter has been working with the Wellness Center since the beginning of his sophomore year, something that he takes pride in.

"Between Tristen [Myers] and Keri [Francis] in the Counseling Center and Wellness Center in general, they're on top of it," said Lewter. "They think about every perspective and really make sure to get it covered. They make sure they get everything out and that everything can be communicated properly."

The Wellness Center, Tristen Myers and all of the Peer Health Educators working to make Wabash's campus healthier have been hitting their stride for some time now. While "fixing" mental health and making all Wabash men disciples of wellness may be a Sisyphean task, the Wellness Center is doing all they can to make sure that Wabash students feel just that little bit less alone.

Review: 'Hurry Up Tomorrow'

A stunning farewell



COURTESY OF THE GUARDIAN

The Weeknd spreads his arms in front of the crowd at his iconic show in Sao Paulo, Brazil on September 7, 2024. The show drew viewers from around the world and was livestreamed on YouTube, in addition to the 70,000 in attendance.

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

The adventure that started with the record shattering "After Hours" album has finally come to an end as Artist Abel Makkonen Tesfaye, known as The Weeknd, finishes what could be his final trilogy under The Weeknd name. In his newest album, "Hurry Up Tomorrow," the singer immerses listeners into the dark experimental R&B world he is known so well for. With electric production, stunning vocals and a star-studded features list, The Weeknd drops the first Album of the Year contender of 2025.

"Hurry Up Tomorrow" opens up with retro disco beats in "Wake Me Up," where The Weeknd details his own complex relationship with his fame. It gives a taste for what's to come in the new release with mixes of the artist's original style and his fresh flow and energy. The album itself is very dark, but you can hardly tell with the flow of retro beats and electronic production. Songs like "Give Me Mercy" feel very upbeat but are reminders of The Weeknd's at times troubled relationship with going from the faceless singer behind "The House of Balloons" album to the pop icon on the cover of the insanely successful "Starboy Album."

The album is a host to very powerful moments including the skit "I Can't F*****g Sing," which is a direct reference to a show in SoFi Stadium where he was unable to sing and stopped his performance to a crowd of boos. Listeners are then sent into "São Paulo," a triumphant song titled after his iconic Brazilian show with a crowd of 75,000 and millions more watching from home.

Another highlight comes in "Take Me Back To LA," where he longs to return to the city that has welcomed him in. Part of what makes this song so special is that all proceeds from it will be given

**FINAL VERDICT:
4.5/5 WALLYS**



PRESTON REYNOLDS '25
OPINION EDITOR

For Jacob Ramirez '25, coming to Wabash was a leap out of his comfort zone.

"I barely left my state growing up," said the Alamo, Texas native. "Hearing about this all-male college in Indiana in a city I had never heard of didn't seem very appealing."

However, when he arrived, Ramirez realized something was different about Wabash. Despite visiting on a chilly Indiana day, he remembered that everyone he passed said hello, smiled or gave a welcoming wave. Coming to Wabash, Ramirez found a support network that was nowhere near as cold as Indiana weather.

However, being more than 800 miles away from Alamo, homesickness was a major challenge for Ramirez.

"I wasn't fully bought in, but after a while, I said, 'Well, you're gonna learn the most when you lean into adversity,'" said Ramirez. And that's exactly what I did. I stood by those values that Wabash teaches, I built connections, lifelong friends, both in my fraternity and outside."

Four years later, Ramirez has ingrained himself in Wabash's community as very few others have. His classmates know him as a biology major and history minor, as well as a member of the Sphinx Club, La Alianza's former president, and a brother of Tau Kappa Epsilon.

"There's just something about me that makes me always want to get to know the different people here at Wabash," said Ramirez. My mom told me growing up to always put yourself in someone else's shoes."

Ramirez reminisced about when he joined La Alianza, which used to meet in the Fiji

to charities helping Los Angeles recover from the devastating fires.

Each song in the album transitions seamlessly into the next with the final track transitioning into his first song ever released. Moments like these kept me engaged in the record and on the edge of my seat with anticipation of what was up next. What I was not ready for, though, was the hidden features on some of the songs.

The Weeknd certainly has his favorite artists to work with, and he proved that once again on this album. "The Abyss" combines both the powerful voices of The Weeknd and his frequent collaborator, Lana Del Rey. Playboi Carti appears as a feature on "Timeless," which merges Carti's hype-rap style with The Weeknd's boastful R&B flow. In "Reflections Laughing" Travis Scott offers his deep voice before being followed up with a strong feature from Future on "Enjoy the Show."

My only major concern with this album is the number of tracks on it. While I enjoyed each song, the 22-track album makes the ending a little repetitive and hard to pick any standouts. Songs like "Big Sleep" or "Drive" are good examples of this. Nonetheless, "Hurry Up Tomorrow" was a great experience for me, and I highly recommend it.

Fans of The Weeknd have a lot more to look forward to. A stadium tour accompanied by rapper Playboi Carti, a possible deluxe album and a movie featuring the singer titled after this newest album. It is easy for me to say I will be enjoying the end of The Weeknd moniker with this possible final album before a new era begins.

Vaughn Taylor '25 thrives with GoCode

An unorthodox path and a drive to learn fuel undergraduate success

BRYCE KINNAMAN '27
STAFF WRITER

Vaughn Taylor '25 has not taken the traditional route to becoming a popular name on Wabash's campus. The senior from Indianapolis, Indiana, has had to make plenty of sacrifices in his personal life to see success in his professional life. Sacrificing football, time with friends and previous time commitments, Taylor has not followed a typical college student's equation for success.

For the summer between his sophomore year and junior year, Taylor had to choose between an opportunity with a Fortune 500 health company, or one with a startup company called GoCode Overland, focused on helping Class B RV manufacturers build vans more efficiently. Taylor took the risk and chose the latter. Starting from a summer internship with GoCode, Taylor has now secured a full-time position following graduation and has sold over 1.2 million dollars' worth of plastic interior trim solutions to van builders across the US.

Even in his fledgling stage of being a freshman on campus, Cassie Hagan, the Director of Professional Development and the Center for Business, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship (CIBE) saw his potential.

"During the Business Immersion Program, what I saw and appreciated in Vaughn was that he had some entrepreneurial courage — he wasn't afraid to go for it and make mistakes in the name of growing and learning," said Hagan.

Josh Kline '99, the founder of GoCode and Taylor's now boss, commented further on this mindset of growing and learning.

"Vaughn has embraced a learn-it-all mentality and has developed the ability to apply feedback and learn from his mistakes," said Kline. "Sometimes, Vaughn reminds me of things I forgot I trained him on two years ago, almost like the student teaching the teacher!"

While Taylor acknowledges the milestones that make him proud, by no means is he content with his success.

"I am always trying to earn the right to be at the table of very respectable and accomplished people," said Taylor.

Even though Taylor started working with GoCode over a summer internship, positive results continued to appear outside the confines of Crawfordsville, Indiana.

"Vaughn has become part of the brand of GoCode and has even made a name for himself in the van building industry and on the West Coast," said Kline. "There is a reason for it. Enthusiasm. You can't fake enthusiasm. Relatability and empathy matter so much now, with machines automating more than ever, and Vaughn's character trait of enthusiasm is what separates him."

But Taylor doesn't just keep his knowledge and experience for himself, in fact he is helping to grow the next generation of enthusiastic Wabash men. Zach Geleott '27 was afforded the opportunity to work alongside Taylor through the CIBE, so he has become more than accustomed to Taylor's "hustle" mentality.

"Vaughn, having an immense amount of knowledge in both sales and the adventure van industry, has since served as a mentor of mine, bringing me up to speed with GoCode and teaching me about entrepreneurship," said Geleott. "From day one, Vaughn has always been generous with his time and not afraid to share his knowledge. I deeply admire Vaughn's selflessness and having a mentor who makes it clear he wants to see me succeed has been incredible."

Vaughn Taylor showcases that not all success at Wabash looks the same. While there are impressive statistics and numbers to showcase Taylor's professional career from his time at Wabash, the senior's learn-it-all mindset will be what is remembered most.

And while complacency may be a natural inclination for the accomplished senior, his mindset is just the opposite.

"I am still continuing to learn and I will always keep wanting to learn more," said Taylor.



COURTESY OF VAUGHN TAYLOR '25

Vaughn Taylor '25 stands with other members of the GoCode Overland team, including Jake Oostman '25 (left) and Josh Kline '99 (kneeling), in front of a live-in van typical to GoCode customers.

Senior spotlight

Ramirez: Empathy and humility in action



COURTESY OF JACOB RAMIREZ '25

Through his work with the Global Health Initiative, Ramirez traveled to Peru and worked with local children, teaching them lessons in hygiene and community values.

basement with less than 20 members.

"Now, as a senior, we barely fit in the International House," he laughed. "To see that exponential growth is just amazing."

While President of La Alianza, Ramirez was surprised at the level of student involvement in selecting Dr. Julio Enriquez-Ornelas as the Director of Latino Partnerships.

"I didn't anticipate myself to be leading such an organization, let alone being part of a hiring process," said Ramirez.

A less visible aspect of Ramirez's Wabash experience are the different communities he served. Traveling domestically from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin, Ramirez has worked at St. Clare Health Mission and Gundersen

Health Systems.

The crown jewel of his Wabash service is working with the Global Health Initiative (GHI). Ramirez was brought to the GHI by his fraternity brother and fellow Texan, Francisco Jimenez '24, excited to walk in the same shoes as one of his mentors.

Working with Corazones Excepcionales ("Exceptional Hearts") Ramirez taught speaking, reading and life skills to children with Down Syndrome.

"Working with these kids, I thought about my sister," said Ramirez. "Seeing smiles on their faces only made me want to give back more."

"He is always thinking of ways to help others. In the lab, he is always ready to pitch in and take initiative," said Heidi Walsh, one of Ramirez's mentors in the biology department. "It has been wonderful to see Jacob's confidence as a student grow over the past four years."

After graduation, Ramirez intends to enroll in physical therapy school, hoping to use the skills he grew at Wabash to continue to serve others. Empathy and humility permeate everything Ramirez does, something he hopes to bring into his future career in physical therapy.

"I want to see patients go home with a smile," said Ramirez. "I want to be the person for them."

Ramirez doesn't want his Wabash career to end after four-years, instead, he strives to be a lifelong learner and champion.

"I've always told myself that learning never stops," said Ramirez. "Don't be afraid to be vulnerable around others. Supporting others and receiving support back is how you grow."

Stolte '25 revolutionizes intramural basketball

BY TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

Wabash students have always gotten particularly excited when Intramural (IM) Basketball season comes around. It is a test of skill and who is the best in a state that might value basketball the most out of any others. And this year it just got a little more competitive with another Wabash student's favorite pastime. That is betting on sporting events of course. Mark Stolte '25, a passionate sports bettor, has brought a new aspect to an already competitive game. Now players on IM teams have the opportunity to bet on themselves in the basketball tournament.

"I think recreational betting is one of the most fun things to do," said Stolte. "It helps put an added layer to the games that make it feel more real. Knowing the increase in profits from betting in professional sports led me to believe we could achieve a similar increase in participation and engagement with novelty betting lines like this. After a year of strictly novelty betting lines, the entire fall semester was centered around exploring the legality and how we could make this possible without crossing any lines."

The addition of betting on IM's is certainly a complicated one and Stolte has had to navigate a litany of different rules to make this possible. It is important to note that under Indiana's laws, this is not considered betting as it is a wager versus another play, and Wabash College is not affiliated in any way. Participation is based solely on the players who wish to take part. And for those that do want to take part, there is some important information to know.

"Lines will be made available to participants in the game usually the day before the game is played," said Stolte. "I have a contact list with everyone's information and send out the lines there. If two players from opposing teams want to challenge each other, they will notify me before the game with the details of the contract. This includes stipulations like amount of money wagered, spread versus moneyline, etc.. After the game is over, the money changes hands and all is good."

There are two types of wager a player can make. The first one is a moneyline, essentially a bet on a specific team or individual to win a game or event.

"An example of a moneyline would be if say team Seymour A is favored in a game against The B Team," said Stolte. "The odds placed on the moneyline is -150 (Seymour A), +200 (The B Team). Player Anthony (Seymour A) wants to bet with player Brennan (The B Team) that Seymour A will win this game. They agree to a \$10 wager. This means Anthony will need to risk \$15 to win \$10 because of the fact that Seymour A is favored at -150 odds. If Seymour A wins, Anthony will win \$25. Brennan will lose \$10. This means Anthony gets his \$15 back plus the \$10 from Brennan. If The B Team wins; Brennan will win \$30. Anthony will lose \$20. This means Brennan will get his \$10 back plus the \$20 from Anthony."

The other type of wager participants will be able to make is a spread. This is based on how much participants think a team will win by.

"An example of a spread would



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Mark Stolte '25 (left) poses with Justice Wenz '25 (middle) and Styles McCorkle '25 (right) before their team business pitch at the conclusion of the summer Business Innovation Program.

be if team Seymour A is favored in a game against The B Team by a spread of 4.5 points," said Stolte. "Anthony (Seymour A) wants to bet with Brennan (The B Team) that Seymour A will win this game by more than 4.5 points. They agree to a \$10 wager. If Seymour A wins by 5 points or more, Anthony will receive \$20 — the \$10 he bet plus the \$10 from Brennan. If The B Team wins or loses by less than 5 points, Brennan will receive \$20 — the \$10 he bet plus the \$10 from Anthony."

Of course there is a lot to know when it comes to properly creating a wager, and Stolte has made sure to make it as fair as possible.

"If you are a player of a team involved in said game, you must find a player on the opposing team to wager with you," said Stole. "You and your competitor will come to the commissioner with the money wagered and the stipulations to your bet. For example: moneyline or spread odds. Based on the odds presented before the game, the winning player will be paid out that amount of money that the odds stipulate from the commissioner, who acts as the ledger in this case."

There are also certain wagers that players can not make and will risk penalty for if committed.

"No bets are allowed to be placed against your own team," said Stolte. "If a player is caught betting against his own team, he will be kicked out of the league immediately and his team will forfeit the rest of their games."

A lot of work went into creating this, but it is unclear what future plans are. With Stolte preparing to graduate at the end of the semester, the future of IM wagering is up in the air.

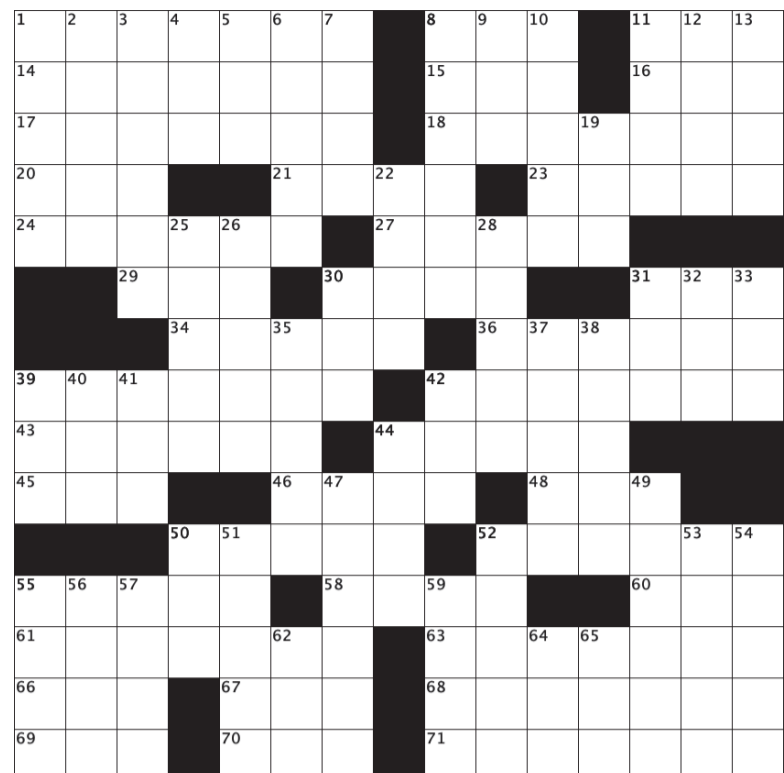
"I am unsure of that at the moment," said Stolte. "It is very taboo in the sense that we are not at all affiliated with Wabash College when participating in these challenges of skill. I think this season will be a key determining factor into whether or not we continue this in future years. The most important thing will be to train and teach others how to create the lines so that it can be continued if need be."

Nonetheless, Stolte's new addition of being able to wager on IM basketball has brought a new competitive addition for teams. As the season continues, students should look out for how they can bring a little extra money back home through a quick basketball game.

'That's it!' Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

ACROSS

1. Emancipated ones
8. "Shoot"
11. Snake that gets its name from the Greek word for "vipiper"
14. "Wouldn't It Be ___?" ("My Fair Lady" song)
15. Paper collector
16. Go a-courtin'
17. Words with a slant
18. Refuse food, as a baby
20. Land east of Eden
21. Campbell of the "Scream" movies
23. *Period
24. *Reunion attendee
27. Air Quality, for one
29. Bit of Morse code
30. Sorority letter
31. Type of program under fire by the federal gov.
34. Buy more "Time"
36. Place for a brew
39. Builder of Jerusalem's First Temple
42. Blues Brothers toppers
43. Act one?
44. Playlist contents
45. Scoreboard stat.
46. Quality of a quark or a politician's statement
48. Attack a sub?
50. Classic Pittsburgh mill product
52. Grave words?
55. Change of ___ (what a lawyer might seek)
58. Hurricane-tracking agcy.
60. Rainbow's shape
61. Quitter's words ... or, parsed differently, a hint to entering the answers to the starred clues
63. Even less cheerful
66. Arroz ___ pollo
67. Air marshals' org.
68. Worry-free
69. Legal suffix
70. Goddess of the underworld
71. *Warmonger's cry



DOWN

1. Summer romance, perhaps
2. Chopper spinner
3. Ducked
4. Sushi bar fish
5. CAT scan cousin
6. —
7. NASDAQ alternative
8. Playing hooky
9. Quick drink
10. Murder weapon in "12 Angry Men"
11. Army no-show: Abbr.
12. Devil's purchase
13. —
19. Guy's rental for a gala
22. Mountain home selling point
25. Brass Hall of Famer
26. Crossword puzzle feature, often
28. Dinner-and-a-movie events
30. Word with state or garden
31. ___ Eisendrache ("Call of Duty" map)
32. MLB stat
33. Helpful connections
35. Language that gave us "reindeer"
37. Common Wordle starting word

38. Outspoken
39. Soak (up), as gravy
40. Choose not to participate, with "out"
41. Electric guitar pioneer Paul
42. When said three times, a Beach Boys hit
44. Venus de ___
47. Foreign correspondent, perhaps
49. Every last one
50. Soccer mom's vehicle
51. What gears and combs have in common
52. Home base for humans
53. Roman leader?
54. —
55. Smoking, for some
56. Prima-donna attributes
57. On cloud ___ (elated)
59. Turkish leaders
62. Walk all over, e.g.
64. Wall St. debut
65. Kitty's cry

Scan for solution!



Greene '25: John Charles Lecturer Brian Rose captivates audience

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR

In all the hustle and bustle of college life at Wabash, attending evening lectures can feel like a less-than-ideal addition to one's schedule. Whether it be for a fourth-hour assignment, extra credit or just plain curiosity, the College's plethora of extracurricular academic options often pose as simply add-ons to a liberal arts education.

Take this year's John Charles Lecture on January 30, 2025. For most students, it was simply a chance to learn more about archaeology and the excavations happening at Troy, the legendary setting of Homer's "The Iliad." But for me, this lecture was a case study in how attending lectures can build networks and forge community far beyond a PowerPoint presentation.

The Charles Lecture is the largest and most important lecture put on by the Classics department and "meant to host a preeminent ancient historian," according to Professor of Classics Jeremy Hartnett '96. This was definitely the case in 2025, because they brought in Professor Brian Rose from the University of Pennsylvania.

Rose is a behemoth in the world of Classics. Gifted the keys to the proverbial Classics kingdom in 1988, Professor Rose was the director of excavations at Troy for 25 years until he switched sites to Gordion (another excavation site in the middle of modern-day Turkey). He has a named professorship at UPenn and is also the curator-in-charge of the Mediterranean Section of the Penn Museum. His list of accolades is endless, highlighted by his reception of the Archaeological Institute of America's Gold Medal in 2015 the organization's highest honor given in recognition of his work that has had a lasting impact on the theory and practice of archaeology.

Unlike other such events, the Charles lecturer has several other responsibilities outside of delivering their seminal lecture. Professor Rose engaged with students and faculty in several different capacities, including a dedicated meal to talk with students, lecturing in three different Classics courses and presenting a second talk during the



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Professor Brian Rose presents his topic "Assessing the Evidence for the Trojan War: Recent Evacuations at Troy" at the annual John Charles lecture.

Friday lunch hour.

It just so happened that I had the unique opportunity this year to attend almost every single event that Professor Rose was involved in: I attended his student-only lunch, attended two of his class lectures, introduced him at the Charles lecture and listened to his lunch talk the following day.

After attending five events with Professor Rose, it was impossible not to get a sense of his personality and general disposition that he brings to not only being a professor, but as an individual. Despite having been a professor for almost 40 years, Professor Rose carries a youthful energy and exuberance that defies his age. Constantly bright-eyed and smiling, Professor Rose's excitement to share his knowledge and expertise in the field of archaeology as well as talk with students about it at length meant he fit in exceptionally well at Wabash. From delivering hilarious anecdotes of documentary filming with Megan Fox to describing in detail the difficulties of excavating the ancient past, Professor Rose shared details about his life with openness and a humble, matter-of-fact delivery, endearing him to anyone who listened.

In class, Professor Rose may be one of the most elite lecturers I have had the privilege of listening to. His lecture slides were chock full of images and notes, but he spoke with seasoned confidence and barely glanced at the screen in the hour-long class period. The breadth of topics he broached was

astounding. We spoke about ancient architecture, yes, but much of our discussion had to do with reception and how monuments are received, as well as the influences of people who wish to alter history's perceptions throughout the ages. He held a room of over 40 listeners in rapt silence.

In my conversations with Professor Rose over the course of three days, each experience compounded on the previous, helping us to build a relationship that far surpassed the typical guest lecturer-student relationship. I had learned things from him that I could not read on a university website or from Wikipedia. And, I have faith that if I reached out to Professor Rose later down my career path, he would remember me vividly.

This level of community building and networking is what Wabash students can stand to gain from the College's lecture series. Besides the vast knowledge these lecturers bring to campus, many times they have connections to the Wabash professors who brought them here; even more likely is that they will be more than happy to entertain questions not only about their lecture topic, but about their field of study as a whole. Investing in these sorts of seemingly mundane, everyday interactions at a lunch talk could end up being a definite pathway to graduate school or finding a job post-graduation.

So, find the silver lining in your fourth-hour assignments and extra credit lectures. There may be more than meets the eye.

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Saturday, February 22nd

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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

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Transgender rights in peril



Oscar Jacome Huesca '25

Reply to this opinion at ojacome25@wabash.edu

I'm sure that many of you have been keeping a close eye on Donald Trump's first few weeks in office. I considered writing about several topics, such as his sudden reluctance to discuss grocery prices, dehumanizing rhetoric against undocumented immigrants or Trump being found liable for sexual abuse in 2023, but there is another issue I feel has been neglected in comparison. Less than a month in, Trump's administration has launched an unprecedented attack on transgender rights, putting their fundamental rights at risk and further perpetuating the same discriminatory rhetoric Trump used during his campaign.

On the first day of Trump's second term, he signed an executive order declaring that the United States will only recognize two genders and that sex is determined at birth and immutable. In effect, this would make trans people legally nonexistent, forcing them to use identification that does not match their appearance or identity. Though Trump's administration has stated otherwise, it is possible that any current identification might be voided and replaced with documents showing their birth sex. Anyone seeking to change their sex marker after the executive order would be prevented from doing so.

This is deeply problematic—for instance, a trans man with a masculine presentation and facial hair might be accused of having false documentation if he were to use it somewhere like a bar or an airport. Trans people would be forced to immediately disclose their identities in any situation that requires them to show an ID, leaving them susceptible to discrimination or violence.

Additionally, transphobic rhetoric in itself presents danger to trans people. 2020 statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation suggest that hate crimes will rise again, as they did during Trump's first term. A project composed by Transrespect versus Transphobia Worldwide indicates that murders against trans people are rising as of 2024.

Trump's executive order is already exerting influence on the rest of the government and on corporate interests. The "Travel.State.Gov" website has now removed the "TQ" from its section on traveler information, leaving only "LGB." The implication here is that trans people have ceased to exist, which is obviously nonsensical; it should be obvious that trans people will exist even in the face of discrimination.

Although it might seem like changing a few letters on a website is inconsequential, it demonstrates that the cultural climate surrounding LGBTQ people is rapidly changing, as queerness is once again becoming a taboo. Corporations removing their Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiatives is further evidence that LGBTQ support is no longer financially safe.

Perhaps the most dangerous side effect is access to healthcare. Most, if not all major medical organizations agree that gender-affirming care is legitimate and necessary. As a result of Trump's executive order, however, the CDC has begun to remove resources on LGBTQ topics. The "LGBT Health Services" page is now relegated to an archive and is no longer updated. As of February 2, federal funding for research on LGBTQ topics has been terminated. With obstructions to their healthcare, trans people will be much more susceptible to outcomes such as depression or suicide. It is not unreasonable to say that Trump's executive order is brazenly cruel and written out of malice rather than good faith.

As an ethnic minority, queer individual and someone who holds humanism as a core value, it disturbs me that Trump's administration believes marginalized populations to be expendable. I am aware that the students of this college lean a certain way politically, given that we are an all-male college in a red state. However, I ask that all of you consider that we all come from varying backgrounds and experiences.

If Trump's administration sees no issue in blatantly oppressing one of our country's most vulnerable populations, there is no doubt that they will continue to act in an anti-humanist manner and target specific groups, as evidenced by his administration's attacks on DEI policies and unethical treatment of undocumented immigrants.

My personal interactions with trans and gender-diverse people have proven to me that they are simply people who, like any of us, are deserving of dignity. They are not weird, or perverted, or dangerous; they are people. It should be our duty as responsible citizens to stand up for one another, especially when the time comes to vote again.

Ending off this piece, I will list off some resources for further reading. The Trevor Project is a hotline for struggling LGBTQ youth, GLAAD works towards equitable representation in media, the ACLU is documenting and fighting discrimination nationwide and the CDC still maintains an archive of its articles on LGBTQ topics. I will also state that I am open to comments or questions via email (I would very much prefer it to discourse on certain anonymous platforms). Each and every one of us is valuable, cisgender or not.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

THE BEST TRADE DEAL IN THE HISTORY OF TRADE DEALS MAYBE EVER

Lo-five to the Dallas Mavericks for trading away Luka Doncic because of "conditioning issues." Rumor has it the Lakers will actually let Luka have a well-earned cold one after a win.

WHATS THE BIG DILL?

Hi-five to a certain president of a certain pickle related club for trying to host a "stop ostracism" philanthropy event. We're on board, as long as we can keep ostracizing pickleball players.

"YOU CAN NEVER BE OVERDRESSED OR OVEREDUCATED"

Lo-five to Bianca Censori (Kayne's wife) for showing up to the Grammys effectively nude. If only she knew Career Services has a whole closet full of suits available!

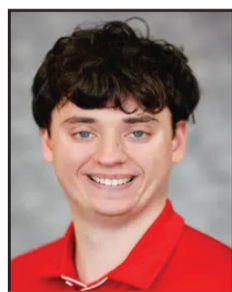
GAZA-LAGO

Hi-five to Trump for proposing that the US turn Gaza into a beachfront property, complete with a PGA tour golf course. Glad we're taking the American tradition of gentrification abroad.

A PENNY SAVED

Hi-five to Trump for adding a 35% Temu tariff. this measure is expected to generate as much as 65 cents per year for the U.S. government.

Leeper's lunch: Delicious dubs at Dawnn's Deli



Jackson Leeper '25

Reply to this opinion at jcleeper25@wabash.edu

What's up, bozos? It's your man, Jackson Leeper, back at it with another review. Like I said from last week, I'm reviewing a sandwich shop this week. The name of this restaurant is Dawnn's Deli and I'm baffled that I have not heard of this place until now. Before I go into the restaurant, let me explain how I found this glorious palace of sandwiches. One night, I was waiting for some chinese food at Beijing Chinese (wink wink) with one of my pledge brothers. As we were waiting for our bountiful feast, we decided to explore the little shopping center. There's a gym, a furniture store, an axe throwing place with a bar (excellent combination) and a little shop called Dawnn's Deli.

If you are facing the shopping center in the parking lot, it is the last store to the right. It is very small and easy to miss so keep an eye out. Later that night, I tried to find their website and found their facebook page along with

their menu. I studied their options and after 15 seconds, I said to myself, "Yea, I'm gonna be fat in the future" (Note, I always say this but I was very excited after reading their menu). I arrived there in the late afternoon, ready to conquer. I walked into the restaurant and saw a couple who ran the shop. I talked with them for a bit and they were very nice.

I got their Reuben, which is their #2 seller, fried bologna sandwich (I was bricked up when I saw this), and their monte cristo, their "under-rated item," which is a toasted ham and cheese with home-made french toast. I will note that I got things I wouldn't normally get but the things that I did want to get were too similar. So, I decided to get some different sandwiches to explore the menu more. This did set me back \$37 but I did get three sandwiches. All of their sandwiches are between \$8-\$15 with an even spread in that range. It is a la carte so you have to get chips and drink separately.

The first thing that I tried was the fried bologna sandwich. It's a thick piece of bologna with american cheese and mustard between texas toast. I was very happy with this selection as it was great. Bologna was meaty and was complimented well with the melted american cheese and yellow mustard. The texas toast was a crispy

deliverer of the insides of the sandwich and it enhanced the sandwich.

The second thing that I tried was the reuben, which has corned beef, sauerkraut and swiss cheese on grilled marble rye. Dawnn's Deli is two-for-two so far on the toast of the bread because the marble rye was excellent. The contents of the sandwich were good but I'm not a fan of sauerkraut as I don't like the taste of it. However, the corned beef was great and portions were big so it was still good in my book and in my belly.

Now, the real sleeper was the monte cristo. After I took my first bite, I verbally said "Gawddamn." If you love sweet and salty combinations, this is up your alley. A stack of grilled ham with melted swiss is never bad and always good. The homemade french-toast was excellent, providing the sweet to the salty. You did get syrup with it, which I tried but wasn't my thing as it was too sweet for me, but I can totally see it being someone's perfect sandwich if they have a real sweet tooth.

All of these sandwiches were great and made me want to go back. The crazy thing is that normally I wouldn't get these sandwiches. There are things like their club or their pizza grilled cheese sandwich that sound insane, but go crazy for me. If the sandwiches that aren't appealing to me are this

good then the ones that are appealing to me must be top tier. With these things in mind, Dawnn's Deli gets 8.8 of 10 burbers (knowers will know).

According to the owners, they don't do much advertising and their place is known through word of mouth. So, this is my word: Go to Dawnn's Deli and get some great sandwiches as this place needs to be known. Join me next week for a different cuisine that seems to be very popular and abundant in Crawfordsville!



PHOTO PROVIDED BY VISTMOCO.COM

Don't blink

Isaac Grannis '26

Reply to this opinion at idgrannis26@wabash.edu



is repeated—both players will encounter each other again—defection can be punished by the other player in the next iteration. So when the game is repeated, the optimal option for each player switches from defection to cooperation, and a healthy equilibrium can emerge.

Divided governments used to pass major legislation without omnibus bills. Judicial nominations were truly focused on qualifications, not ideology. Defection looked like voting against your opponent, or using procedural rules to slow work down. While our differences were real, we generally felt that the rules were fair, and that it was preferable to lose in a working system than to break it.

Unfortunately, that isn't the case anymore—the model for our political game has completely changed. While the encounters are still repeated, the setup is changed from a prisoner's dilemma to "Chicken." Chicken is a comparatively simple game: Both parties get in a car and speed towards each other. Whoever swerves—or blinks—first, loses. There is no healthy equilibrium. Either one side blinks and loses, or neither do and both lose. The only time any equilibrium can emerge here is when one side is known for always swerving.

Today, when your reforms don't get passed, you can threaten to expand the court. If you don't win an election, you say you won't accept the results. If you don't like federal law, you

explicitly nullify it. Our defection today is about dismantling and changing the rules, not staying within them.

This asymmetry in how each side approaches power tells us something crucial about American politics. When progressives exercise institutional power, they do so confidently and directly. Look at Franklin D. Roosevelt threatening court expansion to protect the New Deal, Biden pressuring social media companies on content moderation or Obama's Operation Choke Point using banking regulations to target disfavored industries. In each case, they viewed institutional authority as a legitimate tool for achieving policy goals—power exercised in service of the public good.

The conservative relationship with power is fundamentally different. Even when holding clear democratic mandates, the right treats exercising authority as somehow illegitimate—a regrettable necessity rather than a core function of governance. When they do push boundaries, it's usually reactive and apologetic, coming only after progressive norm-breaking has changed the game. This isn't principled restraint - it's learned helplessness masquerading as virtue. They've internalized procedural liberalism so deeply that they can barely conceive of using power directly, even when granted it through democratic processes.

Whether all of Trump's actions will remain standing under scrutiny is still up in the air. But to clutch your pearls and act horrified as the democratically elected executive attempts to control the activities of the executive branch, as Trump has done, while ignoring the left's systematic dismantling of those same norms and rules betrays the game. This isn't about preserving institutions—it's about who's in control. The core issue isn't about Trump's specific actions or their legal status—it's about finally recognizing the game we're actually playing. Pretending we're still in an era of mutual institutional respect while watching the systematic dismantling of those same institutions isn't principled—it's surrender. The American system was built for the legitimate exercise of power, not permanent defensive crouching. The founders designed our system for conflict. "Ambition must be made to counteract ambition" wasn't a warning, it was an instruction manual.

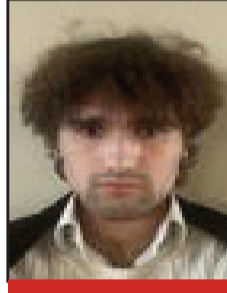
Those voters who supported Trump did so hoping for meaningful change, not just symbolic victories. As this conflict escalates, the question isn't whether pushing back against the administrative state is proper—it's whether conservatives can finally shed their fear of exercising the authority they've been democratically granted. The alternative is continuing to play a game that ended years ago.

The rubicon

S. D. V. Stephens

'28

Reply to this opinion at sdstephe28@wabash.edu



Prior to the 1970s, there was brief global panic due to America's domination of the global finance sector via First National City Bank (now known as Citibank). To combat the growing threat of utter American hegemony, a transnational financial telecommunication system was set up in Belgium: The Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication (SWIFT).

Unfortunately for the bright-eyed founders of SWIFT, this financial system would be used as a political tool to deny fund transfer for international trade to various countries it deemed unworthy of engaging with (Iran 2012; Russia 2022; Bulgaria 2022). Indeed, the deviation from the Belgian founders' intentions of a financially multipolar world concluded with the establishment of SWIFT as an arm of Western power and American hegemony in 1979 with the establishment of one of the four major data centers in Culpeper, Virginia, USA initiated by the former republican governor of Virginia, John Dalton.

Though participant states of SWIFT include virtually every country on the globe, it is governed by chairs and CEOs who come exclusively from the USA and Western Europe. This financial domination is leveraged as a method of intimidation for governance and economic policies of various states which the USA, UK, Netherlands, France, and Sweden do not agree with.

In 2018 BRICS—an alliance between Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, and other member states, totaling ~30% of the world economy—established a SWIFT alternative called BRICS PAY. In 2024, however, BRICS PAY had gained full financial backing of China, a major step for the up-and-coming financial telecommunication system. BRICS has additionally established the New Development Bank and BRICS CRA as a non-western alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and The World Bank, respectively. In addition to these various international financial institutional establishments, BRICS is proposing a potential tender competitor to the US Dollar, dethroning the global command of the US Dollar to such a degree that has not existed since the ending of the gold standard in 1932.

Using BRICS, Russia evaded the collapse of the Ruble with the sanctions imposed

by the former Biden administration, SWIFT, and various member states of the UN. The Russian economy, despite the major sanctions, and Biden's promise, likely practiced in the mirror, to "reduce the Ruble to rubble," has now been growing at a faster rate than the US economy; in fact, according to the IMF, Russia is outpacing all other developed nation's economies. Various third-world countries are applying for BRICS membership at an astounding rate; signaling a shift from US and Western economic and political reliance post-colonialism. This month, Indonesia, the 16th largest economy, 4th largest country by population, and largest member of ASEAN, joined the BRICS alliance: a major indicator of a global shift towards a multipolar world.

Donald J. Trump, president of the United States of America, has been levying large tariffs on Mexico and Colombia with increasing flat tariffs being applied to other trading partners (including the USA's largest trading partner: Canada). Mexico is the second largest trading partner of the USA. The president of Mexico, Dr. Claudia Sheinbaum, has recently been rapidly improving trade relations with member states of BRICS, most notably, China.

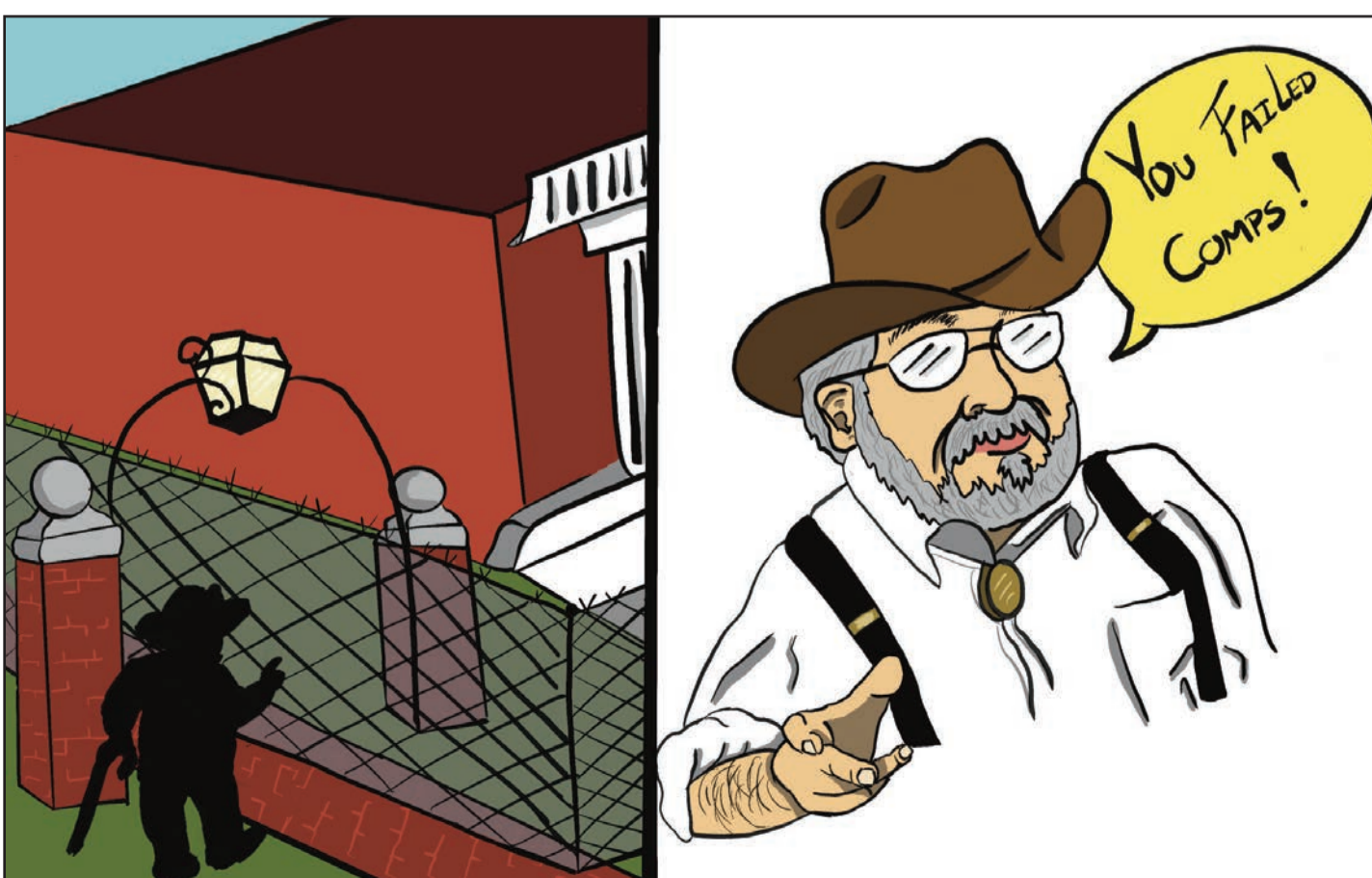
Dr. Sheinbaum and the previous Mexican president Andrés Manuel López Obrador have invited various Chinese companies to engage with and bolster the Mexican economy: notably BYD, the fastest growing electric vehicle company in the world, producing four times as many vehicles as Tesla a year, Huawei, Man Wah, Lingong Heavy Machinery, Didi Chuxing, and Hisense, all of which are outpacing American companies in their same respective sector. It is highly likely then, that due to American aggression from the economic and political incompetence of Donald Trump and his administration, Mexico, Colombia and alike are soon-to-be, if not already, eyeballing a potential BRICS membership. This would be nothing short of a greater disaster for the American economy that the unimaginable damage Donald Trump has done in his first nine days in office.

The more economic violence that the Trump administration inflicts upon economic trade partners; the more literal violence that the Trump administration temerarily inflicts upon other states via vile treatment of those subject to mass deportation, threatened exile of prisoners to foreign nations, the more these states will look at and turn to BRICS in their time of need. Trump in all his uneducated hubris, is paving the way for the end of global American economic power, and putting said power directly into the hands of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

Just as Caesar crossed the Rubicon, America too has crossed the point of no return.

The Berlin Wall is here to stay

Comic by Drake Green '28



McRoberts: NCAC Basketball power rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25
STAFF WRITER

As February rolls around, basketball fans can expect three things: big matchups, big upsets and absolute chaos in the North Coast Athletic Conference standings (NCAC). All three were on display in the week of competition this month. With a little over two weeks remaining in the regular season, here is where the teams stand:

1. Denison (18-2, 10-1 NCAC)

Until last weekend, the Big Red looked almost impossible to stop. They had won 12 straight, with their only loss being in OT to a random University of California team known as the Banana Slugs. They had even beaten perennially-ranked Carnegie Mellon. Yet, the mighty Owls of Kenyon managed one of the biggest upsets of the season, providing the Little Giants an opportunity to take hold of the number one spot in the conference. However, they feature a host of 6-feet 6-inches — and over — guys who shoot threes, and that proved the needle that popped Wabash's balloon of momentum.

2. Wabash (13-7, 9-2 NCAC)

In what was their fifth contest versus a top-25 team, the Wallies had an opportunity to get out of the shadow and pick up their second win against such opponents. However, the athleticism of the Big Red prevailed in the end. The Little Giants likely won't be able to host the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) tournament now, but they still have a good shot to win their fourth straight championship. Featuring the best defense in the conference, a blocking machine in Noah Hupmann '25, and Head Coach Brumett's stubborn determination, this Wabash squad can do some damage in March.

3. Ohio Wesleyan (13-8, 8-4 NCAC)

There isn't a more volatile team in the NCAC than the Battling Bishops. Every game they play is liable to be a shootout, as they are a team of shot chuckers, launching thirty threes a game on average. What's more, they have the highest three-point percentage of any team in the conference while also giving up the highest percentage of three-point shots. This has taken them to wins over Wooster and two against Wittenberg, while also opening them up to tough losses to Oberlin, Kenyon, and a pitiful 30-point loss to Denison earlier this year.

4. Wooster (16-5, 8-4 NCAC)

After finding themselves in the top 10 nationally, the Wooster has now lost four of their last seven conference matchups, falling to Wabash, OWU, Denison and Wittenberg, with the first three happening consecutively. Featuring a lineup stacked with possible DII players and 5th year seniors, you'd think they'd maintain their consistent winning ways. Despite their early sixth-place ranking, there's a shot Wooster doesn't make it out of the first round of the NCAC tournament.

5. DePauw (7-5, 11-10 NCAC)

We had some Tiger-on-Tiger violence Wednesday night, but neither squad is in good graces outside of their respective towns. The Dannies continue defining mediocrity on and off the basketball court, as they sit in the middle of the pack in scoring and field goal percentage for and against. They can beat chumps, but they lose to the good teams. They're just mid man, not much to say about it.

6. Wittenberg (8-12, 4-7 NCAC)

Wittenberg has long had the reputation for being a little nasty; stomping on opponents' logos, trashing locker rooms, and adding a little elbow to their rebounds. However, I didn't have the Witt coach averaging over 0.5 technical fouls per game through 20 games. He got himself thrown out in the first 10 minutes of a miserable loss to the Little Giants a week before he got thrown out in an upset over Wooster. It's tough to say whether his negative energy hurts or helps his team. Either way, given Witt's financial struggles, he might not have a job tomorrow.

7. Kenyon (5-16, 3-9 NCAC)

If you wanted to start rooting for an Ohioan liberal arts college, Kenyon College might be your best pick. At the very least, they've done a very good job of clearing a way for the Little Giants to move up in conference play. Since losing to Wabash by 10 on January 18, they've managed an even point differential, winning big games against Ohio Wesleyan and Denison, both of which went to OT. Sporting a worldwide roster featuring two Lithuanians, a French Canadian, a Spaniard, a Turk, and a couple stray Ohioans, they can certainly leave commentators and, apparently, opposing teams a little flustered.

8. Oberlin (10-10, 2-9 NCAC)

Man, I can never get a read on the Mighty O-B's of Ohio. I've been a not-so-closeted Oberlin fan for 3.5 years at Wabash given their unpredictability in February, where they usually pull off some wild upsets. I was very high on the Yeomen coming into this season since they were returning a solid lineup including JJ Gray, who led NCAC freshmen in most offensive categories last year. Yet, they just don't seem able to get a foothold in conference play, which has seen nine of their 10 losses on the season. However, I still wouldn't count them out of a late February run where they snipe down a conference leader.

9. Hiram (6-15, 1-11 NCAC)

For some, no news is good news. However, I'm reticent to say that this is not the case for the Terriers. The long time beloved NCAC ragdolls from Hiram have continued their bottom-feeding ways. They've picked up one win in their last nine contests which just so happened to be their first conference win since January 28, 2023, against the Dannies. If there is one bright spot for them it's that they're moving on to greener pastures where they can pick up a few more victories here and there. It will make me a little sad when they leave though, as I won't be able to wake up Friday morning to see which Hiram jokes my editors removed.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

On his way to the rim, Vinny Buccilla '25 is fouled hard in the paint. Wabash fell 51-53 against Denison on February 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

Denison downs basketball's conference crown hopes

Physical play and poor shooting squander Wabash's chance to lead NCAC

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

With a chance to seize the reins of the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) by defeating the 23rd-ranked Big Red at Chadwick Court, the Little Giants went cold from the field, from three and from the free throw line. Denison defended their position at the head conference by smothering Wabash 53-51 on Wednesday, February 5.

It seemed like the stars were aligning for the Little Giants, when Kenyon upset the previously undefeated — in the conference — Big Red the weekend before the game. This set the Scarlet & White up to avenge their previous loss to Denison and take a definitive lead in the NCAC.

But the hard truth is Wabash had their worst shooting night of the season. With a 3-25 showing from deep, eight missed free throws and an overall 36.4 shooting percentage, everything looked difficult for the team. What can be said for their performance is that they faced the most physical game of basketball of the entire season — by a wide margin. Each of their 51 points was earned with literal blood and sweat.

"I love my team," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brummett. "But you don't deserve [to win] when you miss eight free throws."

Vinny Buccilla '25 led the team in scoring with 14 points, including all three of the team's makes from beyond the arch. But like everyone else on the team his performance came with a caveat as he only connected on 5-15 attempts.

Josh Whack '26 was on fire through the second half and the main reason why the game ended up being so close. Cutting inside with willpower and athleticism, Whack seemed to have an answer every time it looked like the Scarlet and White were fading for good.

Noah Hupmann '25 was a powerful, but underutilized force on offense, knocking down all three of his shot attempts and two free throws. However, Denison effectively prevented Wabash from feeding the big man.

Wabash's big struggle came with an inability to take what Denison's defensive scheme offered them. The Big Red rushed into a double team when Wabash turned to their usual screen at the top of the key. The key to defeating the defense would have been to swing the rock around and find the man left open by the double team, but the Little Giants were unable to capitalize due to poor three-point shooting and Denison's remarkable recovery time.

"They were trying to leave the three-point line open for the furthest guy from the ball and give attention to Hupmann on the roll," said Brummett. "But you either have to make them pay on the roll, or you have to make him pay from three."

Despite their struggles on offense, the Little Giants were almost excellent on defense. The one struggle was guarding the three, as the visitors knocked in nine threes. Noah Hupmann '25 was everything inside for Wabash, sending back four shots and warding off several more with his presence in the paint. However, his struggles on the perimeter allowed Denison's Trevor Reed to hit four threes in pivotal minutes of the game.

The Little Giants held on through the ups and downs to bring the game within one point with under 30 seconds left in the game. The Little Giants had several opportunities to win the game, but ended up leaving layups short and missing bold threes.

"Without watching the film, I don't have a ton of dislike," said Brummett. "We took a couple threes that might have been quick. But when you'd missed as many as we missed, you just kind of felt like we were going to make one eventually."

Ultimately the Scarlet & White were unable to convert in the madness of the final seconds, eventually fouling and then watching time run out.

"We had the ball with five seconds left, down one with a chance to win," said Buccilla. "We still put ourselves in a nice spot to win the game. And that's all we can ask for. We have to live with this one for a little bit."

With their second loss to Denison, Wabash is all-but guaranteed to miss out on the NCAC regular season title, which includes the rights to host the NCAC tournament. The ball is out of their court, and even with perfect play, the Little Giants need two more teams to upset the now 18-2 (10-1 NCAC) Big Red.

Realistically Wabash's next move is to finish out the regular season strong, by securing the number-two seed in the NCAC Tournament and try to win the tournament on the road.

"We have to focus on the next play and just keep going," said Hupmann. "Sometimes our shots aren't on. But that doesn't matter if all we're looking for is the win."

Wabash will continue its season on the road at Wooster on Saturday, February 8. The result will not immediately affect Wabash's standing in the NCAC, but a loss will put them in a position where slipping into third place is possible.

Still, the goal remains the same for Wabash basketball — win the NCAC tournament and make the NCAA Division III playoffs for the third straight year. The challenge will be even harder after the loss. But for a team that has hung in with several of the top-ranked teams in the country, all it takes is the right night.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Noah Hupmann '25 throws down a slam dunk in the first half of the Little Giants' game against Denison on February 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

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Tennis starts season at home

Development continues to be key to one of Wabash's fastest improving sports

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

The new season brings Wabash face-to-face with an opportunity to go farther than ever before, as five of the six starters from last season return, while being joined by another stacked freshman class. A Saturday double-header marked the start of the 2025 spring tennis season for Wabash.

"We're returning five of the six players who finished fourth last year in the conference," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "Nothing's ever guaranteed, but if we can continue to build and grow on what we've already done, I have so much confidence in this group."

After the graduation of Liam Grennon '24 and Cole Borden '24 last season, three new captains will set the tone for the team this season: Cole Shifferly '26, Augusto Ghidini '26 and Ethan Koeneman '26.

"First of all, Grennon and Borden did a tremendous job with the team," said Ghidini. "We want to step up and continue to do a great job, just as they did. We're going to do the best we can. I think we're already bringing the energy and bringing the group together, which is probably the main thing."

The first two matches of the season saw a combination of dominance and a close fight from the Wabash team. Against Illinois Wesleyan, they took a 6-1 win.

Then in the second match against Cedarville, Wabash fought to the very end — ultimately falling 4-3 with the final game ending in a third set tiebreak that determined the match.

"I think this weekend we showed a lot of grit to ourselves," said Shifferly. "So I'm pleased with the amount of work ethic and fighting spirit from the team."

Shifferly led the way for Wabash, capturing both of his singles matches, a win at 1-doubles and the honor of North Coast Athletic Conference Athlete of the Week.

"Coach has scheduled us in a lot of matches where we're gonna be put to the test," said Shifferly. "And, personally, I like that better than our schedule last year. Last year, we had a lot of matches where we got beat pretty badly and we also had a lot of matches where we beat the other team pretty badly. It seems like Coach has been trying to put us up against teams that are right there with us and I think experience in those types of matches is what we need to go to the next level."



PHOTO BY SEAN BLEDOSE '26

Murilo Guarniari '28 celebrates a point in the Little Giants' home doubleheader against Illinois Wesleyan University and Cedarville University on Saturday, February 1 2025 at Collett Tennis Center.

Noticeable in both matches were two new rule changes that will impact Division III tennis in 2025. The first rule change reduces doubles matches to a six-game set from an eight-game pro set. This makes the games go faster, but comes with the downside of making them less predictable.

The second change modifies the way dual matches are scored. Matches will now be scored out of seven. Six points will come from singles, while a single point for doubles will be given to the team that wins two out of three doubles matches. The change is meant to protect teams from being put in a near unwinnable position because the three matches with the fewest number of games happen to swing one direction.

This second change had an impact on the Cedarville match, where the Little Giants lost all three doubles matches in close sets. Due to the change, Wabash only went down by one point rather than three.

"If we were playing with the original rules, we would've been down

0-3," said Bickett. "It makes it less punitive if, for some reason, all three of those [close doubles matches] go against us. I'm much more favorable to it. If we were playing a nine-point match, we wouldn't have had the same chance to win that match as we did because it's a seven-point match."

As the team approaches the new season they're leaving room on the goals chart. With the strongest schedule to date and a team that might just live up to it, Wabash tennis feels that their development is the key to success, regardless of where they end up at the end of the year.

"I don't want to pigeonhole us and say 'this is where we should end up,'" said Bickett. "But if we have that mindset of constantly trying to get better every day, if we're focused on being together as a team, if we're not too focused on the results... I personally don't see much of a ceiling."

Volleyball off to historic start

Continued from page 1

Like any successful team, strength is built in the weight room. In addition to building strength in the weightroom to compete against high level teams, Thang has specifically focused on the different ways he can score on the court.

"The single focus of my improvement has been my creative offensive scoring," said Thang, "The game is changing, so we all have to adapt or we're left behind. Everyone can hit the ball hard at the men's level so trying new things such as swiping off the block, dumps and offspeed shots have been a crucial aspect to reach the next level."

The Little Giants' development has not just been behind closed doors. They have been playing more games against a variety of new opponents. The team had the unique opportunity to play against Butler University's men's volleyball team on January 30th.

However, the Bulldogs do not have a team sanctioned by the NCAA. Though they are a competitive squad, Wabash would typically be unable to put such a team on their official schedule. To allow both squads to play a match that would not otherwise happen, the Little Giants faced the Bulldogs in a home scrimmage.

"The match against Butler helped me improve as a middle," said freshman blocker Evan Rauwolf '28. "Certain aspects like hitting fast, hitting away from the block and closing a block on time were all things I was able to work on during the scrimmage."

This match featured a JV squad of Little Giants (primarily freshmen) who had not yet seen the court this season.

"Although our non-starters compete at a higher level during practice, I think the value of having them compete together and figure things out helps develop their in-game experience," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker. "Game day brings an increased amount of pressure for athletes, and I want all of my athletes to be ready to go when we need them for a varsity match."

The young squad of Little Giants performed well, defeating Butler 2 sets to 1. Thanks to the recruitment of many skillful freshmen, this is the first year that it has been possible to field an entire second squad.

By showing his skill in practice, outside hitter Andrew Hostetler '28 has earned appearances with the varsity squad. He played a crucial role in the scrimmage against Butler.

"One difference I have noticed is leadership on varsity due to two experienced seniors," said Hostetler. "Our seniors both play a big part in leading us in practice and games, but when we played Butler as a JV team we did not have them on the court. However, all of the varsity players were super supportive and celebrated our win on the sideline."

Due to their larger roster size, the team has been able to win games with more frequency and consistency. Because of this, Coach Baker was able to add games to their schedule to challenge the team even further.

"The team has proven that we can compete and win at a high level, and the current schedule will intentionally challenge our consistency," said Baker. "We have at least three more weekends where we will play three or four matches against outstanding teams. The benefit of a packed schedule is that it caters to our entire team because we love the game, and competing more gives us more opportunities to learn."

"The team has proven that we can compete and win at a high level."

-Head Volleyball Coach
Ashuan Baker

Following a pair of home matches on Saturday February 8th against Greenville University and Maranatha Baptist University, the Little Giants will travel to Illinois Wesleyan the following day to compete against the host Titans as well as the Eagles of Benedictine University.

As they look forward, this team will continue to compete against high-level teams to highlight the impressive program being built at Wabash College.

This week in sports

The February frenzy comes to Wabash sports

HAI DEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

February is a busy month for Wabash athletics. But February 1 was on a whole other level. With 12 events — the first beginning at 6:45 a.m. and the final ending at 10:45 p.m. — it was one of the busiest days in the Wabash calendar. Here's everything that happened and more.

Basketball:

Riding a hot streak, the basketball team welcomed #21 Denison to Chadwick Court on Wednesday, February 5 to avenge its only conference loss of the season. The first half was a tight defensive battle, with the Little Giants being held under 20 points but forcing four turnovers and three blocks defensively.

In the second half, Wabash found a groove on offense by consistently driving to the basket which resulted in 32 points in the paint. Although Denison led most of the game, the Little Giants didn't let their lead grow more than six points all night. However, the free throw disparity in the second half ended up being the deciding factor of the game, with Wabash going 1-6 and Denison going a perfect 5-5. The Little Giants ultimately fell to the Big Red, 53-51 in an instant classic.

The team looks to bounce back Saturday, February 8 when they travel to challenge Wooster.

Wrestling:

The wrestling team hosted its annual Wabash College Open Invitational in Knowing Fieldhouse on Saturday, February 1. The Little Giants accomplished four individual titles on the day. James Day '26 (133 pounds) had two pins in three matches, Daniel Uribe '25 (149 pounds) scored a pin with a tech fall, Chase Baczek '25 (197 pounds) picked up two pins and a tech fall and Titus Waters '27 went 4-0 to capture the heavyweight title.

With athletes who made a na-



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Ayden Lutes '26 executes a takedown against a wrestler from the University of Indianapolis in the Wabash College Open on Saturday, February 1, 2025, at Knowing Fieldhouse.

tionals appearance last season and younger depth, the wrestling team looks to take advantage of the last five weeks of the season. They will continue their Indiana tour at the University of Indianapolis Greyhound Open on Sunday, February 9.

Volleyball:

The volleyball team got its busy weekend off to the right start with a junior varsity match victory over the Butler University Club Team at home on Thursday, January 30th. The following night, the Little Giants traveled to Wilberforce, Ohio and swept Central State University, 3-0. The shutout was highlighted by Bawibawi Thang '27 produced 21 kills, a season-high for the sophomore.

On Saturday, February 1, the team kept its hot streak going with two victories against University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and Greenville University. Wabash is

now 5-0 which is its best start in the program's five-year history. The team will look to stay unbeaten in next weekend's home doubleheader against Maranatha Baptist University and Greenville University.

Swimming & Diving:

The swimming & diving team competed against NCAA Division I program Indiana University-Indianapolis for its last dual meet of the season. Although the Little Giants fell 312-61, the spotlight was on Mason Gilliam '28, who broke the school record in the 1,000-yard freestyle in 9:29.98. The previous record was 9:34.08, held by Chris Dombroski in 2018.

Along with four top-three efforts and a few other personal bests, Wabash seeks to carry this momentum for its most important competition of the year, the NCAC Championships on February 12-15 hosted by Denison University.

Track & Field:

The track & field team traveled to Indiana Wesleyan University to compete in the Indiana Midwest Classic against NAIA schools. Despite the rise in competition, the Little Giants walked away with two individual victories on the day. The first came from Brayden Curnutt '25 in the mile, who unleashed his kick with 150 meters to go and crossed the line in 4:17.81, a new personal indoor best. The second win was earned by Will Neubauer '25 in the 800-meter run, finishing in an effort of 1:56.68.

With about a month until the conference championships and veterans getting back into competition after injury, the track & field team seeks to put everything together when the time is right. Wabash returns to the track next Saturday, February 8 for the Anderson University Invitational.

Lacrosse:

The lacrosse team got its 2025 season underway with two exhibition matchups against William Jewell College and William Penn University on Saturday, February 1 in Liberty, Missouri. Against a Division II and NAIA program respectively, the Little Giants faced a challenge out of the gate, leaving Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke with keys to emphasize with his team moving forward.

"One major piece that we realized is that we're young and we're going to make a lot of mistakes," said Burke. "We have a short period of time to fix those mistakes, but I think the guys are up to it. There weren't any massive or glaring issues from this weekend, we just have to execute better."

The team looks to correct on its errors as they enter the official start of the season, starting with a trip to Hanover College on Saturday, February 8 at 2 p.m.

Tennis:

The tennis team got its spring season underway with a doubleheader against Illinois Wesleyan University and Cedarville University. The Little Giants started the day hot, earning a 6-1 win over the Titans. Later in the evening however, Wabash lost each doubles match to Cedarville and were unable to rally from the early deficit, falling 5-4 to split the doubleheader. Cole Shifferly '26, Rafael Rin '27 and Murilo Guarniari '28 all went unbeaten in singles on the day.

Spring tennis is back in full swing and the first month of the season will be a valuable measuring stick of where they're at. Wabash will be back on the courts Saturday, February 8 to host another doubleheader against Hanover College and Otterbein University.