

Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies leads charge for celebration of Black History Month

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27
STAFF WRITER

As February is reaching its end, the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) continues to host events celebrating Black History Month. Every year, February is nationally dedicated to celebrating Black history and culture. On Wabash's campus, the MXIBS has a vital role in keeping this tradition ongoing.

The MXIBS was founded by a group of Black Wabash students in 1970 and was created in order to stand as a pillar of Black activism, culture and community inside Wabash's campus. The institution's role is still very prevalent at Wabash today, as it continues to represent the Black community on campus as a whole.

The Institute's role is just as important as it was in the 1970's, as Wabash's student body is still predominantly white. The MXIBS serves as a community for Black students at Wabash, a community that sometimes cannot be found in other groups on campus. Vice Chairman of the MXIBS, Christian Gray '25, found a sense of belonging at Wabash through the Institute.

"History textbooks only teach so many things, and Black history is not talked about enough on the farther end."

- Secretary of the MXIBS Hayden Lewter '26

Gray was raised in Indianapolis and attended North Central High School. Switching from a diverse public school to a small, private liberal arts institution was a culture shock. The demographic that composed Wabash's student body was not something that he was used to as a freshman. During his freshman year, Gray lacked a sense of community inside of Wabash. This is what motivated him to join the MXIBS as a sophomore.

"I really felt out of touch with my Blackness being here," said Gray. "I lost that portion of myself. I remember joining the



Brothers of the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies stand behind Martin Luther King Jr. Day keynote speaker Attorney Angela B. Freeman. The organization has focused internally this year when promoting Black History Month, naturally bringing outside engagement.

MXIBS and feeling like that was the first time I had belonged."

As the head of this year's Black History Month programming, Gray is a major reason why the MXIBS has been so much more involved in Black History Month this year. Gray believes that Black History Month is important for educating the Black community and to uplift and support it as well. Initially, the Institute was focused on outward education, but brothers like Gray have realized that it is better to tailor events to promote their own community within the MXIBS. Focusing on internal promotion has naturally brought outside engagement.

"Two years ago, our Black History Month programming was really focused on outward education," said Gray. "But the people who needed to hear it weren't there to do so. Now, I'm just going to focus on uplifting our guys and our community within the MXIBS."

Over the past three weeks, the MXIBS has hosted a plethora of events related to Black History Month. The Institute started out by opening its doors to the rest of campus and hosted a Black History Month open house. The Institute has con-

tinued engagement through a series of lunch talks dedicated to Black history and culture.

"I really felt out of touch with my Blackness being here... I remember joining the MXIBS and feeling like that was the first time I had belonged."

- Vice Chairman of the MXIBS Christian Gray '25

The talks have been switching off between students and faculty. This past Tuesday's talk included Alex Schmidt '27's coverage of Black influence on the rock and roll industry, and Alex Kindig '26's experience while studying abroad in Botswana. Next week's talk will be done by Visiting Professor Juliette Papadopoulos on French colonialism in Africa.

The MXIBS has also contributed to Black History Month through hosting a campus-wide Brother 2 Brother event — an opportunity for students to communicate openly and honestly with their peers — and

partnered with the artist in residence, Julian Jamaal Jones. With the help of Jones, an art gallery in the Fine Arts Center has been set up to highlight the work of Black students and artists on campus. The first section of the showcase features unframed works by Black students, and the rest showcases Black artists from the MXIBS permanent art collection.

Lastly, the MXIBS has brought in Black speakers to talk in front of the Institute. This past week, the Institute brought in a speaker from the American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. The speaker covered the topic of mental health in the Black community and tried to tackle the stigmas that exist in it.

On February 22, the MXIBS will host Red Velvet, a lineup of musical and comedic performances in the Ball Theater. The last major event is on February 28, when the Institute will be hosting the Celebration of Black History Month. The event will specifically focus on the Harlem Renaissance and how it impacted Black culture.

Continued page 2

Wabash Family Day renewed

ASHTON MOORE '25
STAFF WRITER

After being cancelled in 2020 and 2021, Wabash Family Day has somewhat struggled to get its feet planted, but this year's scheduled programming carries a new air of optimism

In the past, the family engagement team at Wabash has struggled to even find a suitable weekend for Family Day, since it was traditionally held in the fall, a semester that is already congested due to football season.

That isn't all. Most fraternities hold their own similar family-focused days. For a fraternity like Phi Delta Theta, which puts a heavy focus on its own Family Day equivalent — titled Phis and Families — Wabash Family Day struggles to make an impact.

"Our house really prioritizes Phis and Families, and it's been a huge tradition for the house longer than I've even been a student at Wabash," said Vice President of Phi Delta Theta Evan Zambrano '26. "We put a lot of effort into that, and the communication between us and the parents is easy."

Family Day has struggled to find its niche, and this is the problem that Assistant Director of Engagement Deanna Duncan has been working on for some time. Duncan is also the Assistant Director of Affinity Alumni and Affinity Group Engagement, where one of her main focuses is the Wabash Women's Collective. In short, her work entails consistent outreach and making connections with those off of Wabash's campus.

This year, there was a desire to reshape Family Day to strengthen connections between the College and the families of students, and that means creating an event that is family-friendly and entertaining.

"We want parents to realize that they are welcome on campus and that they are a part of the Wabash family."

- Assistant Director of Engagement Deanna Duncan

"We've had certain things work in past years, but it just wasn't enough," said Duncan. "We took some of the things that parents liked to see and some things to keep the kids entertained. Ultimately, though, the core reason parents come to Family Day is because they want to see their son."

Thanks to some help from the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (through Red Velvet) and Mariachi Pequeños Gigantes, this year's event already appears more interesting and inviting than previous attempts. The day will even operate around a home basketball game — intentionally an event that takes up less time than football tailgates and games. It's a much more effective use of time, Duncan and her team hope, while still keeping parents and students celebrating Family Day busy.

This year's Family Day already has more families signed up than any previous year — hopefully, a sign of good things to come. This year might be the first in properly entrenching Family Day as a beloved Wabash tradition. At the very least, the family engagement team seems to be taking steps in the right direction.

"I really hope that students will come out, whether their parents are coming or not," said Duncan. "Have one of your buddies adopt you for the day. This is the one day at Wabash that is all about the parents. We want parents to realize that they are welcome on campus and that they are a part of the Wabash family."

DISTINCTION IN COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS 2025

DIVISION I

- Biochemistry**
Thomas Oppman
- Biology**
Andrew Sinkovics
- Computer Science**
Keane Albright
Luka DiFilippo
Julius Hearn
Jackson Leeper
- Mathematics**
Lewi Dellinger
Ethan Johns

DIVISION II

- Classics**
Logan Weilbaker
- French**
Neil Laymon
- Religion**
Noah McRoberts
- Rhetoric**
Jacob Weber
- Spanish**
Richard Ballentine
Kayden Beatty
Andrew Dever
Aidan Geleott
- Theater**
Logan Weilbaker

DIVISION III

- Financial Economics**
Justin Santiago
Jacob Oostman
- History**
Andrew Dever
Quinn Manford
Preston Reynolds
- Psychology**
Luis Rivera
- Political Science**
Nathanael Plake
- PPE**
Sarvik Chaudhary
Gabriel Pirtle

Black History Month

Continued from page 1

While the events have had growing attendance, Gray and Hayden Lewter '26, secretary of the MXIBS, believe that the College administration should do more to support Black History Month events.

"I want to say it should be a collaborative effort, which it is, but I think we are taking more of that responsibility," said Lewter. "We're doing the majority of the work while the administration is just approving it and giving us a budget."

Support, Lewter said, can also come from those who are not involved in the MXIBS. By coming to events and learn about Black history and issues, students and faculty alike can be educated and better poised to spread awareness

He noted that even though outside attendance isn't great, it is still improving. Students who are not brothers of the MXIBS are starting to give lunch talks, sharing their experiences. There

is an upward trajectory of coaches and faculty starting to show up to every event.

"History textbooks only teach so many things, and Black history is not talked about enough on the farther end," said Lewter. "We are trying to develop that educational bridge and teach something, whether it's from a student's perspective or from a professor's perspective."

"I'm just going to focus on uplifting our guys and our community within the MXIBS."

- Vice Chairman of the MXIBS
Christian Gray '25

As Black History Month starts to wrap up, the MXIBS encourages students from all around campus to attend their events and end the month on a strong note.



This week at Wabash

Saturday, Feb. 22

7:30 p.m. | Red Velvet @ Ball Theater

Sunday, Feb. 23

9:30 a.m. | Black History Month Sermon @ Pioneer Chapel

Tuesday, Feb. 25

11:15 a.m. - Question, Persuade, Refer Training @ Kendall House

Wednesday, Feb. 26

7:30 p.m. | 12 Angry Men @ Ball Theater

Thursday, Feb. 27

11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk @ Pioneer Chapel

News around the world

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

Russia, Ukraine and the United States

An American delegation led by Secretary of State Marco Rubio met with officials from Russia. The two parties concluded four hours of talks in Saudi Arabia that focused on the war in Ukraine on February 18. This was the first meeting between American and Russian officials in three years — a shift in relations between the two countries.

Notably, Ukraine was not included in the conversation, though President Donald Trump has since promised to include Ukraine in peace talks. However, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in a virtual press conference that he "did not know anything about it [peace talks]." While Zelensky presented his "victory plan" for Ukraine last October, he recently has said that he was now open to 'swapping' territories with Russia. Nations around the world look on in hopes that the peace talks between the United States and Russia prove to be beneficial, as Ukrainians hope to have a seat at the table.

Brazil

Former president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro, was formally charged with trying to stage a coup after losing his re-election in 2022 to Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. Bolsonaro, a far-right politician, was accused of leading a "criminal organization" that falsely discredited the electoral system.

He was also accused of encouraging supporters to storm Brasília, the planned capital of Brazil. The accusation also stated that the planned coup involved plans to poison Lula, Bolsonaro's current successor. Bolsonaro has been compared to American President Donald Trump, as both have used similar rhetoric, and both have been surrounded in controversy regarding coups following their respective election defeats.

Vatican City

Head of the Catholic Church Pope Francis has fallen ill and is in medical care in Rome, Italy. He has spent over five nights in a hospital in Rome following a diagnosis of pneumonia in both lungs. On February 18, the Vatican stated that his condition is "complex" but he "remains in good spirits."

Pope Francis was elected in 2013, and has been hospitalized four times since he became the Pope. The native Argentine was originally diagnosed with bronchitis, but eventually this led to the now diagnosed pneumonia, a commonality in medicine. The Pope has dealt with respiratory problems for much of his life, all the way back to a partial removal of one lung in 1957. He has also had bouts with respiratory illnesses and bronchitis before. His already fragile state, accompanied with a serious illness, has set off talks and rumors about who his successor may be.



COURTESY OF AP

Secretary of State Marco Rubio talks during discussions between the United States and Russia regarding the war in Ukraine on February 18, 2025, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.



COURTESY OF AP

Former President of Brazil Jair Bolsonaro smiles during a luncheon with senators from his supporting base on February 18, 2025, in Brasília, Brazil.



COURTESY OF REUTERS

A rainbow appeared over the hospital in which Pope Francis is being cared for on February 18, 2025, in Rome, Italy.



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INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY



FEATURES

Career Services leads drive for student internships



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The Career Service team, Karlie Hall, Bryan Biddle, Cassie Hagan, Emily Hall and Jacob Riley '18 (left to right) pose with Wally Wabash at the annual Day of Giving on April 19, 2023.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
FEATURES EDITOR

In their 2024 student survey, the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE) reported various figures connected to hiring and early-career metrics for recent college graduates. After Career Services held their annual Internship Week programming last week, a few pertinent statistics stand-out. In 2024, more graduating seniors held an internship at some point in their undergraduate years than in any year since 2019. Additionally, NACE reported that employers responding to their 2024 Job Outlook survey rated internship experience in their sector or organization highly. The evidence points to the importance of internships in securing post-graduate opportunities in the work force, and prompts Wabash's Career Services to continue prioritizing internships for students.

There are a number of reasons why Career Services promotes internships so vigorously, but one of the main reasons is that they are extensions of the classroom in a sense, an opportunity to embrace learning in a different environment than a lecture or seminar presents. Internships are another avenue to animate a liberal arts education. Beyond that, they're also practical.

"You [students] have to try different things to figure out what you're good at, what's a good match for your skill set and what you find fulfilling," said Cassie Hagan, Director

"Ultimately, it's all about transferable skills," said Emily Hall, Associate Director of Professional Development at Wabash. "The transferable skills that you can get through those experiences, you can leverage those for that first post-graduate opportunity and hopefully have a higher starting salary or better benefits or whatever outcome you want."

And internships don't only bolster skills and techniques unique to the field the internship is in. Some of the best benefits aren't even skills per se. Connections, said Hagan, are crucial to develop because they create pathways to mentorship relationships, another key to early career success. Internships often create the ideal situation for connections to blossom into deeper relationships that will help young professionals succeed early in their careers.

But before the harvest of an internship can be collected, students have to secure internship opportunities. This is often a tricky and, as students know, an arduous process. Part of the battle is simply applying early enough in employers' search process to qualify as a serious candidate. Thus, Internship Week is as much about encouraging students to access and take advantage of Career Services materials that are online and downloadable year-round as it is about posting new internships. But, Hagan said, students shouldn't wait for Internship Week in February each year to begin thinking about their summer plans, especially students in competitive fields like business or finance. It's not uncommon for employers in those fields to begin interviewing summer intern candidates a full calendar year ahead of the advertised start date.

"You should always kind of be looking; it's a continuous process," said Hagan. "The more competitive the internships that you're looking at, the earlier they recruit. And so I encourage people to find someone in career services, or someone else who's a career mentor who is knowledgeable of those cycles, to advocate for you and help make sure you have all the information you need."

Receiving rejection letters is also an obstacle most, if not all, students will have to endure at some point during their internship search. Internships with well-known employers are hard to come by, competitive and have applications that require a serious time investment. Getting told no is hard, but the key is to cast a wide net and move on from the disappointments.

"The transferable skills that you can get through those experiences, you can leverage those for that first post-graduate opportunity, and hopefully have a higher starting salary or better benefits, or whatever outcome you want."

- Associate Director of Professional Development, Emily Hall

of Professional Development and the Center for Innovation, Business and Entrepreneurship at Wabash. "It's just part of experiential learning, and you get some of that through your classes, but you also have to seek it out intentionally outside of the classroom. The summers are the best time to do that in a full time setting."

Internships, according to NACE's data, remain practical for college graduates because they lead to more job offers and a higher starting salary. According to the 2024 student survey, graduates who completed a paid internship received starting salaries \$12,000 higher, on average, than graduates with no internship experience. Paid internship graduates also received more job offers than their peers. Employers want hires with demonstrated skills, and part of what Career Services aimed to emphasize during Internship Week is how advantageous prior experience can be to graduates when they begin to enter the workforce.

"Sometimes the biggest hurdle is getting some no's," said Hall. "We do a good job making sure students apply to multiple internships. It really is a circular action of applying and waiting so that, if you have three or four no's in a week, you've got some other ones in the hopper."

Wabash students have a lot of time commitments. Between coursework, athletics and leadership on and off campus, it is easy to shrug off summer decisions until the last minute. Some internships pay less than typical summer jobs, and opting for an alternative employment opportunity is much better than not working during the summer. Non-internship jobs are still good experiences. But, Hagan said, students should consider the opportunity cost of not securing an internship at some point in their Wabash career. It may spare you some stress and money in the short run, but like other things in life, a better reward lies on the other side of the uncomfortable.

'Themeless'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

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ACROSS

- Bottom of one's bottoms
- Taters
- Quetzalcoatl worshipper
- Baboon or buffoon
- Cause of a Wall Street sell-off
- How some are wed
- 1, for 3/2
- Oktoberfest memento
- Firmly planted
- "Opposed to" prefix
- General Arnold
- Basketballer Nikola Joki, for one
- Old-timey slang for detective that comes from shortening the word
- Toyota's CE, S or LE
- Ear-splitting
- Word before or after "pass"
- Measures of mos.
- Pick up the tab
- Earvin Johnson, to sports fans
- Atty.'s add-on
- Make cheap shots from afar, in shooter games
- Prophet who succeeded a man with a similar name
- It might be 0%, in car ads: Abbr.
- Pizzeria appliance
- The Joker's expression
- Regard
- Running joke
- Spick-and-span
- "There She Goes" band, with "The"
- Begin ___ (go back to square one)
- What's peddled by Pixar
- Instrument with one hole, topologically speaking
- Trading card number
- "The Faerie Queene" character
- Bent wrench
- "Bed-in for Peace" activist
- Ancient book of scriptures
- Ranks contestants
- Final

DOWN

- "Log Cabin and ___ Cider" (William Henry Harrison slogan)
- Fencing piece
- "What Do You ___?" Party card game
- Spin like a well-tossed pigskin
- Full suit of armor, like that worn by a Greek hoplite
- Loosen, as a knot
- Tries to lose, in a way
- Modern toddler's distraction
- Reply: Abbr.
- Greek letter that doesn't end the alphabet
- The smallest square that can be written by adding two consecutive squares
- Upper-crust group
- Doubling Thomas, famously
- "Money isn't everything," for example
- Air or tear follower
- Bad thing for a journalist to have
- ___ about (happen)
- 0 shape
- On the rolls
- Auxiliary verb often shortened to a letter
- Boring book report
- 987-65-4321 org.
- Drill grp.
- \$2,000 for Boardwalk, with a hotel
- Uppercut target
- Suicide prevention inits.
- Square footage
- Part of the tree
- Embarkation point for Oz
- Fine upholsteries
- Vanilla
- Opening remarks
- Boxer's prize
- Get thinner, as the moon
- Buck or boar
- Oklahoma natives
- Half a course
- "Nae" sayer?
- Tussaud's medium



Scan for solution!

'Some \$exy \$ongs 4 U' review: redemption?



COURTESY OF RATEDNRN

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

It sure has been a turbulent year for one of the world's most renowned stars. These days it would be almost impossible to mention artist Drake without mentioning Kendrick Lamar. So, for the sake of this review, I am going to get it out of the way now. For rap fans, the beef was the highlight of the summer and gave fans very memorable moments. Even this month while Drake has been touring in Australia, a whole stadium of people sang possibly the most memorable line of Lamar's "Not Like Us" diss track. But that's

not what this review is going to be about. As the smoke clears from his battle, Drake has teamed up with fellow Canadian artist, PARTYNEXTDOOR (PND) to reclaim his position as a hitmaker. The duo finally dropped their rap and rhythm and blues (R&B) inspired Valentines Day album "Some \$exy \$ongs 4 U." And there is quite a lot to unpack.

PND and Drake have delivered some hits with songs in the past like "Come and see me," "Preach," "Recognize" and many more, so it was exciting to anticipate the possibilities of a collaboration album. "Some \$exy \$ongs 4 U" has a lot of good moments but also a lot of OK moments. It has a strong opener in "CN TOWER," where Drake and PND exchange the melodic lyrics that they are known very well for. Songs like "CRYING IN CHANEL" gives fans nostalgia for the Drake they hear on his iconic "Views" album." The most memorable song is "GIMME A HUG." It brings Drake's rap flow that fans know so well, but also hints that he is moving on from his famed beef.

PND shines on songs like "SOMETHING ABOUT YOU" where his melodic flow really shines. His vocals really stand out in "LASSERS," but his best moment might come in the very energetic "SOMEBODY LOVES ME," which might very well be the best song on the album. The duo recruits a handful of features including an upbeat Yebba feature on "DIE

TRYING" and an angelic Pim feature on "PIMMIE'S DILEMMA."

Even with a few songs that are sure to make some playlists, the album has some very noticeable misses. PND does what we would expect from him which is to provide a strong flow paired with Drake. But, similar to "Her Loss" with artist 21 Savage, he feels more like a feature throughout the album instead of a collaboration. From Drake's standpoint the album is good but pales in comparison to his albums like "Views" or "Take Care," which makes it seem a little lazy. The track list is a little long with songs like "OMW" and "Glorious" feeling out of place.

The album itself also seems to ignore some of the major criticism Drake has been receiving lately. Whether it's a statement from the artist or just tone deaf, the album has a few clichés and melodramatic moments, such as

Drake employing a Spanish accent on "MEET YOUR PADRE" seemingly out of nowhere. This album simply feels out of place in the recent Drake timeline because it ignores much of his controversy, which really holds it back as a release.

Despite these complaints the album has very solid moments. Fans have been waiting for some new music since his last album release in 2023 with "For All The Dogs," and there are definitely tracks that will be played throughout the rest of the winter. But the album holds itself back in many ways. It was a chance for Drake to shine with a new iconic album that would shock fans and add to his legacy, but "Some \$exy \$ongs 4 U" is not that. As Drake finishes up a tour in Australia, it will be interesting to see what steps he takes next and if he can ever be back on the top like he was for so many years prior.

FINAL VERDICT: 3/5 WALLYS



"Captain America: Brave New World" review: Underwhelming and forgettable



Captain America, depicted by Anthony Mackie, uses his shield to absorb a blow from Red Hulk. "Captain America: Brave New World" features Red Hulk's debut on the big screen.

BEN WALLACE '25
STAFF WRITER

"Captain America: Brave New World" is a complete airball. So many missed opportunities, and ultimately, a total waste of time. I went in with low expectations and still somehow left disappointed. Marvel had a real chance to do something exciting with a new Captain America, but instead, they fell back on their tired formula of corny jokes, bad CGI and anticlimactic fight scenes.

The movie opens with Captain America raiding a handoff involving a newly introduced mineral, Adamantium. The opening sequence is actually pretty cool, seemingly trying to recapture the spy-espionage essence of "Captain America: The Winter Soldier." However, it quickly goes downhill.

We're introduced to Thaddeus Ross, now the President of the United States, and it's pretty painful. He embodies everything wrong with recent Marvel writing; his dialogue is limited to three topics: the treaty, his daughter and cherry blossoms. Every time he's on screen, it's a chore to watch.

Ross is also Red Hulk, as revealed in the trailers. Which is another thing that got under my skin while watching. The movie builds up to a showdown between Captain America and Red Hulk, but it ends up feeling completely anticlimactic because the whole fight was already shown in the trailer. There was no surprise and no tension; just a moment we all knew was coming. It could have been cool if Red Hulk's reveal had been kept under wraps, but since Marvel spoiled it, there's nothing left to get excited about. And if you were looking forward to seeing Red Hulk in action, lower your expectations. He's on screen for maybe two minutes, and it's all footage you've already seen.

To add to the long list of missteps, it's obvious this movie went through multiple reshoots. Even with all the changes, it's baffling that this was the final script they landed on because this isn't really a Captain America movie. It's an Incredible Hulk movie with Captain America awkwardly shoehorned in. The villains, the overarching conflict: everything feels like it belongs in a Hulk-centric story. It's frustrating that Anthony Mackie's first solo outing as Captain America couldn't get a script that actually centered him in a meaningful way.

My final gripe with the movie is the post-credit scene. At this point, Marvel seems to include these just out of obligation rather than because they have anything meaningful to add. This one had absolutely nothing to offer.



Anthony Mackie and Harrison Ford star in the Marvel Cinematic Universe's latest installment in the Captain America series.

ing interesting to say, making it feel like a complete waste of time. I sat through an extra 10 minutes for a scene that was utterly meaningless.

On the bright side, Anthony Mackie was great. He brought plenty of charisma and fits the role of the new Captain America perfectly. There were also glimpses of solid action sequences, the intro scene was amazing, and Captain America's one-on-one fight with Voelker was a definite highlight. The integration of Falcon's wings with Cap's shield led to some cool new attack combos, but unfortunately, we didn't get to see nearly enough of it.

The Marvel dialogue is getting pretty stale at this point. Everything I've said in this review could easily apply to multiple other post-"Endgame" Marvel projects. Disney seems far less concerned with the quality of these films and more focused on churning them out for profit, which is frustrating for audiences. Honestly, I'm not sure how much more of this I can take. I hope "Fantastic Four" can reignite the Marvel Comic Universe spark when it releases this summer, but my faith is running low. In the end I can't recommend this movie to anyone. It was a frustrating, forgettable experience and a complete waste of time.

FINAL VERDICT: 2/5 WALLYS



Businger's Bracketology 101 Part II: Conference tournaments

GAGE BUSINGER '25
GUEST WRITER

We are just under four weeks until the opening round of the 2025 NCAA Tournament tips off and the tension is growing in every basketball arena around the nation. Pretty soon regular season champions will be crowned and conference tournaments will begin for each of the 31 conferences in Division I men's basketball. What is unique about college basketball is that if you are eligible to compete in your conference's tournament, you have an opportunity to win a national championship. See, teams that win their conference tournament are given an automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. Last season, North Carolina State was 17-14 and the 10 seed in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC) tournament. The Wolfpack had no chance of making March Madness unless they miraculously won five straight games. Somehow, they were able to do just that, winning the ACC Championship and entering the NCAA Tournament as an 11 seed. Their Cinderella run did not end there, as they danced their way to the Final Four in Phoenix. This just goes to show that in March, no team is truly eliminated from the championship chase. Any team has the chance to

get hot at the right time and make a one-in-a-million run. Personally, that is why I think conference tournament time is the most intriguing and fun part of the season.



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

So make sure to keep track of what teams "punch their ticket" into the bracket by winning their conference tournament. Maybe you'll have the upper-hand in your bracket pick-'em challenges if you can spot a team that is playing well and poised to make an unexpected run.

On Saturday, the NCAA Tournament Committee revealed their top four seed lines, a tradition that started in 2017. This gave fans an insight on what 16 teams were worthy enough to be a top four seed. I was not surprised by

the committee's decisions, as all 16 teams who I thought would have a top four seed were included. The number-one overall team was the Auburn Tigers. Auburn is having one of the most impressive seasons of recent memory, as Bruce Pearl's squad sits at 23-2 following their road victory over state-rival and the committee's number two overall team, Alabama. However, almost a week later, results have shaken up the top four seeds for everyone else. Let's look at my projected one through four seed lines and the bubble projection.

On the one seed line sit Auburn, Alabama, Duke and Florida. Close behind, on the two seed line, are Tennessee, Houston, Wisconsin and Texas A&M. Outside the top eight, Iowa State, Michigan, Purdue and Kentucky combine to hold down the three seed line. Rounding out the projected top 16 teams are Arizona, Michigan State, Texas Tech and St. John's. The final four teams projected to make the big dance all hail from the South: Vanderbilt, Texas, Arkansas and VCU. The first four projected to miss out: Oklahoma, SMU, Xavier and Indiana.

For daily updates, be sure to follow @cbbtbracketology on X (Twitter).

Senior Spotlight: Andrew Dever



COURTESY OF ANDREW DEVER '25

Andrew Dever '25 poses in front of the ruins of the Temple of Hephaestus in the ancient Athenian Agora during a trip to Greece in 2024 for the Athens Democracy Forum. The Forum's main event saw Katerina Sakellaropoulou, Greece's president, receive a medal to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Greece's triumph over authoritarianism.

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

Hailing from Dallas, Andrew Dever '25's path to Wabash looked a little different than other students. The history and Spanish double major initially came here to continue his athletic career but found out there was a lot more to Wabash than just sports.

"I was originally recruited to play soccer by Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller, and actually also to play basketball by Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett," said Dever. "I was also attracted to the alumni network and small school environment. So, I took my first visit up here right out of the initial COVID pandemic. And then from there, I fell in love with this place and arrived as a freshman ready to take on college. Now four years later, I'm looking at the other side." And while Dever originally

came here to pursue both soccer and basketball, he quickly discovered other groups on campus that he wanted to be a part of. And while he joined more clubs and more groups, he eventually had to come to a compromise with athletics.

"There's just so many other things that I could do on campus, and other talents that I had besides athletics," said Dever. "And continuing with two sports is going to really limit my potential to explore professional programs, clubs, extracurriculars, fraternities and more. So, it ended up being a really beneficial decision to step back from basketball."

He would go on to make a name for himself in several other groups around campus. These include being an editor for *The Bachelor*, president of the Pre-Law Society, part of the Wabash Democracy and Public Discourse (WDPD) program, a goalie on

the soccer team and part of the Wabash Acts Responsibly (WAR) Council. But one of the most important impacts came after he joined the Theta Delta Chi fraternity.

"We had a brother who had multiple sclerosis (MS)," said Dever. "And as philanthropy chairman, we had a campaign to help raise awareness about that. We ended up going to Indianapolis and helping the national walk MS foundation run their regional Midwest event in Indianapolis. And I think for me, that showed how Wabash guys take that situation, and can turn it into a situation for positive change. We raised about \$5,000 and a lot of that was just thanks to the generosity of students, faculty, staff and the community."

Outside of his time as a brother of Theta Delta Chi, Dever has been very active in pursuing law. He hones his skills through his contributions to the Pre-Law Society, and his impressive tenures on Moot Court. He hopes these experiences will lead him on to a successful legal career. But it is more than his accomplishments that set him apart. It is also how he has been remembered around campus.

"Andrew is a deeply inquisitive thinker," said Spanish Professor Mathew Greenhalgh. "He is driven to excel at all of his academic pursuits. In Spanish, I have witnessed his development from the 200-level as a freshman to receiving distinction on comps as a senior about to graduate. I hope students will follow Andrew's example and engage more in the classroom and socially on campus."

The door on Dever's time at Wabash is coming to a close, but his impact has not gone unnoticed. As he reflects on the multitude of experiences that have shaped him into the man he has become, Dever will embark into the pursuit of law as he applies to law schools. However, he will be keeping the memories and lessons he made starting as a freshman coming from across the country close to his heart.

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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.

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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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Wabash United...



Jacob Weber '25

Reply to this opinion at
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Last week marked Wabash United week, a campaign launched by the athletics department to showcase a commitment to being united as one Wabash; but that campaign left little impact on my views of our unity as a campus.

The most impactful moments of Wabash United week shone through last Monday and Thursday in the alumni who shared their reasons for Wabash to be united. Brian Parks '18 and Brient Hicks '18 shared valuable messages in their panel moderated by Head Track & Field Coach Clyde Morgan. Aman Brar '99 gave a compelling Chapel Talk connecting his time at Wabash with his successful professional career, highlighting the power of coming together in unity. These two moments of the week provided reinforcement to the message that Wabash is better when we are united as one, and that our unity must be more than simple words.

Aside from these moments, Wabash United week gave out free T-shirts, free coffee for talking with coaches and helped publicize a cultural fair that the Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) committee hosted alongside TGIF. The most common event on the schedule for Wabash United Week were athletic events. While this makes sense, as Wabash United was sponsored by the athletics department after all, simply asking students to go to a sporting event does little to actually promote unity. Most students make up their minds on what sporting events to attend based on their own personal reasons, so simply asking us to show up to an event we already made our mind up on does little to promote unity on campus.

The real opportunities to promote unity on campus are not athletic events. The Right to Be Trainings hosted the week before, the cultural fair hosted by the D&I Committee and the campus-wide Brother-to-Brother event from the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies are much more likely to truly break down barriers and unite our campus than if a few more students showed up to an athletic event to get a free shirt. I'll add that as someone who attended the cultural

fair, there seemed to be a sparse number of athletes. In fact, it was mainly attended by students in one of the featured clubs, or by students and faculty who I have seen before at D&I committee events. I have no data to support this, but if you think I'm wrong, let me know.

But aside from arguing the efficacy of what events promote campus unity best, I found another part of Wabash United week to be more concerning: the bingo cards. In case you didn't see one, bingo cards were made with different squares that could be fulfilled with the goal of promoting campus unity. Sounds like a great way to encourage students to be actively engaging in unifying practices, right? On its face I'd agree, until you read further. One of the squares said "Thank a woman on campus." Others asked students to speak with members of cultural organizations like the MXI, La Alianza and 'shOUT. Now, if I remember the rules of bingo right, once you cross off a box, you never need to go back to it. Each time a box is crossed off, you have filled that square and you move on.

Now, more than ever, unity is crucial at Wabash and beyond. Marginalized communities are both literally and figuratively under siege from those who seek to use divisions between our fellow humans to push their own agendas. Division is consistently a powerful weapon, allowing for one person or a group to place themselves above others. But division's greatest weakness is a unified community. If we are united when others try to divide us, they will fail. But, if we are not unified when division comes knocking at our door, then we will falter like a house of cards.

Unity is not fulfilling the box and moving on, trying to cross off everything until you win. Unity is not creating tokens out of our community members by asking students to thank a woman on campus or speak with a member of a cultural organization. Unity is coming together, having hard conversations and learning from others. Unity is proactive, taking up time and energy that if invested right, will pay enormous dividends.

Unity comes from a true desire to be closer with those around you, not simply to check off a box. Wabash, I challenge you this: commit to being Wabash United for more than just one week. Put in the work. Learn from those around you. If you're unsure of where to start, send me an email or find me on campus; let's get some real unity building done.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

HELIUM HEIST

Lo-five to the two townies who stole a balloon arch from the Allen Center on Wednesday, fleeing through the Senior Arch on the way out. Surely desecrating TWO arches in one night spells bad news for their high school graduation prospects.

O SAY CAN YOU SEE THE SCOREBOARD?

Hi-five to the U.S. hockey team for beating Canada after the hostile crowd booed the US national anthem in protest of the recently imposed tariffs. On top of losing the game, the Canadian hockey team was at the receiving end of several lost fist fights. Luckily there was plenty of ice for those wounds... at least the physical ones.

GATOR ROLL

Lo-five to a Florida truck for overturning on the highway, spilling 44,000 pounds of Busch beer. The Spinx Club will be holding a vigil at the Chapel this weekend.

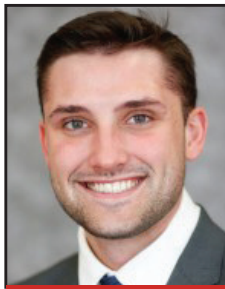
CRAZY FLIPPIN' PRICES

Hi-five to Delta for offering \$30,000 to each passenger on the plane that landed upside-down. Now all you have to do is get in two plane crashes and you can pay tuition at Wabash for a year.

"MR. GORBACHEV..."

Hi-five to Wabash administration for moving the fence from underneath the arch, allowing students to gaze upon its beauty undivided. In the words of famous TKE Ronald Reagan, "as long as this scar of a wall is permitted to stand... the question [is] of freedom for all mankind."

Seasonal effects on your mood



Lucas Martin '26

Reply to this opinion at
ljmartin26@wabash.edu

As the temperature continues to plummet and you ask yourself day and day again: "How is it already so dark outside?" It is important to understand how your frigid environment truly impacts you. The truth is, there are a variety of different ways the winter months affect us, but also a multitude of solutions that will be offered later in this piece.

The three major contributors to the "winter blues" that I'll be diving

deeper into in this opinion are the reduced daytime hours that we are experiencing, colder temperatures and receiving less sunlight. These conditions contribute to a variety of mental health issues, anywhere from seasonal affective disorder (seasonal depression) to heightened depression and/or anxiety. This is typically due to the way that our bodies respond to a lack of sunlight. Our brains produce less serotonin which regulates our moods, and this can also screw up our already treacherous college student sleep schedules.

Cold weather inclines us to stay indoors where it is warm and restricts us from engaging in outdoor activities that give us joy. Activities like hiking, playing sports or anything else that exerts our pent-up energy are all good for our bodies and minds. They provide stress relief, release endorphins and

have many mental health benefits. On the flip side, indoor isolation can make us feel lonely and disconnected.

At the date of writing this, we will be seeing a total of ten hours and 50 minutes of sunlight shining upon this great institution that we all love and cherish. This can be compared to the summer, when we get anywhere between 14-15 hours of sunlight. Lack of sunlight not only deprives a man of much needed vitamin D but may also trigger seasonal depression in our loyal Wabash men.

Enough of the cold hard facts. Solutions to these problems are quite simple! To combat a lack of exercise amidst this chilly winter you can participate in intramural basketball or go get in a pump at our very own Allen Center. Getting more sunlight could come in the form of spending more time walking around the mall and

meeting new people! When it comes to the length of our days, well, we will just have to wait that one out. But the point is that we should be conscious of the way that we are feeling and work toward staying happy and healthy as a community.

To end this off, I would like to give a call to action to all of you who dared to read this. Keep an eye on yourself and your brothers. Mental health is something easily overlooked, and many people on our campus struggle with it. The next time you see someone who may be dealing with the symptoms of seasonal depression be sure to ask them how they are really doing. Be the man who makes somebody's day or even changes their life.

Wally's wall: Admitted Students and Scarlet Honors Weekend

The Prompt:

What is "the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly" of Admitted Students and Scarlet Honors days? What do we get right and what could we improve when hosting students?

Jackson Bohrer '26

These events are highly influential in the decision-making process for prospective students. The issue that arises is the events are almost always scheduled at the least convenient time for current Wabash students. The goal of these events is to have prospective students interact with current students, yet the scheduling of these events makes it so current students don't have enough time to meaningfully interact with the prospective students. A simple solution is to always have these events on a Friday, which is not right before the finals or midterms.

William Duncan '27

As a rush chair, I would be in favor of having a Friday night into Saturday afternoon style. This allows the current high schoolers to get a better idea of what campus life is truly like. Having the Sunday to Monday schedule is a really hard sell, as most Wabash students are all studying, and not too interested in interacting with the high school guys. I feel like a Sunday and Monday Scarlet Honors Weekend doesn't let the campus show off its true self.

Samuel Long '25

Good: Going from table to table at the Fraternity Fair in the fieldhouse and begging for a bid while roleplaying as the worst rush prospect to ever live to your buddies that are different fraternity rush chairmen.
Bad: Not being able to watch the Betas destroy a junk car on their front lawn and play it off as a "Rush Event" like they used to.
Ugly: Trying to show a prospective and his parents your house's "freshman study room" all while the posters on the wall and gaming set ups make the room look like the least studied-in space on campus.

Leeper's lunch: Munchin at Mi Corcel



Jackson Leeper '25

Reply to this opinion at jcleeper25@wabash.edu

What up, bozos? It's your man, Jackson Leeper, with more grub to guzzle. This week's review was to explore a cuisine that is popular and abundant in the little town of Crawfordsville: Hispanic food!

There is a huge amount of this type of food with well-known names like El Charro and Little Mexico. However, I feel there are excellent Hispanic restaurants that slip through the cracks due to these powerhouses. So, I decided to give some love to one I haven't been at. Surprisingly, it's on the same street as El Charro. The name is Mi Corcel, a

restaurant that is inside of what looks like a house! I've seen this restaurant before but my bodacious badonkadonk always gravitates towards the big sign of El Charro. I resisted the gravitational pull this week and walked into Mi Corcel. However, before I get into the guts of this review, lets back up a couple of steps.

Unfortunately, I got food poisoning this weekend (DO NOT get the new dipping burritos from Taco Bell). My appetite was very sparse and my gut was in shambles. Due to this unfortunate experience, two things happened: a hatred for Taco Bell and a not-so good review. I was feeling a lot better during my review but my body was not 100%. To prevent me from getting worse, I only got one item that was a safe option. With that being said, let's get back to it.

I sat down in the restaurant and was handed a menu along with chips and salsa. The salsa was red and more runny, which I prefer. This chips were

warm and a nice crunch. So far, so good. I flipped through the menu and was pleasantly pleased with the options. One unique thing about Mi Corcel is that they have a Peruvian section with lots of scrumptious items. I wanted to try lots of things that seemed delicious but I stuck with a safe item to help my beat-up black hole of a stomach: fajitas. I got the Texan version, which is a meat-lovers version that has steak, chicken and shrimp.

While I was waiting for my food, I definitely felt like I was getting some looks from the locals. I was eating by myself but it also could have been that they have never seen a 6'5" giant before. After a couple of minutes, my food appeared. It was sizzling and I was about to dig in. However, it was a little small. The fajitas came with a side salad (that I never eat) along with rice and beans. The beans and rice were great. For some reason, I always find Mexican rice to be addictive. The fajitas themselves were great. The

cook was nice, the meat was juicy and seasoned very well. One thing that I appreciated was that they gave me four corn tortillas. I usually get three from other places.

I don't know if the cooks saw me and said, "that guy needs an extra one" but definitely liked it. This meal set me back \$16, which was okay at the time due to my stomach but it would have been more pricey if I was in full strength.

With all that was said, I give Mi Corcel a 7.8/10 burbers (knowers will know). However, I will say this review will be revisited on my own time so 7.8 isn't set in stone. I felt I didn't give this restaurant the review it deserves due to my sickness. There were so many things that were new to me and sounded excellent. Definitely give this place a try and come up with your own opinion about it but I know it would be positive. Join me next week as I go on a conquest for an interesting cart!

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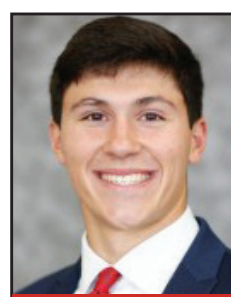


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The price of playing it safe



Zachary Geleott '27

Reply to this opinion at ztgeleot27@wabash.edu

Imagine standing on the edge of a decision. It's big, bold and feels like stepping into the unknown. Your mind begins to race, weighing the cost of going for it. The effort. The time. The risk of failure. The thought of change makes you so uncomfortable that you just want to go home and curl up in your bed.

Come to think about it, you're satisfied with where you're at. Your grades are good, your relationships are decent, you're kind of happy with your physique and you convince yourself that you don't need change in your life. Besides, it's too scary anyways. Life is good, right?

We've all experienced this familiar dialogue in our minds before. You just finished a gritty week of school. You had three tests, four meetings, a workout every day and you're ready to finally relax and take it easy. You're content with where you're at, and don't want to put in any more work.

Or maybe you felt this way at the end of the first semester. I know I certainly did. It felt like I had spent 15 weeks doing stuff nonstop, and all I wanted to do was relax for five weeks over Christmas break. So, that's what I told myself I was going to do. With nothing but free time on my hands, I decided to take a friend up on his book recommendation and read Phil Knight's memoir, *Shoe Dog* (an amazing book: highly recommended). Phil Knight is the creator of Nike, so his book talks a lot about the focus, trust and perseverance required to chase your dreams and succeed at anything in life.

The book was a great read, and it caused me to stop and reflect on my own life up to that point. After spending a couple of days marinating in Phil's story and feeling inspired, one question would not leave my mind: what's the price of playing it safe in our own lives? So often, we instead default to thinking about the cost of going for things we really want in life. How much work we're going to have to put in. The judgement we'll feel from people that disagree with our actions. The time we could potentially waste if we fail.

The list goes on and on. You could come up with just about any reason why you should not go after things you truly want. The result? Complacency takes over, and the change you're longing for never occurs. But when these negative thoughts take over your mind, it becomes necessary to ask yourself the following questions: What is the price tag on another year of unfulfilled potential? On dreams that keep you awake at night because they're so close, yet untouched? On a version of yourself that knows you're capable of more but keeps waiting for the "right time?"

You see, staying the same might feel comfortable, but by choosing comfort you begin to lose out on so much. What starts out as a small decision quickly becomes the slow erosion of your confidence, your joy, your belief in what's possible.

So put down this newspaper, your laptop—whatever you're reading this on—and ask yourself: What's one action I can take today to honor the life I know I'm capable of living? It doesn't matter if it's small, bold, school-related, fitness-related or somewhere in the middle. Just start. You deserve it. Because the life you want is waiting, but it's not waiting forever.

Swim celebrates historic performance in the 2025 NCAC Championships

TY MURPHY '27
FEATURES EDITOR

“Close the gap” was the motto that the Wabash swim & dive team began the season with. And when they entered Granville, Ohio last week for their North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships, they sought to do just that. But with two nationally-ranked teams in the conference, the gap was no easy measure. However, as the team has concluded their conference bout with a third-place finish and the most points scored in team history, the future is only bright for a team that has so much to prove.

“It was really rewarding to see all their hard work and see all of their dedication throughout the whole season come to fruition and do what we set out to do,” said Head Coach William Bernhardt. “It was great, it was a really fun meet, and the energy was super high, to a point where we carried the energy of the meet and the conference.”

The team came into the meet against two behemoths of swim and dive programs and proved that they belonged there. With three new school records set, the most points in NCAC history by the program and an unmatched energy, they came within only 300 points of second-place Kenyon and are gaining on nationally-number-one ranked Denison. This result was more than just how they competed inside the pool, but also how they competed on the deck.

“There were several teams that were trying to do things that we were doing and these are things that we just do,” said Bernhardt. “These are how we get our guys, you know, excited and ready. And other teams Kenyon, Depauw and Wooster even to a point some of the Dennison kids were just really trying to start something similar. But it just never took off.”

Nevertheless it was more than just energy that the team brought. With a school record set in the 800-yard free relay by Ethan Johns '25, Quinn Sweeney '27, Nick Plumb '27 and Ryan West '28 on the first



Head Swimming & Diving Coach Will Bernhardt gives a pep talk to Wabash swimmers during the 2025 North Coast Athletic Conference Championships. The meet was held over the course of four days from February 12-15 at Denison in Granville, Ohio.

day, the mood was set and the team was ready to compete. And compete they did. West would break his own record in the 200 back before Mason Gilliam '28 breaks

one in the 500 free.

“I think just starting off the meet Wednesday night with really good relays fueled us to bring the energy,” said West.

“Some of us were struggling with being sick and we knew we needed a wake up call. It got to the point we had other teams coming up to us and telling us how good we were at supporting each other. We have such a good culture and that definitely helped us go fast.”

Despite being a younger team, the underclassmen are definitely uplifted by their seniors. And for some, moments like these hit a little closer to the heart.

“Conference this year was just an accumulation of everything we’ve accomplished over the past four years in my senior class, and everything the classes under us have brought to the team,” said Johns. “And it really came together in an amazing way where it was all the work that we put in the pool, but then also in the locker room, in our culture and in our recruiting. And it was just special.”

This NCAC championship was more than just proof of hard work for Wabash. It was proof that the program was on the path they wanted to be.

“At some point, Denison made a concerted and conscious choice to go after Kenyon and break their 34 championship win streak, and they did,” said Bernhardt. “And that’s where we talk with the team that it has to be a program choice, right? I can sit here and tell you that I want us to catch those two teams, but until the team believes in it, it’s just lip service, but we’re at a point where the team believes.”

The conclusion of the NCAC championship is not the end for this team however. With a few nationally ranked individuals, the team will participate in a last chance meet February 23 at Crawfordsville High School as a final push to get some guys into nationals. And after a strong outing at conference, look out for the swimmers and divers to be fueled for what could be their final meet of the season.

PHOTO BY CARSON HIESTER '26

This week in sports

Four Wabash teams look forward to “Championship Weekend”

ELIJAH GREENE '25
PHOTO EDITOR

There’s been yet another busy week in sports for Wabash Athletics. Beating DePauw on their home course in track & field, a third place conference finish for swimming and yet another school record for Brayden Curnutt '25 highlight this week’s excitement for the Little Giants.

Basketball:

With one game left to play in conference, the Wabash basketball team corralled two wins in the past week against Kenyon and Wittenberg, solidifying the Little Giants as a top three-seeded team in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament. The Little Giants left Kenyon with a definitive 74-57 win off the back of double-digit points from five different players.

The Little Giants’ game against Wittenberg was more of a back-and-forth affair. With 13 minutes to go in the second half, Wabash found themselves down eight to a team that they beat by more than 25 points at Chadwick Court earlier in the season. Cool and collected free throws and confident shooting down the stretch propelled the Little Giants to a 66-56 win in Springfield, Ohio.

Wabash will host Oberlin for their Senior Day celebrations on February 22, at Chadwick Court.

Lacrosse:

Following a less-than-ideal 17-12 win against Hanover College on February 8, Wabash lacrosse responded with verve and enthusiasm in their next game versus Earlham College on February 15. A packed stand and cadets from Purdue University’s Army ROTC greeted the Little Giants for their Military Appreciation Day celebrations. Feeding off crowd energy, Wabash decimated Earlham 21-2, dictating the pace of the game for all four quarters. Charlie Rafalko '28 led the charge for the Little Giants, netting five goals. The game was a notable bounce-back from the Little Giants’ mentally sloppy performance against Hanover.

Next Wabash will face the Fighting Muskies of Muskingum University on Saturday, February 22 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Swim & Dive:

The past week was one defined by broken records for the Wabash swim and dive team at the NCAC Championships in Granville, Ohio. From February 12-15, the Little Giants competed against the best swimmers the NCAC had to offer and came out ahead, scoring 1339.5 points and placing third of nine teams, both school records.

Two Little Giant freshmen propelled themselves into the Wabash recordbooks during the meet as well. Mason Gilliam '28 placed third in the 1650-meter freestyle with a time of 15:45.33. Ryan West '28 followed

up with a school record-breaking time of 1:48.24 in the 200-yard backstroke. Both made their respective NCAA “B” cut times and earned all-conference honors.

The Little Giants’ run was capped off by their third place finish in the 800-meter free relay. The team of Ethan Johns '25, Quinn Sweeney '27, Ryan West '28 and Nick Plumb '27 raced an astonishing 6:44.00, breaking yet another school record in the process, earning all-NCAC honors. Following the championships, the Little Giants will be back in Crawfordsville hosting the Wabash College Last Chance Meet on February 23.

Wrestling:

Four individual titles, 12 top-eight finishes and a third-place finish out of 13 teams followed the Wabash wrestling team home from the Mid-States Invitational at Manchester University on February 15. Andrew Punzalan '27 (125 pounds), Chase Baczek '26 (197 pounds), Daniel Uribe '25 (149 pounds) and Titus Waters '27 (285 pounds) all ended on the first place podium in their respective weight classes, combining for five tech falls and seven pins between the four.

With their regular season wrapped up, the Wabash wrestling team will begin the task of setting up and hosting the NCAA Division III Region V Tournament. The tournament will feature 16 teams from around the Midwest, including two Indiana teams other than Wabash: Manchester University and Trine University. The Little Giants will look to place well in the tournament from February 28 through March 1 and advance to the national championship tournament later in March.

Tennis:

Wabash tennis picked up two more quality wins during the past week, defeating Anderson University and Earlham College both by scores of 6-1. The Little Giants continue to rout the local Division III competition, solidifying themselves as one of the best teams in the region.

“I am super happy with the team’s performance in general,” said Rafael Rin '27. “We really did step up to another level and now the goal is to maintain it.”

The Little Giants will square off in another doubleheader on February 22 in Elsah, Illinois, where they will play Principia College and Simpson College.

Volleyball:

This Wabash volleyball team may be the story of this season’s winter sports schedule. The Little Giants competed at home on February 13 where they handily beat Westminster College in straight sets. Outside hitter Bawibawi Thang '27 topped the stat charts for the Little Giants, recording 27 kills and an ace; in his own right, setter

Will Beikes '25 recorded 27 assists, adding to his more than 2,000 in his career. Zev Wolverton '27 and Shad Wilson '27 added to the total with seven and six kills apiece. Wolverton, notably, also scored three aces for the Little Giants.

Their best start in program history, the Little Giants now sit with a record of 9-1 and are the 23rd-ranked team in all of Division III, according to InsideHitter.com.

Wabash volleyball has a packed schedule ahead, with three away games across the weekend of February 21. They will play Trinity Christian College, St. Norbert College and Aurora University before beginning conference play in Ohio against Wittenberg on February 27.

Track & Field:

Most of the Wabash track & field team spent their weekend down in Greencastle, where they raced at the DePauw University Invitational. The Little Giants emerged victorious. One notable scratch from the DePauw scorecards was Brayden Curnutt '25, who traveled to the Midwest Elite Invitational at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater to compete in the 5,000-meter run. There, Curnutt broke his own school record again, running a time of 14:20.99 — the

18th-fastest time in Division III.

Back in Greencastle, several Little Giants took home first place finishes in their respective events. Will Neubauer '25 took home the crown in the 800-meter run, followed closely by Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 and David Adesanya '27, sweeping the event 1-2-3. Sly Williams '26 and Quinn Sholar '26 both clinched a first place finish in the long jump and the shot put, respectively. Sholar also placed second in the weight throw. Hugh Ford '28 and Nate Joven '26 placed 1-2 in the pole vault, and the quartet of Neubauer, Adesanya, Diemer-McKinney and Owen Smith '27 took home gold in the 4x400-meter relay.

The Little Giants will wrap up their indoor track regular season at Indiana State University on February 22 at the John Gartland Invitational before preparing for the NCAC Indoor Championships at Oberlin.

Baseball:

The Wabash baseball team will open their spring schedule on the weekend of February 22, where they will play a Saturday doubleheader against Manchester University, followed by a Sunday matchup against the Spartans.

Break a Leg,
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PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Noah Hupmann '25 goes up for a dunk in the Little Giants' game against Denison on February 5, 2025, at Chadwick Court.

The center of attention: Noah Hupmann '25

HAI DEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

In present day basketball, it's easy to be caught up and pay attention to the points, three-point percentage and all the offensive metrics. But a common saying still applies to every sport: defense wins championships. Although the offense has continued to thrive over the years, the Little Giants found a gem in the transfer portal two seasons ago in center Noah Hupmann '25.

At 7-feet 3-inches and 230 pounds, Hupmann's towering frame is impossible to miss, as every shot he sends flying in the opposite direction only sparks the energy and excitement inside Chadwick Court each night. Whether it's clogging the lane or altering shots, Hupmann's defensive presence has become a cornerstone of Wabash basketball.

Before arriving in Crawfordsville, the 7-foot rim protector spent three seasons at Division I program Northern Kentucky University. As a freshman, Hupmann averaged 7.5 minutes per game, but then was held under two minutes a game as a sophomore and junior, only playing 12 games in those two years combined. As a result, the shot-blocking specialist sought a new opportunity at the Division III level, both for basketball and life after college.

"One of the main reasons why I decided to transfer to Wabash was because I wanted to play more and contribute to the team," said Hupmann. "Education wise, I felt the opportunities here were phenomenal. Going into the future, whether it's setting up a job long term or going into the corporate world, I figured Wabash would prepare me better than NKU."

Interestingly, Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett was already recruiting Noah when he was in high school. Although the match didn't come to fruition during the first go-round, Coach Brumett knew exactly where to go when Hupmann entered the portal.

"Watching his high school tape, we saw a glimpse of the kind of role he could have with other good players," said Brumett, "Although there were few comparisons to make, we were confident and sold on how good of a player we thought he could be."

As Hupmann adjusted to a new system and scheme, his continuous effort and willingness to learn earned him more minutes. Ultimately, his development allowed the coaches to plan their defensive implementation around him.

"Everything we do defensively is about trying to make our opponents play into Noah," said Brumett. "I've seen him work really hard and I want him to get every opportunity to impact every game and to make this mark on Wabash basketball, the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) and to earn the respect of the teams that we play against."

Hupmann has undoubtedly gained respect from the conference, as he has rewritten the program's record books in his two seasons as a Little Giant. On December 22, 2024, he tied the school record for most blocked shots in a single game with nine swats against Transylvania University. But that performance was just one piece of his dominance this season. With the conference tournament still ahead, Hupmann has already set new Wabash sin-

gle-season marks for total (83) and average (3.8) blocked shots—surpassing the record he established last year with 74 blocks.

Additionally, his impact has extended beyond individual accolades, as Wabash's defense has taken a leap since his arrival. During the team's 2021 Final Four run, the Little Giants allowed 77.4 points per game. But with Hupmann in the paint, opponents have struggled to find easy looks, as last season, Wabash held teams to just 66.4 points per contest. This year, that number has dropped even further to 63.1 and 60.9 for conference opponents. While multiple factors contribute to defensive efficiency, it's impossible to ignore the fear Hupmann instills in opposing offenses.

"As Noah and I have talked through different defensive schemes, I've learned that he thinks the game at a really high level and genuinely cares," said Assistant Basketball Coach Evan Sizemore. "Our goal is to keep him around the basket as much as possible so our opponents aren't getting the shots they want, they're getting the shots that we want. Our group has taken a big step in adapting on the fly defensively and Noah is a big part of that."

"Noah's ability to do it on both ends of the floor really sets no limits for our team," said guard and fellow senior Vinny Buccilla '25. "He's obviously a game changer defensively with all of the blocks and impacting everything at the rim. Offensively he has really grown and provided us with more consistency. Even when we miss shots we know he'll have a chance to rebound and score or kick it out for a three. He's one of the most unselfish people I've ever been around and just a great dude beyond the court."

Now in his fifth and final year of collegiate basketball, Hupmann isn't just playing for records, he's playing for his teammates. As he prepares to step onto the court for the conference tournament, he'll carry an edge of a veteran and fire of a competitor who knows it's his last chance to leave it all on the hardwood.

"Down the final stretch, I want to get every minute out of Noah that I can," said Brumett. "We've played a very tough schedule and even though we haven't been able to get over the hump against those teams, I do think we're built to win in tournaments because of our defense. If we keep letting Noah impact the game, he's the kind of presence that you don't want to play against."

"Going into the tournament, with it being my last one, I'm definitely gonna go out there and give it everything I have and try to win," said Hupmann. "Vinny and I are looking forward to the opportunity, and I can hopefully get Vinny his fourth ring, as I think he'd be the first player ever to do that. I'm definitely trying to get that for him, obviously winning is the main goal, so that's what we're going to try to do."

Hupmann will embrace senior day this Saturday, February 22 against Oberlin College, then will make preparations for the NCAC Tournament starting on Friday, February 28.

Basketball sweeps final regular season road trip

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Basketball is down to their final game of the regular season, after beating both Kenyon and Wittenberg on the road. The North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Tournament is locked in as far as which teams are going, but the final weekend of regular season could shake up the seeding.

This season, the NCAC Tournament will only feature the top six teams in the conference – down from eight in previous seasons. The change will mean that the top two teams will take a first-round bye. Denison, Wabash, Wooster, Ohio Wesleyan, DePauw and Oberlin – seeded one through six in that order – will make up the bracket. However a few matchups could shift the seeding.

The biggest shift would come if Wabash loses to Oberlin on Saturday, February 22. Wabash (12-3 NCAC) and Wooster (11-4 NCAC) are second and third in the conference. If Wabash loses and Wooster defeats DePauw, Wooster will jump to second due to an advantage in the tie-breaker. This would force Wabash to play an extra game in the NCAC Tournament.

"We just have to continue to play our game," said Vinny Buccilla '25. "We know we have the ability to go out there and beat whoever is against us. We need to continue to fly around defensively and trust our zone principles. We know Oberlin is a matchup we can't take lightly, so we will be prepared for it."

The final two road wins for Wabash showed their ability to win games in two very different manners. The February 15 contest against Kenyon was a 17-point win that saw five Little Giants score double-digits. Shooting 52.6% from beyond the arch and 50% from the field. Shooting like that, Wabash can outrun anyone on the scoreboard.

However, not every night sees pristine shooting. The February 19 contest against Wittenberg saw Wabash struggling to make their shots. The trip to Springfield, Ohio has been a tough place to play for Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett's team, as they were upset on the road last season.

Wabash went 45.8% from the field and trailed by as much as eight points to the 4-11 NCAC Tigers. But when through the struggles, the Scarlet & White had enough players



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27
Keegan Manowitz '27 scored a career-high 11 points for the Little Giants in their game against Wittenberg on February 20, 2025, in Springfield, Ohio.

step up to claim the win.

"[Brumett] really was just proud of us for how we responded in that game," said Buccilla. "Wittenberg is not an easy place to go and win so we were happy to leave Springfield with a 'W.' Wabash has not been able to have a ton of success there so he was happy with how it ended."

After first half struggles — where he scored only a single point — Buccilla dropped 16 in the second half to lead the team.

Then, two three-point shooters went on a lights-out streak late in the second half to cut away the Wittenberg lead.

Rich Brooks '27 went 4-6 from beyond the arch and finished the night with 16 points. Coming off a 15-point night against Kenyon, Brooks may be hitting his stride heading into the most important stretch of the season.

"I just always felt the confidence from my teammates, every time they dished the ball out to me," said Brooks. "We kept getting the stops we needed on defense and I knew that I've had a good amount of preparation for moments like that when we go down by double-digits and need a big shot."

Keegan Manowitz '27 had a

career night in Springfield, scoring 11 points with 3-5 shooting from deep. Having a player who can come off the bench and make important shots will be vital for closing games in the postseason.

"Going into the NCAC Tournament I'm just focused on making winning plays, whether that be bringing energy defensively, hitting shots when I get them or anything else that I need to do to help the team win," said Manowitz.

The upcoming matchup against Oberlin will be senior night at Chadwick Court. On top of an important game for conference standing, the contest will be the last home performance for Buccilla and Noah Hupmann '25.

"The most important thing is that I want to go out the right way in Chadwick with a win and leave that gym with no regrets and just give it my all," said Buccilla. "Whatever happens the rest of the way in hoops and life, I just want to [be able to] say I know I gave all I could to Wabash and everyone there at Chadwick."

Track goes gold in Greencastle



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Nate Joven '26 charges into the pole vault at the "Friday Night Spikes" meet held at Rose-Hulman Institute for Technology on Saturday, January 25, 2025.

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash was the gold team in Greencastle in their second-to-last meet before the conference championships. On Saturday, February 15, the Wabash track & field team traveled to the DePauw University Invitational. With only one meet left before the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championships, most members of the team are putting the finishing touches on their training as they look ahead.

"[We] see these meets as a glorified practice," said Quinn Sholar '26. "[We want] the in-game experience, using what we're learning in practice and actually performing at a meet. It's time to put everything together and do it at our very best."

Wabash won the meet with 143 points, narrowly defeating the home Tigers who had 138.

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology finished third with 57 points.

Wabash's win was built by dominance across three events – the long jump, the 800-meter run, pole vault and shot put. With other key performances across the meet, Wabash was putting the finishing touches on their preparation ahead of conference.

The long jump pit was a lucrative site for Wabash scoring. Four Little Giants – Sly Williams '26, Wyatt Dorsey '25, Jake Oostman '25 and Mike Holsclaw '26 – all finished in the top five to score 24 points on the day. Williams leapt 6.71 meters for gold. He also finished first in the triple jump.

Wabash's mid-distance squad locked in 24 more points with podium sweep in the 800-meter race. Will Neubauer '25, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 and David

Adesanya '27 took first, second and third, respectively. The trio would then partner up with Owen Smith '27 to win the 4x400-meter relay.

"We had a great meet," said Neubauer. "We, as a team, took a lot of steps in the right direction."

In pole vault, the one-two punch of Hugh Ford '28 and Nate Joven '26 secured 18 points with a first place and second place finish; both finished at 4.25 meters. Ryan Adams '26 fought his way to sixth place to tack on another point for the Scarlet & White.

Sholar personally contributed 18 points with a win in the shot put and runner-up in the weight throw. His 15.87 meters put was a season-best performance for the junior. And in the weight throw, he set a personal record of 17.80 meters.

"It always feels good to get a [personal best]," said Sholar. "You have to crack down on your technique. That's why really honing in on one thing, or a couple of things during a meet really helps the athlete in their performance. So you're not just thinking about everything while you're trying to compete."

While the rest of the team was 36 minutes south, Brayden Curnutt '25 was breaking records 256 miles north of Crawfordsville at the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. Finishing in 14:20.99, Curnutt shaved nearly four seconds off of the 5,000-meter record he set in January.

Wabash's runners will have one last chance to qualify for the NCAC meet, by competing at John Gartland Invitational at Indiana State University on Saturday, February 22. Four Little Giants will be going.

"This upcoming weekend, most of us won't be racing, said Neubauer. "But those that are will be taking one more stab at hitting conference standards."

Those who have already punched their tickets to the NCAC meet will have a week to finish their preparation before the indoor championships.