



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING

# Kirkpatrick '24 wins back-to-back Moot Court titles



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

**Seth Kirkpatrick '24 wins the Moot Court competition's top advocate award for his arguments during the trial.**

**NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26** | FEATURES EDITOR • Among its numerous claims to fame, Wabash prides itself on its legal community, having shaped and educated outstanding lawyers for generations dating back to the College's founding. Wabash has developed a stellar reputation for creating prominent attorneys in Indiana.

Rigorous coursework and stellar faculty shape passionate students into capable graduates, who then give back time and opportunities to future generations of pre-law students. One of the most distinct ways Wabash prepares its students for law school is its Moot Court competition, a common occurrence in graduate programs, but a rarity at the undergraduate level.

At its core, Moot Court is an oral argument competition that simulates a U.S. Supreme Court case. Just like in real life, albeit shortened for time, competitors advocate both sides of a contentious and complex issue before a panel of judges. Several weeks before competing, students are provided with their only preparation material: a mock brief that has been carefully edited down from a contemporary case on the Supreme Court's docket.

However, while the competition is framed as a legal question, anyone can participate and get valuable experience for any situation. Professor of Rhetoric Jeff Drury is one of the event's key organizers, and firmly believes in the multidis-

ciplinary benefits of competing.

"Moot Court is a chance to hone public speaking and advocacy skills, which you need in any situation," said Drury. "The main experience is having the judges ask you questions about the case. Anyone who's going to interview for a job or grad school is going to benefit from that experience. Because your feet are held to the fire, you have to think on your feet to answer the question, which is an invaluable skill in today's business world."

The question presented to competitors is the most important First Amendment dilemma facing the 21st century: do social media companies have the editorial right to censor users' speech? Or rather, are these platforms required to host all speech, functioning like an authentic public forum?

30 contestants grappled with this question in Baxter Hall on the morning of Saturday, October 21 during the preliminary round. From there, 12 semifinalists advanced to the second round, and four finalists vied for the top spot in the final round of competition in Salter Hall on Thursday, October 26. Finalists included Gabriel Pirtle '25, Andrew Dever '25, Seth Kirkpatrick '24 and Liam Grennon '24.

Judges at each round of the competition included judges and attorneys, many of whom were Wabash alumni. Faculty members also served on judging panels, including faculty from political science, rhetoric and philosophy.

Coming out on top was Seth Kirkpatrick '24, rhetoric major and 2022 joint champion. Despite his victory, Kirkpatrick acknowledges the difficulty of the competition.

"It was difficult because First Amendment case law is incredibly detailed and complex, yet simultaneously vague and broad," said Kirkpatrick.

While it may be easy to become absorbed in the competitive aspect of Moot Court, Kirkpatrick has not lost sight of the fundamental reasons for competing: developing the important skills that will carry into law school and beyond.

"I think it just shows me how to keep composure, and it takes a lot of analytical skills too," said Kirkpatrick. "I'm just over prepared for persuasion in day to day life. I think in law school, I'll be well prepared for when those Moot Court competitions happen."

Faculty organizers also echo the educational value of such a challenging experience. Moot Court has a reputation for being challenging, but attracts repeat competitors, with some returning all four years.

"Seeing students improve and progress through the three or four years they compete is really rewarding because it shows that there is value here and that students really mature and grow," said Drury.

Looking forward to next year's Moot Court, Kirkpatrick offered some key advice for the next batch of competitors.

"Don't be on the defensive," said Kirkpatrick. "Don't be on the offensive. Don't be on anything. Just treat it like you're having a conversation. No judge is out there to get you."

While Kirkpatrick will not remain to participate in the 2024 Moot Court competition, the future is bright for him nonetheless. Kirkpatrick is currently applying to law schools across the nation, with plans to become an environmental lawyer. Yet again, Wabash men push themselves to take on great challenges that will equip them for even greater success after graduation.

# Cross country wins NCAC championship



COURTESY OF JACOB OTT

**The cross country team leads the pack as Wabash claimed its first NCAC championship since 2014.**

**ETHAN WALLACE '25** | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash cross country team hoisted the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) banner after defeating their conference rivals at the NCAC conference championships at Denison University on Saturday, October 28. This win marks the fourth NCAC Conference Championship in the Little Giants' history and the first since 2014. The team entered the meet with high aspirations, knowing that they had what it would take to win it all.

Adding to their credit, the Redpack was picked to finish fifth in the coaches poll ahead of the meet. Instead, they defied expectations. The NCAC champions not only won, but did so with a broad margin. Their 62-point finish put them well ahead of second-place Oberlin and completely out of reach to third-place Wittenberg.

"Around 5,000 to 6,000 meters into the race it became fairly clear that we were either in the lead or it was going to be right there for our taking," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "I was getting excited. And when it was all said and done, it was an

Sitzman '25, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26, Joe Barnett '23, Will Neubauer '25, and Justin Santiago '25.

"The whole team bought in and trusted Coach McCreary's training," said Curnutt. "And in the end, seeing it all come together was extremely rewarding and I'm definitely grateful for this team and the guys around me."

For McCreary, mindset was the biggest factor in the team's performance, other than the months of hard work they put in before the race. McCreary emphasized the importance of fearlessness to his team heading into the race, telling them that they were going to run to win, regardless of where the coaches' poll placed them.

"The day of the race, they [the team] seemed very relaxed and confident," said McCreary. "But they also had a certain intensity about them as well. It was a really good balance. They were very confident in what they could achieve on that day. We had the idea of, we're just going to run to win and let go of any fear of losing. And it played out really well for them."

"I'd say we went into the meet with the mindset of just give it your all," Hayes said. "Obviously, we wanted to win and felt like we were in a good position to do so but our coach really emphasized that what we should aim for is to walk away knowing that we competed. I think this helped us stay controlled in the early stages of the race and respond later on."

The Redpack will have the weekend off before they travel to Norton, Ohio to compete in the NCAA DIII Great Lakes Regional. Cruising in with their confidence at an all-time high, the Wabash runners will be sure to make their mark on the course.

**"We had the idea of, we're just going to run to win and let go of the fear of losing. And it played out really well for them"**

- Coach Tyler McCreary

amazing feeling. For a lot of the guys including myself it took two days for that to totally set in."

All-conference honors were given to six members of the Redpack, including team-frontrunner Brayden Curnutt '25 who finished ninth overall, Drake Hayes '23 who finished tenth, Jacob

# sh'OUT Out award goes to library faculty member



COURTESY OF @LILLYLIBRARY ON INSTAGRAM

**Dr. Elan Pavlinich honors Jennifer Crum with the 'shOUT Out award on October 30, 2023 in the Lilly Library.**

**HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26** | STAFF WRITER • "The definition of an 'Ally' is someone who has privilege, but chooses to stand for and with marginalized communities

30th, was recognized and honored by 'shOUT with an award at a Gender Studies Conference, featuring poster presentations detailing applications of Gender Studies across career fields and athletics.

"This award recognizes those Wabash community members who put in the work to make the world more equitable," said Elan Pavlinich, faculty advisor for 'shOUT. "We are expressing gratitude to those who employ their allyship as a verb—they put in real action."

"The 'shOUT Out Award is given to individuals whose support for the LGBTQIA+ communities significantly improves the campus climate and culture of Wabash College," said Luis Rivera '25, President of 'shOUT.

Pavlinich and Rivera explained what Crum has done to receive this award.

"Jen has organized and facilitated multiple LGBTQIA+ events this month, which is LGBTQIA+ History Month," said Pavlinich.

She assisted students, staff and faculty at Quraft: an event in the library during which participants were instructed on how to craft rainbow buttons and magnets, as well as to discuss queer cultures.

Then, most recently, she organized the Gender Studies Conference, at which she was recognized as the most recent recipient of the 'shOUT Out Award."

"She has helped our organization in a variety of ways," said Rivera. "Out of the kindness of her heart, she created a cart for 'shOUT to use for all of the events we host in the library. She decorated this cart and stocked it with a bunch of different supplies that she thought we might need. She made it clear many times to me, Dr. Pavlinich and many other members of 'shOUT that she wants to do whatever she can to support our organization, and more importantly, the queer community on campus more broadly."

Crum's support has impacted 'shOUT, the LGBTQIA+ community and the entire Wabash campus.

**"As a mother of three young men, it's important to me that our students feel at home while at Wabash."**

- Jennifer Crum

"Her support makes it clear to the LGBTQIA+ community that there are more kind and caring people than it may seem," said Rivera. "Jennifer's work to make sure 'shOUT members know that they matter is what I am most appreciative of."

"Crum is a compassionate, pro-active ally, and for her thoughtfulness I am thankful," Pavlinich said.

Crum expressed her motives to support the LGBTQIA+ community.

"I am motivated to share my belief that everyone on campus deserves respect," said Crum. "Marginalized communities do not want sympathy. They want respect. We do not always have to agree, but we must show respect for one another. I am grateful to be recognized by the 'shOUT community for my efforts in spreading love and kindness to everyone on campus. As a mother of three young men, it's important to me that our students feel at home while at Wabash."

# Beta Theta Pi celebrates 175th anniversary



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The Beta Theta Pi celebration included prominent live musicians who entertained the crowd throughout the event.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Current Beta Theta Pi students partake in the dinner celebration that began at the tailgating lots and ended in the Allen Center.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Beta Theta Pi fraternity president Luka DiFilippo '25 speaks to the alumni and students that attended the celebration.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Alumni are honored at the dinner for contributions to the Beta Theta Pi fraternity.

## 'shOUT Halloween party works with local community

**BEN DOUGLAS '27 | STAFF WRITER** • On October 31, 'shOUT held a Halloween party with local members of the community. The event included costume competitions, food and drinks. Attending this party led to meeting new people and building connections.

Within this event, participants had the chance to learn more about the history of the LGBTQIA+ community and why it's crucial. Knowing this information can help create new friends and even possibly job opportunities down the line. When attending this party, one of the most essential parts of it is to try to build new connections and relationships within and outside of the Wabash community.

When speaking to the President of 'shOUT, Luis Rivera '25, he stated, "Through this event, we worked to show local queer youth an affirming place in Crawfordsville that LGBTQIA+ students find solidarity and friendship in. We hope this was an introduction to 'shOUT and its members, in hopes that we can continue to have a partnership with them in the future. I am really excited to build this rela-

tionship with Indiana Youth Group, and I am hopeful for the impact 'shOUT has on Crawfordsville in the future."

'shOUT is partnering with Indiana Youth Group which is a state organization that focuses on the development of communities and safe spaces for LGBTQIA+ individuals.

Another reason for this party was to spread awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community. Over the past several years, there has been a rise in homophobia in legislation passed in Congress and among local community members.

When speaking to faculty advisor for 'shOUT, Dr. Elan Pavlinich, he stated, "LGBTQIA+ History Month is something we feel compelled to do because there is a huge slate of anti-LGBTQ legislation that we haven't seen in a while. It's awful and if we don't start making ourselves known, we could be in real danger."

'shOUT's party was an excellent way for Wabash students to learn about the ongoing issues of homophobia occurring everywhere, from local schools to governmental positions.

Because of the ongoing problems, comprehending this information can become a precious skill. Jobs are looking for people who can work in a diverse environment and be able to understand these issues.

Elan Pavlinich stated, "This is where we foster diversity, equity and inclusion, which will set you up for success going to a more competitive job market because people will want to know, what do you know coming from a college for men? How are you prepared to work in more diverse communities and work settings? Are you able to participate in these kinds of events? Providing these kinds of experiences gives you the skills to talk with potential employers or when you're applying to graduate school. It gives you the necessary experiences you need."

'shOUT's Halloween party allowed students to develop new relationships and learn about the importance of LGBTQIA+ history and how it can help the community while benefiting individuals in the future.

## News around the world

All the news you need to know...

**BEN DOUGLAS '27 | STAFF WRITER** •

**United States:** A gunman wreaked havoc on the citizens of Lewiston, Maine last week, killing 18 and injuring 13 more people in the deadliest mass shooting in the state's history. The individual first targeted a bowling alley in the early hours of Wednesday, October 25th and began shooting. By the time police arrived on the scene, the individual had already made his way to a local restaurant a few miles away that he attacked as well. The ensuing manhunt lasted for two days and prompted multiple days of school and business closures as police searched for the suspect, who was found Friday, dead of an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound. While Lewiston is Maine's second-largest city, it has a close-knit population of around 36,000, and all were impacted in some way by the attack.

**Nepal:** United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres addressed the Nepalese Parliament this week on a visit to the country focusing on climate change and its effects. Guterres viewed base camps at various mountains and flew over some of Nepal's famous peaks, including Everest, before he spoke before Parliament and declared that the waning of Nepal's icy spires was due to climate change. Climate change's impact has been especially acute in Nepal's mountainous regions, where tourism to see the Himalayas has been damaged by increased danger of landslides, flooding and other natural disasters as a result of the warming climate. Guterres spoke with urgency of the need to act swiftly, and reached out to the global community to send funds to help towns and villages that have been affected.

**England:** Vice President Kamala Harris attended the first international A.I. Safety Summit this week in England to address the possible threats A.I. may pose in the future. Twenty-eight nations attended the conference, including China, in what United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak called a "landmark achievement." The delegates agreed to sign the Bletchley Declaration, the agreement which says that their countries agree to work towards a safe solution to regulating A.I. Harris emphasized the need to act quickly in addressing regulation, citing small-scale fraud that A.I. enables. Sunak met with X CEO Elon Musk on Thursday to talk about A.I. concerns.

**South Africa:** South Africa's national rugby team triumphed in a close match with the All Blacks of New Zealand in the World Cup final to become world champions for a record fourth time. South African fans waited for hours in cold, wet conditions to welcome back their champions, a day after a national holiday was declared on December 15 to celebrate the team. A four-day parade ensued after the team's arrival, and team captain Siya Kolisi, leader of the past two world champion squads, led the crowd in cheers. Head Coach Ian Foster is set to leave the team in his current capacity, but has expressed interest in staying within the national team setup in some shape or form.

**Palestine:** For the first time since war initially broke out three weeks ago, hundreds of foreign nationals and many seriously injured Palestinian citizens will be allowed to leave Palestine through the Rafah crossing, taking them into Egypt. The announcement comes in the wake of the second straight day in which a Palestinian refugee camp was hit by an Israeli airstrike, and comes the day after four hostages were released by Hamas. Israeli forces have begun pressing further into the Gaza Strip, and despite foreign aid efforts the situation in Palestine remains grim, with the death toll now totaling more than 8,000 individuals.

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# FEATURES

## Cousin Rick's Pick Three

**RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST** - Lines and odds provided by DraftKings, accurate as of Tuesday, 10/31. Please gamble responsibly.

while the last five weeks have produced a close call against a proven overrated Colorado team, a close call against an Arizona team, a trouncing at the hands of Notre Dame, a loss to Utah, and an extremely close call against a California team where the school seems more interested in on-field protests than football. In the battle of two Heisman candidates, expect Penix and the Huskies to come out on top by more than 3.5 points.

Last Week's Record: 2-1  
Overall Record: 3-3



**Notre Dame (@Clemson) at -3 (Notre Dame ATS) -108**

Honestly, I'm not sure what the bookmakers were thinking with this line. Clemson this year has looked nothing like the Clemson of old, while Notre Dame, who has admittedly played close games with competitive opponents, has exorcized the demons of the Brian Kelly administration and swiftly beaten up on inferior opponents. Unless a serviceable Cade Klubnik can take advantage of an elite Notre Dame defense, expect Sam Hartman and Audric Estime to provide steady enough performances to help the Irish cruise past Clemson by more than 3 points.



**LA Rams (@GB) at +3 (Rams ML) +136**

If you couldn't tell from last week, I'm not a big fan of what I've seen out of Green Bay this year. Against an average Vikings defense, Love's completion percentage digressed back to 58.5 percent. To make matters worse, the steady running back tandem of Aaron Jones and A.J. Dillon have not realized the same production as the twilight years of Aaron Rodgers' time in Green Bay. While the Rams have endured a bit of a skid of their own, Green Bay hasn't won a game since Week 3, and the prevailing feeling is that that's a statistic that isn't likely to change until someone like the Chicago Bears stumble into Lambeau. As a result, the plus odds on this game are far too tempting. Expect the Rams to win outright in Green Bay.

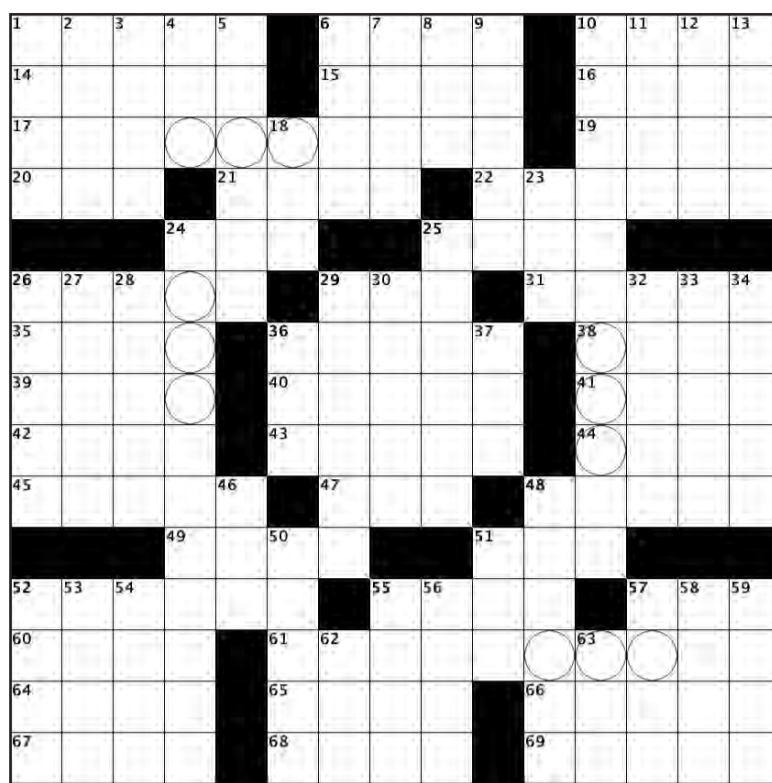


**Washington (@USC) at -3.5 (Washington ATS) -108**

The general bookmaking standard is that home-field advantage is worth a touchdown advantage in college football, which is probably about the only reason USC is considered a competitive opponent. The only convincing performance the Trojans have managed in PAC-12 play this year has been against a dismal Stanford team,

## 'Overeasy'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



- Down**
- Like some language exams
  - Cross
  - Parts of a tea set
  - Fell, with "it"
  - Rue
  - Goatee's location
  - Use the microwave
  - "How Great Thou \_\_\_"
  - Chatter boxes?
  - \*Sitting like Buddha
  - Nephew's mom
  - Cheese nibblers
  - Low bills
  - Set starter?
  - Neighbor of Ger.
  - \*Poor character in "Beauty and the Beast" or "Sweeney Todd"
  - Rotten
  - Frying pan sound
  - Elicited reaction
  - Seen-it-all feeling
  - White and yellow, for two
  - Show beyond doubt
  - Land units
  - Protected parts of a footballer
  - Tea mix-in
  - Magician's prop
  - Japanese coin
  - "True \_\_\_!"
  - Brief period of time
  - "\_\_\_ Without a Cause"
  - Rhyming pal
  - Ding-donged, or — without its final letter — ditched
  - Footnote abbr.
  - Statistician's calculation
  - In a bit
  - Post-combat affliction, briefly
  - Advanced in years
  - Make out
  - Greek god of war
  - "... good witch \_\_\_ bad witch?"
  - Italian girl's name
  - Regret, as "the day"

- Across**
- "The Odd Couple" role for Matthew Perry
  - Viewers, in streaming lingo
  - Brown, green and black, usually
  - En \_\_\_
  - "Present!"
  - The Pyramid of Kukulcán or the Temple of Bacchus
  - \*Travel from C to C?
  - "\_\_\_ Upon on This Island"
  - "\_\_\_ Miserables"
  - Musical in which Adam Pascal plays a rock musician
  - Takes a sip
  - Make a wager
  - Consequently
  - Highway headache
  - PC component
  - Guitarist on a key board?
  - Hunger strike?
  - Classic board game
  - "\_\_\_, \_\_\_, \_\_\_"
  - Breathing organ
  - Solitary
  - Cheshire Cat feature
  - Oaxacan water
  - Like a web of lies
  - "Young Frankenstein" first name
  - Bronze, say
  - Crimson or scarlet
  - Fashionable bun style
  - Ironically, some are "civil"
  - "My \_\_\_!"
  - Surfing equipment
  - Breakfast meat port manteau
  - Actress de Armas
  - They make up every thing
  - \*Professional runner?
  - Nothing, slangily
  - Psyche's beloved
  - Nephew's sister
  - Idyllic spot
  - Developer's purchase
  - To-dos



Scan for solution!

## 'Talk of the town'

Comic by Preston Parker '26



**Wabash Club of Indianapolis**

Congratulations, Seth Kirkpatrick '24 Moot Court Top Advocate

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# 'Something Rotten!' review: Far from rotten



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Tom Oppmann '25 (William Shakespeare) center, belts a high note. 'Something Rotten!' is the first musical to grace the Wabash stage since 'Guys and Dolls' in 2014.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Logan Weilbaker '25 (Nick Bottom) stares down Luke Fincher '24 (Nigel Bottom) and the male ensemble. The large cast pulls from the Wabash student body and faculty, as well as the Crawfordsville community.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Professor of Theater Jim Cherry (Brother Jeremiah) climbs up on his soapbox to launch into a monologue. 'Something Rotten!' pokes fun at both Shakespeare and the modern musical.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Logan Weilbaker '25 (Nick Bottom) delivers a dimly lit soliloquy. Bottom, the musical's main protagonist, is based on the character of the same name in Shakespeares 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

**HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | STAFF WRITER** • The Wabash Theater department and musicals have a complicated past. The department hasn't put on a musical since 2014, so when I overheard a friend say that the show's director, Michael Abbott, was "working the actors like horses", I didn't know what to expect. Sure, Wabash has no shortage of talented performers and artists, but it feels like they're constantly outshined by its athletes and academic achievers.

Wabash's performance of 'Something Rotten!' exceeded my expectations. Nearly every aspect of the show was spot on, from the exaggerated acting to the expansive musical performances and the minimalist stagecraft. You can see the blood, sweat and tears that went into the production of the show plastered on every actor's face. Throwing yourself through two-and-a-half hours of song and dance isn't easy, but the troupe took it in stride as they put on a show that makes the nine-year wait worth it.

First things first: the acting was phenomenal. It hooked the audience in from Scene One and held them throughout the entire show, draw-

ing laughs and applause from literally everyone in the theater. From Luke Fincher's act as a shy, yet hopeful, poet to Alex Schmidt's portrayal of a hilariously insane soothsayer, it's clear that, although the actors were small in number, they were big in talent. The non-Wabash performers, typically women portraying women, synergized smoothly with the rest of the cast; I could have never guessed that Wabash faculty and Crawfordsville High School would be sources of such flair. There were no sore thumbs sticking out of this performance.

Another highlight was the show's live musical accompaniment. Every piece was matched by drums, horns and strings that played at just the right volume to complement the actors. Many of the songs had sudden shifts in mood and pacing, and the orchestra took these transitions perfectly, ebbing and flowing with the voices of the performers.

Let's talk more about that dancing: the choreography, while not the highlight of the show, was impressive in its own right. The exaggerated, goofy moves of the ensemble took the play's witty humor from funny to hilari-

ous. Because of the comically drawn-out quality of many of the songs, the actors worked overtime to go from dance to dance without noticeable fatigue. There were some hiccups here and there with synchronization and placement of actors in some scenes, but they were quickly forgotten when a character would start twerking or forming an exaggerated kick line.

The set deserves a mention as well. The small yet efficient structural pieces allowed for quick and seamless switches from scene to scene. The solid costume design was complemented by Benjamin High's backdrop rendering Elizabethan London, drawing me into the time period and the narrative the play weaved.

In case you haven't gathered it by now, the show is funny. Very funny. Every two seconds there's a double liner that's sure to get at very least a chuckle from you, and delivery of these jokes is on par with that of a professional performance. To give credit where it's due, the source material was brimming with possibilities to shine spotlights on the quirky personalities of the actors. Tom Oppman was the star of the show in this regard; His misplaced confidence and swagger as the shows' arrogant Shakespeare was enchanting. The most crucial factor in good acting is enjoying it, and you could see clearly on the faces of everyone involved that the cast had a blast with this show.

Titling this play 'Something Rotten!' was an unfortunate choice. The passion and talent portrayed by everyone involved in this production made my Wednesday night a time to remember.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS**



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### EVERYTHING'S BIGGER

*Hi-Five to the Texas Rangers for winning the 2023 World Series. Coming from a Texas native and an Astros fan, at least one of our teams didn't cheat.*

### ALL BOOKED UP

*Lo-Five to administration for cancelling the bell concert scheduled for next Friday due to an "increased liability the night before bell". We're just glad the events calendar has SO much going on in place of the concert.*

### FLORIDA MAN

*Lo-Five to the United States Coast Guard for intercepting an Iranian-Florida man in a giant floating hamster ball en route to England for the 4th time. Hi-Five to the Iranian-Florida man who had the balls to claim that he had registered said hamster ball as a vessel, but didn't know where the papers where.*

### PARTING THE RED SEA

*Lo-Five to Portugal for having their streets flood with red wine that spilled from storage due to a decrease in the country's consumption of wine. Looks like they could use the help of a few Wabash men.*

### WHERE WE DROPPIN BOYS?

*Hi-Five to Epic Games for making Fortnite return to the original map. Our grades may suffer, but our morale will be high.*

## Ring the bells! A Wabash man for Governor!



Hunter Otto '26

Reply to this opinion at hhotto26@wabash.edu

Wabash has known many great men as they passed through her halls. One of these great men is Senator Mike Braun, class of '76. Senator Braun was a brother of Phi Delta Theta and served his campus as President of the Student Body. He would graduate from Wabash with a degree in economics while also being summa cum laude.

Upon his graduation, he married his high school sweetheart, Maureen. He then attended graduate school at Harvard and received his MBA in 1978. Many of Senator Braun's friends would wind up on Wall Street and other major financial centers.

However, he and his wife chose to move back to their hometown of Jasper, Indiana, and build their family there. Together, he and Maureen would have four children.

Naturally, as he is a Wabash man, his career started off with a bang. He cofounded Crystal Lakes, Inc, in 1979, which would go on to become of the largest turkey producers in the Midwest. Even with all of this success, he was still restless with ambition.

He left Crystal Lakes and began working for Meyer Truck Equipment in 1981. Eventually, he would acquire full ownership of the company. When he came into ownership, he had 15 employees, and his office was out of an old mobile home.

Under Braun's prudent guidance, his company would blossom. He impressively transitioned from a manufacturing base towards a distribution focused system. By 2000, Meyer had become a major regional player. As of today, Meyer Truck Equipment is a nationally recognized company worth \$58.5 million dollars with locations in 38 states, employing hundreds.

Despite the deftness of Braun's business tactics, he never lost sight of what mattered to him most: serving his family and community. Through basing his company out of his hometown, he created numerous jobs and remained in touch with the values of the average Hoosier. During this time, he would also be a member of the local school board for 10 years.

After dipping his toes into the political sphere, he wanted to accomplish more. Taking impetus, Braun ran for State Representative and won. He served as an Indiana State Representative from 2014-2017.

Riding his wave of momentum, Braun ran for Senator in 2018. Amazingly, he won in a historic election, defeating the incumbent Democrat, Joe Donnelly. While working for the American people in DC, he was named "the most effective first-term Republican Senator."

Due to Senator Braun's experience in the private sector and strong moral foundation, he has become a shrewd politician. He is currently undertaking a tour of all 92 counties in Indiana to the perspective of Hoosiers across the state. As an Illinoian myself, I wish my politicians would show such attentiveness.

Often, Senator Braun is happy to give internships to Wabash men. One such example is Neil Pettinga, class of '23. Neil worked with Braun in constituent services which consisted of everything from passport requests, budget requests to senate, and tax returns. Neil believes that "Braun is a great Senator for Indiana and does his best to represent Hoosiers in DC."

However, his story does not end there. Feeling the urge to serve his beloved state rather than being just another DC politician, Senator Mike Braun has decided to run for the governorship of Indiana. The 2024 Indiana gubernatorial election is predicted to be the most competitive in 20 years with several heavy hitters throwing their names in the ring.

There are four Republican candidates, including Braun, and one Democrat. It will be a hard-fought battle, and victory cannot be assured, but Wabash Always Fights. Braun has an impressive career, coming from a humble Indiana town and building an enterprise. Few have achieved the level of success that he has, and no one can claim he is underqualified.

I believe no man can better speak for Mike Braun than himself, particularly when he said, "I ran for the U.S. Senate because I believed I could use my experience building a business to get real results for Hoosiers in Washington, and I'm honored by the opportunity to serve you."

When election season rolls around this next year, with the primary on May 7 and the general on November 5, keep your eyes on Mike Braun in his pursuit to be Indiana's 52nd governor!

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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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## The real winner of the Fury vs. Ngannou fight



Alex Schmidt '27

Reply to this opinion at amschmid27@wabash.edu

Francis Ngannou almost obtained the most significant upset in combat sports history last Saturday. To say there is controversy over the results of last Saturday's fight would be an understatement.

The battle between the two scariest heavyweight fighters in the world, Francis Ngannou and Tyson Fury, was one of the more exhilarating fights of this year. Francis Ngannou, former heavyweight champion in the UFC, and Tyson Fury, one of the greatest heavyweight boxers of all time, squared off in a ten-round boxing match.

The fight was very entertaining to watch, with Ngannou scoring a knockdown in the third round of the battle, seemingly doing the impossible. However, the real shocker was when the scorecards were read off: 94-95, 95-94, 96-93 split decision victory for Tyson Fury.

However, many people, such as myself, view the bout as a win for Ngannou. Even though the scorecards read a loss, Francis Ngannou still came out of this contest as a winner, and as a whole, the world of mixed martial arts truly trumped the world of boxing.

Before this fight, many sports commentators in boxing believed there was no chance a fighter could transition from MMA to boxing, with many claiming that Ngannou would have no stake in beating the best heavyweight boxer of all time. Francis Ngannou, however, arguably beat the most significant heavyweight fighter of all time.

The controversy behind the scoring decision has been met with many irregularities in the overall league of boxing. One is the analysis of the 10-point scoring

system in boxing. Considering the damage to an opponent, Ngannou should have easily won this category. Additionally, with the importance of style and cleanliness in boxing, which is an important factor when scoring rounds, who would have thought that Fury was sloppier than Ngannou?

Also, using an illegal elbow against Ngannou was a move Fury used, as if he knew he needed to do it to win the battle. Overall, Ngannou seemed to perform better than Fury throughout this fight, so it was a shock to hear a split decision be called for Tyson Fury.

Although Ngannou still lost, the sport of mixed martial arts won. A mixed martial artist who can come in and essentially outbox the world's greatest heavyweight boxer proves to put some credibility in the sport of mixed martial arts. The controversy behind this fight is a wake-up sign that the world of mixed martial arts is genuinely evolving and bringing up the greatest fighters the world has ever seen.

This fight was supposed to be, as many commentators said, a cakewalk for Fury; however, it was an embarrassing night for Fury. To be one of the lead figures in boxing history and to get a controversial win over an MMA fighter is embarrassing in all aspects.

At the same time, the MMA community is now growing based mainly on Fury's performance. The fan base of combat sports was stunned by how well Ngannou performed, with multiple people all saying that Fury looked weak and not as skilled as Ngannou.

Ngannou's publicity has been growing ever since this fight, and the photo of the knockdown scored against Fury is being considered this century's Muhammad Ali knockout photo.

Although Tyson Fury might be the winner of the technical bout, I feel as if many people were to agree that the real winner of the night was Francis Ngannou. Ngannou showed the combat sports fans who the baddest man on the planet is and how, even with a background in mixed martial arts, he can still fight with boxing's best.

## Beta stand's tall



Luka Difilippo '25

Reply to this opinion at ladifili25@wabash.edu

As much of the campus knows, Beta Theta Pi has gone through a lot in the past year. We have been put through trials that have tested our wills and tedious meetings that have tested our patience. We have been resilient through it all. All of the brothers in the house are committed to making this place better.

Although a lot of work has been done, there is much left to do. We have been working to get incredibly involved on campus. We have been teaching our freshmen the right way to be a Wabash man. We want all of this to be behind us. We believe we have done the work to do so.

On a lighter note, we recently celebrated our 175th anniversary of being on campus. Most students on campus do not know what it is like to celebrate such a fraternal milestone. Luckily for us Betas, we were able to put on a show.

We had over 60 alumni come back to celebrate with us for the 175th. Many of these alumni have done so much for our chapter. For example, around 40 of them were so generous as to donate for the recent renovations on our first floor.

It was great for us to get a sense of just what we were a part of. It is way bigger than just us and the six other classes that we meet in our time here. It spans generations. From guys who graduated in the 60s and have made an incredibly successful life for themselves to recent alumni still working their way up, we all have one thing in common: We are all brothers.

It is truly both a humbling and

empowering experience to listen to these people's stories. Knowing that you can be that same person in 50 years is almost unimaginable. Wabash truly is a special place, and, for me, Beta is right up there. The opportunities that it has given me in only two years of being a brother are incredible. I am excited to see what is to come.

As the president, it was incredible to hear nothing but great things from our alumni. Alumni said that every one they talked to were great guys, and that they truly embodied what it meant to be a Beta. After going through such a hard time in the past year, it was refreshing to hear the exact opposite.

This shows me that we are headed in a good direction and that the alumni are fully supporting us through all of it. They know what we went through, and they know that by staying committed to being an operating house, we cared about the history of the Tau chapter. It showed that we cared about how much work was done in the past to build this house into what it is today.

Overall, Beta is in a great spot right now. We have done a lot of work to renew relationships with many people, from our alumni to the administration of Wabash. We are looking only to improve the status of the house and build off of this great foundation that we set.

# Wally's Wall: Campus email privileges

## The Question:

Is it the student body's responsibility/right to police the campus email listserv? If so, what kind of measures should the student body be able to take against students who abuse the system?

**Evan Furuness '26**

NO, I get that it is annoying to get a campus wide email that doesn't have anything to do with you, but "reply all"ing that email makes you just as annoying. With a campus like Wabash, we should all be able to communicate with each other as much as we want. It takes 2 seconds to delete an email...stop being soft.

**Tommy Minkler '25**

What the people who reply "classifieds" fail to realize is that by sending that email they're only becoming part of the problem, it's one more email to clog up the feed that myself and others rely on for necessary information. It's annoying, unnecessary, and personally I wish it would stop. It's not funny either.

## Looking back: The Bachelor's take on email privileges on October 10, 2002

### Don't Abuse Email Privileges

*Our Position Is:  
Don't violate the Gentlemen's Rule by abusing email rights to waste people's times with unimportant "lost" emails.*

Every time we open our email inboxes, we are inundated with frantic email pleas about lost belongings. Within the past week, Wabash students have lost, some multiple times, backpacks, cell phones, zip disks, calculators and keys. Add to that list sanity and patience.

Students need to understand everyone and students should be used to communicate important messages and inform the specific audiences about interesting events. They should not be used because someone lost his zip disk for the tenth time or lost his cell phone only to realize it was in his room.

We don't mean to trivialize, but part of the Gentleman's Rule is acting like a responsible citizen. Responsible citizens keep track of their own belongings and don't pester fellow students when they fail in their responsibilities.

Next time, before rushing to send out that ill-thought email, check places where the item could have disappeared. This includes the lost & found section available on Blackboard. And once found, please don't send another email telling everyone it has been found. Almost no one cared the first time, and surely, nobody cared the second time.

**Owen Smith '27**

My friend Ethan Harcourt made this mistake a while ago. I think it's important to educate people like Ethan Harcourt about the campus wide emails, so they don't do it again. We should police each other to prevent more people from becoming Ethan Harcourt.

**Hayden Kammer '24**

I definitely don't think it's the students' responsibility to police the email listserv, but I do think we can have fun with it every now and again. If people are spamming random emails that shouldn't be a 'reply all' or are just promoting their personal brand, then they open themselves up to criticism and 'classifieds'. But smaller stuff like 'Lost AirPods/Phone/Whatever' is okay because nobody actively checks the classifieds or notices they lost something.

It definitely depends on the content of the message, it should never be used to put other students down or harass others.

Looking to join the conversation?  
Want to make your voice heard?



**The Bachelor**  
THE STUDENT VOICE OF WABASH COLLEGE SINCE 1908

If so, contact James Wallace at [jpwallac26@wabash.edu](mailto:jpwallac26@wabash.edu) and get your point across to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.

# SPORTS

## FOOTBALL

WABASH: 52  
WITTENBERG: 20

## SOCCER

WABASH: 5  
OBERLIN: 0

## CROSS COUNTRY

2023 NCAC CONFERENCE  
CHAMPIONS

## LIAM THOMPSON '24

ALL-TIME NCAC CAREER  
TOUCHDOWN PASS RECORD

# Basketball is back-to-back-to-back?

Coach Brumett sets eyes on NCAA tournament ahead of season

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • After a seven month hiatus, Wabash basketball, the reigning back-to-back North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Basketball Tournament Champions, returns to the court for their 2023-2024 season. Led by Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett, a stacked lineup of experienced veterans and promising new recruits, the team will set out to beat the best in Division III basketball.

Returning this season, the Wabash team has three goals: winning the NCAC in the regular season, win the conference tournament for a third-straight year and advance into the NCAA tournament.

"The goal is to get Wabash basketball to where we're the ones that everyone is chasing," said Brumett.

The first goal is personal for the returning members of the team. Last season, the Little Giants fell in the final game of the regular season, thanks to a buzzer-beater from Wooster, who would win the conference in the regular season. On top of being an important accolade, winning in the regular season earns a team the right to host the NCAC tournament in front of their home fans. For Wabash this is a huge opportunity to put the team in front of one of the best home crowds in DIII basketball.

"Our students understand how much of an advantage it can be, playing on Chadwick," said Brumett. "The coaches in our league, they recognize how hard it is to play here. Usually our home games are more electric than at other small college venues."

Their second goal of winning the NCAC conference tournament is self-explanatory. A chance to take home the top prize, finish a three-peat and secure their spot in the NCAA tournament is an opportunity any team would give a lot to have.

A mark of the programs trajectory, the Little Giants' goal to punch their ticket to the NCAA Men's Di-



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Wabash basketball gathers before their game against the University of Evansville on October 28, 2023 in Evansville.

vision III Tournament for the third year in a row shows that this team believes in themselves and each other and are ready to make another run at the national title as Coach Brumett builds the program to a place where it is a national contender year after year.

To accomplish these goals, the Little Giants will have to face off against some of the best DIII lineups in the country. Fortunately, the team has one of the most talented lineups in Wabash's history

this season.

For the last several years, the team has attracted some of the best recruits of small colleges in the region. Again a new class of freshmen have come to bolster the lineup, bringing new talent and some much-needed size to the team. Joining the freshman are two transfers, 6'3" guard Rick Brooks '27 and 7'2" center Noah Hupmann '25 who comes from Division I Northern Kentucky University.

"We recruited both of these guys

out of high school," said Brumett. "Wabash was at the top of their list when they were high school seniors just like everybody else on our team. Both of these guys outwardly talk about how they probably should have come the first time. That's important because they're both really good fits for Wabash, for our campus and for their teammates."

Sophomore and junior returning players will form the backbone of this team with returning talents like Josh Whack '26, Gavin Shippert '26, Vinny Buccilla '25. Wabash's bench is one of the deepest in the conference and the nation. With another summer of development behind them, they will be back and better than ever. At the helm of this team returning seniors and veteran leaders will populate the lineup with players who can inspire teammates in every position.

Ahmoni Jones '24 returns for a fifth year at Wabash after exercising his extra year of eligibility due to COVID-19. He is the returning lead scorer for the team and the NCAC conference. Team captain Sam Comer '24 is a case study in gritty basketball and the man trusted to bring the ball up the court for Wabash. Edrece Redmond '24 is a senior starter, who may be the best perimeter guard the team has seen in decades. High energy post-scorer Champ McCorkle '24 had his fair share of clutch moments throughout the last season. Avery Beaver '24 and Turner Royal '24 are fan favorite energizers and in many ways are the captains of the bench, role modeling for the Little Giants' numerous role players.

On Saturday, October 28, the basketball team played an exhibition game against a Division I opponent: the University of Evansville. While the Little Giants would lose 66-76, the focus of the game was more about the experience than the outcome, although the outcome was up in the air for most of the game, as Wabash brought the game within one point with

just over three minutes left to play.

"The exhibition game in Evansville showed that those returning guys came back without taking big steps backwards," said Brumett. "There's always a concern, when you have success that people are going to be complacent, or there's always concern early in the season that you may have to retrain or re-teach."

Complacency is one of the dangers this team will face during the season. There is no shortage of teams who make it to the top and forget what it took to get there. But Coach Brumett says his team will be prepared to combat complacency with their hard work and upperclassmen leadership.

After a home scrimmage against Manchester University on Friday, November 3, the team will begin its regular season on the road against Mount St. Joseph University on November 8. With teams like Anderson and North Park University, the Little Giants have an intense nonconference schedule to start the year. This is all to prepare the team for the NCAA tournament through an at-large bid should the conference tournament go awry.

"We have a really tough nonconference schedule," Brumett said. "That's been intentional. The idea behind that is to make sure that if we don't win your conference tournament, our strength of schedule and your resume gives us a chance to get into the NCAA tournament."

The team is ready to go, ranked 16th in the 2023-2024 D3hoops Preseason poll, they stack up well against almost any opponent in Division III basketball. This Little Giants team might be ready to follow up on the past two seasons with the best one yet to seize their second conference championship, finish the three-peat in the conference tournament and make a deep run in the NCAA tournament.

# Wabash bests conference heavy-hitter Wittenberg

Coach Morel earns 100th win, Thompson '24 breaks NCAC record in blowout against Witt



PHOTO BY GRAYSON DUNN '25

Connor Thompson '25 fights through tackle against Wittenberg University on October 28, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

**HAI DEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26 | SPORTS WRITER** After a convincing win at Kenyon, the Little Giants came home for a statement win against Wittenberg on Saturday, October 28th. In a game that would determine if Wabash was still in running for NCAC Champions, Liam Thompson '24 and the boys wheeled out a 52-20 win over the Tigers.

The Little Giants shot out of the gate and didn't look back, putting up 24 points in the first quarter, and holding a commanding 38-6 lead at halftime. In the second half, they continued to put points on the board, and made it impossible for Wittenberg to get back in the game. Wabash was responsible for a total of 517 yards of offense, with 261 yards in the air and 261 yards on the ground. The Scarlet and White had the advan-

tage in almost every statistical category, including first downs with 27, 3rd down conversion percentage at 63.6%, yards per pass at 13.5, and yards per rush with 5.7.

"It felt really good to beat a good opponent like Wittenberg the way we did," said wide receiver Derek Allen '24, who accounted for 8 receptions, 104 yards, and 3 touchdowns on the day. "As a team, we knew we had to get this win in order to have a chance at winning the conference. And I told the guys that this Wittenberg team is just another team in the way of us reaching our goal."

Quarterback Liam Thompson, going 19-of-25 passes for 256 yards and 4 touchdowns, broke two major milestones. Thompson now has the Wabash career record for total offense with



PHOTO BY GRAYSON DUNN '25

Derek Allen Jr. '24 carries the ball against Wittenberg University on October 28, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.

12,275 yards, and the NCAC career record for touchdown pass-

**"As a team, we knew we had to get this win in order to have a chance at winning the conference."**

- Derek Allen Jr. '24

es with 99.

"Honestly it is just a testament to my teammates and coaches throughout my time here who have worked really hard to set me and our team up for success," Thompson said. "Individual achievements are great, but

I am really just focused on winning more football games and continuing to climb as a team."

As good as the offense was, the defense was just as impressive against a Wittenberg team averaging 38.1 points per game entering this matchup. The defense held Wittenberg to 157 in the air and 130 yards on the ground. Gavin Ruppert '26 and Brock Robertson '26 lead the team in tackles with eight apiece, and Robertson added a fumble recovery to secure an advantage in the turnover battle. For his efforts Roberts was awarded the NCAC Football Defensive Athlete of the Week.

"We played our best football of the year against Wittenberg," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. "It was a complete team effort in all 3 phases."

With the victory on Saturday, Coach Morel earned his 100th career win as a head football coach.

"I had no idea it was my 100th victory," Coach Morel said in response. "It speaks highly about Wabash football and the men who play for this College."

The game had huge NCAC implications, as the two teams were tied for second in the conference standings going into the game, although Wittenberg's loss to

DePauw meant they would inevitably fall behind DePauw, as a result of head-to-head matchups being the tiebreaker in conference standings. As a result from Saturday, Wabash has claimed that second spot, just one game behind the reigning conference champions in Depauw, and Wittenberg is out of the conference championship race. But Wabash's earlier loss to Denison meant they can still win the conference by beating DePauw in the Bell Game which would tie the teams' record while giving the Little Giants the edge in

**"I had no idea it was my 100th victory. It speaks highly about Wabash football and the men who play for this college."**

- Coach Morel

head-to-head matchups.

On Saturday, November 4, Wabash will matchup against Hiram on the road. The Little Giants have a chance to display their maturity as a group. Hiram is a relatively weaker opponent, with only one win on the season, but this a classic trap game for Wabash, coming off a statement win against Wittenberg, and the 129th Monon Bell Classic against DePauw just one week away.

But as Coach Morel said the week before, their complete focus was on Wittenberg, and it's safe to assume the Little Giants will go into Hiram with the same mentality. And regardless of the big win, the path to win the conference remains the same, win out to dethrone DePauw as the NCAC champions.

WABASH		WITTENBERG	
TOTAL RUSHING YDS.	261	TOTAL RUSHING YDS.	130
TOTAL PASSING YDS.	256	TOTAL PASSING YDS.	157
TOTAL OFFENSIVE YDS.	517	TOTAL OFFENSIVE YDS.	287

## McRoberts: NCAC Football Week 10 Power Rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER

1. DePauw University Tigers (9-0, 7-0 NCAC)

Indiana's least favorite institution of higher education rounds the corner into a bye week after a predictable thrashing of the Owls of Kenyon. They might as well have had two bye weeks in a row, as facing a Kenyon team that trotted out three different quarterbacks doesn't amount to much. What's more is that we all know that Tigers don't (and most likely will never) amount to much either. So, the bye isn't particularly useful for them as, in all likelihood, they'll have too much time to think about their inadequacy.

2. Wabash College Little Giants (6-2, 5-1 NCAC)

The Little Giants' defense has been under frequent scrutiny the last two years. However, last Saturday, Coach Riddings' dogs ran down the Ohioan Tigers, forcing two fumbles and helping silence the criticism. Then, there's the guy who seems beyond criticism, the leader in total touchdowns, passing yards, rushing yards and semesters on campus, Liam Thompson '24. If Thompson and the dogs put together a clean performance this Saturday in Hiram, we can have confidence in their abilities preceding the battle for the Bell.

3. Wittenberg University Tigers (5-3, 4-2 NCAC)

After a string of impressive games, the Tigers momentum jumped ship last Saturday in what amounted to a surprising blowout loss for Wittenberg. The rest of their games amount to 'playing for pride' now as they are out of the running for a share in the conference championship. Despite that fact, Wittenberg showed some grit this year, having put together one of their better seasons in the last five years. However, they are still meager housecats compared to their days of winning titles.

4. Denison University Big Red (5-3, 4-2 NCAC)

The Big Red entered last week's bye with a somber tone, knowing that their run at the title was over. However, that hasn't been without some impressive exploits from their all-conference RB, Trey Fabrocini, who has totaled 14 TD's in eight games. He'll have the opportunity to pad his stats against one of the NCAC rag doll schools this week in the form of some Owls, before finishing their year in what could be a solid matchup with Ohio Wesleyan.

5. Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (5-3, 4-2 NCAC)

Despite their three-game win streak, the Bishops have compiled a rather mediocre season. With losses of 21 and 18 against DePauw and Wabash, they haven't been able to crack the upper echelon of the conference. They've also looked shaky, compiling a meager 19 points against Hiram in a one-point victory. However, the story of their season could change drastically with a couple upset victories over Wittenberg and Denison to end the season. But, in reality, anyone who almost loses to Hiram, save Kenyon or some pitiful Yeomen, doesn't inspire much hope.

6. The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (3-5, 2-4 NCAC)

The Fighting Scots' results on a week-to-week basis have fluctuated like the mood of a hormone riddled teen. They've been dropkicked by Dannies and beatdown by Bishops while putting the fear of God in Wabash defensive backs and making the Big Red QB see ghosts. They get a free W this week against Oberlin before having to take on Wittenberg to close out the season.

7. Hiram College Terriers (1-6, 1-8 NCAC)

The Terriers have managed to make the top spot of the losers this week as it will make the Little Giants' upcoming win look a little better. They might be able to score a couple times this week against our second and third-string team defenses to further solidify their dominance of the delinquent teams. This is their last chance to solidify their hold on the title of best of the worst, as they have their bye week the last week of the season. Though, I wonder if anyone will forget that Hiram isn't playing.

8. Kenyon College Owls (1-7, 1-5 NCAC)

Once upon a time, I wondered if the Owls had the gumption to move up in the ranks when they dominated Hiram back in September. However, they've been bums ever since. A 41-point loss to OWU, a 49-point loss to Wabash, and a 51-point loss to DePauw has me wondering if they're going to hit 200 points allowed in 4 games following a home game against Denison on Saturday.

9. Oberlin College Yeomen (1-7, 0-6 NCAC)

Oh Oberlin, only you could make it through six conference games while scoring only 46 points. What is wilder is that there's a chance the Yeomen will score less than 100 points on the season, as they sit just north of 90 with two games left. We need to hit the archives to see if anyone has scored less than 100 points in a season since WWII. I don't think it says good things about your conference when you have three schools that spend so much time at the country club that they still think they're playing golf come Saturday.

## Coach Baker steers volleyball towards success



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Wabash volleyball prepares in practice for January season.

**NATE JOVEN '26 | STAFF WRITER** The Little Giants volleyball team has undergone drastic changes since the end of their previous season, as the team welcomed Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker ahead of their 2024 season. This week *The Bachelor* sat down with Coach Baker to talk about his vision for the 2024 volleyball season.

Coach Baker's experiences as head coach at The Academy Volleyball Club, Munciana Volleyball Club, and most recently at McCutcheon High School have established him throughout the

state of Indiana and have thoroughly prepared him to lead Wabash's volleyball program.

"We are grateful to the College for finding a new coach so quickly and we are grateful to Coach Baker for answering the call and stepping up," said team captain Luke Davis '24. "We want the opportunity to play, and he's provided that. He's a back-to-basics kind of coach. I think focusing on the basics and ironing out small problems will help build us up to a higher level."

In his new position as Wabash's head coach, Baker will

coach at the college level for the first time. Since arriving in August, Baker has begun to prepare his players for their upcoming season. During the offseason, Coach Baker has focused on building relationships and improving communication both on and off the court.

"I chose Wabash College opposed to other institutions because we are seeking to keep great volleyball players in Indiana," Baker said. "Moving up to the college level now means I have the opportunity to work toward my legacy to be a better coach in the future and for the program. My expectations are that we will deliver an outstanding volleyball product to Wabash's community."

Baker's attention to detail will surely help the program stand above previous years. Focusing on aspects of volleyball that are often overlooked, such as attack placement, block coverage, and team mentality will provide the Little Giants with a formidable, consistent roster.

"Skill-wise, we have prepared for the upcoming season by em-

phasizing creative offensive options from our arsenal that are traditionally underutilized in the sport of volleyball," said Baker. "Our workout plan is a significant focus as we prepare for one of the most competitive seasons Wabash has ever witnessed."

**"He's a back-to-basics kind of coach."**

- Luke Davis '24

With new additions and Baker's leadership, the program, now entering its fourth year, has the potential to provide the team its best season yet.

"We have a lot of high-caliber freshmen," said Davis. "I'm excited to play with them and see their growth. I think a strong mentality will help us keep our focus against tough teams. This is my last year. I'm excited to show off what we can do."

Still a young program, the

team has yet to graduate any of its players. This gives senior veterans of the team such as hitters Ricky Sessions '24 and team captain Carson Meadors '24 an opportunity to play with a strong group of incoming freshmen.

"This is a group of the most motivated individuals I have had the opportunity of leading," Baker said. "The team cares and has shown that they will put in the hard work to make Wabash a competitive program. I appreciate each player and know they have what it takes to get better every day as a contribution to their team."

While Baker is doing everything he can to get the team ready for the season ahead, he still takes time to look farther down the road and plan for the future of the program.

"My vision for this year is to instill the confidence in my team that they can accomplish and reach any goal," said Baker. "Long-term, I see the foundation being created to make Wabash College a volleyball school and becoming an Indiana powerhouse."

# Soccer stuns Oberlin in home upset

Five goals help Wabash end victorious in final game

**RODOLFO ELIZONDO-ALCALA '27** | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash soccer team secured the last victory of the season in a 5-0 match against Oberlin College on Saturday, October 28. With a record of (6-7-4), the Little Giants took on the Yeomen at Fischer Field Stadium in a challenging matchup, especially considering their recent conference struggles prior to the game. The season concluded with a downpour of goals, primarily from a hat-trick by Jose Escalante '26.

The game began with a series of offensive corner kicks, leading to striker Bryce Kinnaman '27 taking a shot that was blocked by Oberlin goalkeeper Colvin Iorio. Fourteen minutes into the contest, Bruno Zamora '25 received the ball and made a pass to Escalante, who then scored Wabash's first goal of the game.

Less than a minute later, Escalante scored his second goal of the match, with Kinnaman providing the assist.

Once more, the Little Giants wasted no time, needing only a minute of play to extend their lead. Escalante confidently stood at the penalty line and successfully added his ninth goal of the season, completing a hat-trick and putting his team ahead

3-0. The second half started with Myles Bernat '26 netting his first goal of the season and his second in his Wabash career, contributing to Wabash's fourth goal of the game.

Alfredo Campos '26 sealed the deal with the final goal of the match assisted by Haydon Eaton '26, bringing the game to a 5-0 conclusion.

The game ended with Wabash totaling 15 shots, nine of those being on goal. In comparison to Oberlin's 10, two being on goal. Goalkeeper Fernando Ramos '26 got two saves for his fifth shut-

**"It felt really good to send off my seniors in that way. They they deserve only the best."**

- Jose Escalante '26

out of the season.

"It felt really good to send off my seniors in that way," said Escalante. "They deserve only the best. And I'm very appreciative of everything they've taught me in the last couple of years. I am obviously very happy about my



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Wabash students and players celebrate goal in their game against DePauw University on October 4, 2023, on Fischer Field.**

first collegiate hat-trick." The Wabash College soccer season came to an end with a 6-7-4 (2-5-1 NCAC) record. The leading scorers were Escalante with nine goals and three assists, followed by Kinnaman and Jesse Martinez '26 with five goals and three assists each.

"I think that's huge for us going into the off season and into my junior year," said Escalante. "We have a huge future with these young guys coming

through the ranks and I am excited for the future of this team, I think it is looking real bright".

The Little Giants have a promising young roster for the upcoming season. They have great expectations and the results have shown it with underclassmen having the scoring lead.

## Wabash Rugby sets date for Monon Keg Game



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Matthew Brooks '24 instructs the rugby team in practice in preparation for the Monon Keg Game.**

**SAM BENEDICT '25** | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Monon Bell Week doesn't just mean football. On Saturday November 4, 2023, the Wabash College Rugby team will play DePauw for the coveted "Monon Keg."

"We're feeling really good," said Matthew Brooks '24. "The game will take place at 11 a.m. at Little Giant Stadium. We have everything confirmed and ready to go and the team is excited. The boys have been practicing and I think we have progressed a lot as a team this semester, which has been really really nice. The energy is super high and the team's

ready."

Although this game isn't the contest that most people think of when they think of Bell Week, it has risen in prominence recently.

"I am psyched to be on the field this weekend," said Silas Mills '27. "I've never been fond of DePauw so this will be a phenomenal weekend as long as we come out hard and fast."

Historically, DePauw has been less-than-ideal in terms of their rugby program. In 2022, the Wabash rugby team witnessed a decisive victory against their rivals and retained the coveted red and black keg.

"Last year, we had our team

that ended up going to nationals," said Brooks. "They played against them and did pretty well. But when we played that game, DePauw had a couple of athletes. Their rugby IQ was not as up to par as what we were expecting, which allowed us to find some gaps and run the score up a little bit. So we're definitely going in with the expectation that they've improved because we know that we've improved even with a brand new team. So we're definitely expecting them to be better by expecting them to still have a bit of speed, but also improve their passing and rugby IQ."

The team graduated multiple

impactful players last year, but saw strong recruitment levels this fall as they rebuild. Recently, the team has grown together and established their common goals, while creating buy-in.

"We had a really good sit down a couple of weeks ago and we found aligned goals. We understand that we're a young team, but we want to be back in the national spotlight. That is where the majority of the guys are at and those are the guys who are going to carry the legacy forward when myself and my cabinet eventually step off and graduate from Wabash.

**"The boys have been practicing and I think we have progressed a lot as a team this semester."**

- Matthew Brooks '24

This year, the rugby team has seen significant victories against high level teams, continuing on their national success from last year. After playing DePauw, rugby will compete at home in the conference tournament where multiple teams will try and steal the title that Wabash has held for years.

## Wabash swim navigates recruitment

**CHRIS ZIMMERMAN '25** | STAFF WRITER • Many young athletes dream of the opportunity to play their sport of choice at the collegiate level, but few understand the level of time and commitment needed to achieve academic and athletic success over the course of their college careers until it is a reality. This week, *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Swim Coach William Bernhardt to talk about how he handles the difficulties of collegiate athletics.

Wabash student-athletes are especially put to the test due to the difficult course loads and high expectations that each and every individual faces, which can lead to student-athletes feeling overwhelmed, falling short of expectations in some aspects of their lives and dropping back on athletic or extracurricular activities as a result. While this is a difficult reality to relay to incoming recruits before stepping on campus and experiencing life as a student athlete, Wabash students, coaches, faculty and staff can play a crucial role in the sustainability of our student-athlete population.

Coach Bernhardt made clear the extreme dedication required to be a part of the program. With its morning lifts, daily practices, weekly meets, community service and the long season the athletes must endure, every member of this program must work just to keep up with academic and athletic obligations. However, looking past the extensive

obligations required of each individual, the level of support in this group and its drive for athletic and academic prosperity is incredible.

"We want high character individuals that are going to be successful Wabash men, not just great swimmers," said Bernhardt.

**"We want high character individuals that are going to be successful Wabash men, not just great swimmers."**

- Coach Bernhardt

Another point Bernhardt noted was the strong sense of unity among the program, which is an important quality considering the seemingly separate aspects of swimming and diving.

"From meals, to weights, to community service, or anything we do as a team, everyone is there," Bernhardt said.

In addition to Coach Bernhardt's perspective, the current evaluation of the team's culture was overwhelmingly positive.

"The team has one of the best cultures of any organization I have been a part of, rivaling even that of fraternities on campus," said Aidan Mason '26. "We regularly spend time together as a large group, doing things from

meals to movie nights. It has made me feel supported on a different level and I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Additionally, team members play a large role in the program's recruiting efforts. A unique sign of Bernhardt's trust in his team and dedication to building a unified roster.

"As a captain for this season and last season, I have helped the coaches plan some of the structure of our recruiting weekends," said Ethan Johns '25. "I have also planned activities that the team can do with recruits on these weekends to make their visit to Wabash enjoyable and memorable."

These aspects bring recruits to Wabash and solidify their commitment to the school. However, we as a community must work to maintain the level of interest and love that these students have for Wabash and athletics.

"While being a student-athlete certainly is not easy, Wabash faculty and staff make it a real possibility," said Johns. "My coaches not only understand the importance of our academic success, but also expect us to succeed and excel in the classroom."

Bernhardt emphasized the importance of not only student-athletes in recruiting, but also students unaffiliated with the program.

"If they are real with the recruit, and they sell what they know and how they have experienced things, then the recruit is going to feel that and understand

that this is the place for them," Bernhardt said.

**"My coaches not only understand the importance of our academic success, but also expect us to succeed and excel in the classroom."**

- Ethan Johns '25

Part of the Wabash experience is the brotherhood, which is why it falls on everyone, from the coaches, to students, staff and faculty, to play a role in ensuring that athletic recruits are motivated to excel athletically and academically and ensure that this upward trajectory continues on well into the future.



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

**Wabash swim cheers on teammates in the dual meet against Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology on October 27, 2023, at Wabash College in the Class of 1950 Natatorium.**

## Swim team goes 2-0 over weekend

**NICK WANGLER '27** | STAFF WRITER • The swim and dive team has already made a splash into their season as they head into their 5th meet of the year. With a strong start from the Little Giants, the team's confidence is at an all time high.

The team captured two wins over the weekend, defeating Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology 157-142 on Friday October 27 and dominating Albion College in the water 151-85 on October 28.

A strong contributor to the team's early success is swimmer Ethan Johns '25. Johns is a key swimmer to the team as he can be put in any event. His titles this past weekend consisted of wins in the 50 freestyle, the 100 freestyle, the 200 freestyle, the 200 freestyle relay, and finally the 400 medley relay. This performance landed him as NCAC Men's Swimming Athlete of the Week.

With four meets under their belts, the Wabash College swimming and diving team is on pace for a stellar season. Two excellent performances at the Indiana DIII Meet and the Dan Ross Indiana Intercollegiate Meet, combined with the wins in dual meets against Rose-Hulman and Albion has raised this team's morale. Driven by the positive culture and the encouragement from upperclassmen, the Little Giants are making progress towards their season goal of winning the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships.

"We have a super strong team culture, where the guys really want to see the best in each individual," said Head Swim Coach Will Bernhardt. "Every single person in the pool is working towards our team goals, and they all believe in those goals."

Another impactful aspect of this Little Giants swim team is the atmosphere at practice and during meets. The encouragement from the entire squad has been a main factor in the early success. Coach Bernhardt describes this year's swimmers and divers as a good group of guys willing to put in the necessary work. By focusing not only on themselves, the team has come together as one.

"They're a really great group of guys who enjoy each other's company, and that want to work hard towards a collective team goal of being the best swimming and diving team that we can be," said Bernhardt.

With the season going as well as it is, the team is shooting for the stars. In previous years, the Little Giants have been right outside of elite company. Looking to finally break into one of the top teams in the nation, the team's main goal is to change the narrative they currently have.

"I think our main goal as a team right now is to raise our standard and be where we want to be amongst the other top teams in the nation," said team captain Connor Craig '25.

To talk about reaching these goals is one thing, but achieving them is a whole other story. In a sport that is team based, the connection between swimmers must be concrete. Currently the team is in a good mental space coming off a hot start, but it must continue in order to succeed. A strong bond is essential for elite teams.

"If I had to give you three words to describe my teammates," said Craig, "I would say that they're ambitious, talented and loving."

The Wabash team will compete in their next meet at the University of Chicago on Friday, November 3, and Saturday November 4. As the team heads into the meet, they are focused on starting to reach these goals. Swimming against elite teams is not always easy, but to be the best, you have to beat the best. Heading into the meet, the team is eager to compete and ready to show they have what it takes to break the boundaries.