



**NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE**



**Brayden Curnutt '25 leads the pack in the final stretch of the 2024 North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Cross Country Championship on November 3, 2024, at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana.**

COURTESY OF NORTH COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE

**ETHAN WALLACE '25**  
SPORTS EDITOR

Flashing a "W" with his fingers as he crossed the finish line, Brayden Curnutt '25 claimed first place in the 2024 North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Men's Cross Country Championship. Before laying in the grass, Curnutt let out a celebratory yell.

"The emotion came from four years of being in this program — dealing with injuries, other health related issues and a surgery," said Curnutt. "The emotion came from how I got to being a cross country conference champion."

The NCAC Championship was held at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana on Sunday, November 3. The 12:15 a.m. start, light breeze and overcast sky provided perfect racing conditions

Winning the 8k race netted Curnutt the conference gold medal, First Team All-NCAC honors and the title of 2024 NCAC

Men's Cross Country Runner of the Year.

In his first three years, the senior had earned Second Team All-NCAC honors after finishing 11th as a freshman, 12th in his sophomore year and ninth in the 2023 meet.

"My path hasn't been linear," said Curnutt. "It's been a bunch of ups and downs. Last year, I was upset about not being able to get on the first team or being able to be up with the [top] guys of the conference. This year with how well I was running, I knew I could do something special."

Curnutt entered the race intending to win and did not disappoint. Early on he waited for his time to break out from the tight, leading pack that held together through the first half of the race. With 2 kilometers left to go and the field beginning to spread out, the senior saw an opening and took it.

"I took a peek over my shoulder and noticed the pack that I

was running with started separating," said Curnutt. "I thought to myself, 'if I'm gonna win this, I'm gonna win it right now.' ... I didn't want to leave it up to the last straight-away. I wanted to put it away right then and there."

From there the senior and second-place runner Drew Robertson of Wooster led the way to the final 100m stretch, where Curnutt extended his slight lead to an untouchable five-second gap.

"That's all heart," said Curnutt. "You've already run 7,900 meters. So, it's all about competing at that point, I didn't know where anyone else was at. I didn't take a look over my shoulder or anything. I had no clue where second place was at. ... I realized I had it wrapped up with 50 meters left. So I kind of took it all in and celebrated a little."

**Continued page 8**

**Braun '76 and Rokita '92 win respective races**

**Braun will serve his first term as Indiana Governor as Rokita was re-elected as Indiana's attorney general**

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27**  
STAFF WRITER

The results are in! Unsurprisingly, Republicans won big in Indiana in pretty much every regard. It has become a routine occurrence in Indiana, where a Democrat has not won the gubernatorial race since 2000, for the GOP to dominate come election day, and this past Tuesday was simply the latest iteration of that trend.

Republican candidates Senator Mike Braun '76 and Todd Rokita '92 surged to victory in their races for governor and attorney general, respectively. Neither race was especially close.

In the governor's race, Braun beat out top competitor Jennifer McCormick with 54.1% of the vote to her 41.3%. Libertarian candidate Donald Rainwater siphoned off 4.6% of the vote, which did more damage to Braun than it did McCormick. Republican candidates in the other statewide races all gar-

nered around 58% of the votes; Braun would have ended right around that mark had Rainwater not been a factor in this race.

McCormick, Indiana's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, likely hoped that Rainwater would nab even more votes from Braun and open a door for a surprise Democratic victory. In the 2020 governor's race, Rainwater received 11.4% of the vote, quite a substantial tally for a third party candidate, even in generally moderate Indiana. But most of Rainwater's share of the vote in 2020 likely came from moderate democrats, not GOP voters. The Democratic candidate in that race, Woody Myers, garnered only 32% of the vote.

Thus, while McCormick hoped for a close race, and was likely cheering Rainwater's tally on, it was improbable that she could tempt enough Republicans out of the GOP base to win the election.

**Continued page 2**



**Senator Mike Braun '76 addresses supporters in a victory speech after winning the race for governor of Indiana on November 5, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana.**

COURTESY OF INDYSTAR

**PSC-211 students conduct exit poll**

**JAKE WEBER '25**  
STAFF WRITER

United States elections are always a tense time in our democracy, as candidates and the public alike do their best to determine who won races while official vote results are delayed. As a result, we turn to exit polls to help inform us of what voters are feeling as they leave the many polling stations across the country.

This year, students in professor of political science Shamira Gelbman's PSC-211 Election Polling and Public Opinion class, had a chance to experience what it is like to conduct an exit poll for themselves. The 15 students of the class stood outside the three Montgomery County polling stations from 10 a.m. until the polls closed at 6 p.m., hoping to gather insight on the opinions and decisions of the local electorate.

In October, Professor Gelbman's students gave presentations in a partnership with the League of Women Voters, a non-partisan organization that encourages voting. The presentations focused on spreading poll literacy, explaining the processes behind developing polls, how to interpret them and how to differentiate a good poll from a bad one.

The students then transitioned to preparing the exit poll. As part of their coursework, the students created a one-page front-and-back survey, including questions on voting decisions, demographical data

and political issues. With the assistance of Professor Gelbman, the questions were refined over a two-week process to ensure that they were effective in collecting desired information from the voters taking the exit poll.

While many people have heard of exit polls, few are privy to the details that go into planning and conducting the polls.

"We talked to the people," said Isaac Morrison '26. "We had little booths set up with tables and we had to be a certain distance away to not be doing electioneering. We basically had questions like 'Who did you vote for?' and 'What are your thoughts on this political issue?'," and then we would invite people over to anonymously fill out the form before it went in our box."

Students also found value in the conversations they had with those who filled out the polls, learning about their motivations and thought processes.

"You're talking to town people, but not just the crew that stays downtown around campus," said Morrison. "It's literally people from all over town, and so I learned their opinions. We had somebody who came and sat down and was talking to us about the homeless population in town, and she knew the exact number of homeless people who lived in Crawfordsville. It was a good, valuable experience."

**Continued page 2**

**Trump paints the Blue Wall red**

**Wins second, non-consecutive term in presidential seat**

**JAMES WALLACE '26**  
NEWS EDITOR

In a showdown of the ages, Former President Donald J. Trump and Vice President Kamala finally went head-to-head on Election Day. In the early morning the following day, Trump would walk away with a new title (but one that he had donned before): president-elect.

Along with the republican nominee winning the presidential seat, Republicans also won control of the Senate, and are looking to be in a position to hold control of the House of Representatives — making it a possibility that President-elect Trump will be moving back into the White House with a Republican ran Congress, mirroring the 2016 national elections.

But how did Trump make his way back into the Oval Office?

Back in his unprecedented victory in 2016, Trump managed to break the "Blue Wall," a series of states across the northeast geographic part of the nation that have historically voted Democrat. This helped to propel him into the Oval Office during his first major run at the presidential seat.

However, in 2020, the Blue Wall, Georgia and Arizona all flipped back to the Democratic candidate, Current President Joseph R. Biden. The three states in the Blue Wall that flipped — Pennsylvania, Michigan and Wisconsin — along with Georgia and Arizona were the main focus of both the Trump and Harris campaigns.

When the dust began to settle in the early hours of November 6, the day after Election Day, Trump had won Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Georgia, giv-



**President-elect Donald J. Trump waves at his supporters during his watch party on November 6, 2024, in West Palm Beach, Florida.**

COURTESY OF AP

ing him enough electoral votes to secure the presidential seat. NewsNation was the first to call the race, at 1:22 a.m. in the morning after Election Day. Notably, Fox News called the race at 1:47 a.m. as they gave Trump electoral votes from Wisconsin. Trump's watch party in West Palm Beach, Florida erupted in cheers as they watched Fox News call the race live, and as the early morning crept into the waking hours of Americans on November 6, more media giants named Trump the winner.

Harris called Trump personally and conceded the race to him on Wednesday, then spoke to supporters that same afternoon and addressed her supporters, conceding the race in front of them. Outside of the presidential election, Republicans also saw a big victory in the Senate. At the time of writing this article, Republicans hold a 52 seat major-

ity, and look to gain 2 more seats (4 seats have not been decided). This will be particularly impactful for President-elect Trump, as he will likely look to get to work as soon as he is sworn in on January 20, 2025.

While Republicans already have control of the Senate, both Democrats and Republicans are looking to the House of Representatives, as 40 seats have yet to be announced. Republicans hold a lead in the House with 205 confirmed seats to the 190 that Democrats hold. However, there is no certainty that either party will have a breeze in seizing control of the House.

With Republicans celebrating victories in the White House and the Senate, much of the nation's eyes will be focused on the House. Stay tuned to *The Bachelor's* election coverage at <https://bachelor.wabash.edu>.



**Voters walk in to make their voice heard at one of Montgomery County's three polling centers on November 5, 2024.**

PHOTO BY JAKE WEBER '25

# Exit Poll

Continued from page 1

Conducting the exit poll served not only as a valuable learning experience for the other students, but it also fulfilled another purpose: acting as the majority of the class's fourth hour requirements for the semester. While we have seen many professors turn to innovative solutions for the new academic requirements, Professor Gelbman's approach is certainly one that stands out from most others.

"This class, in particular, has been the most Wabash I have felt," said Nick Green '27. "When we market the school, we say that you're not just sitting in class and going to lectures. You're going to be a community leader. You're going to be a well-rounded person. My learning has come from non-traditional ways. We've given two community presentations at this point, and since we're talking about elections and polls, we might as well do one."

Garnering over 300 responses, the poll will allow for the students to get a snapshot of the Montgomery County electorate's motivations and decisions at the ballot box. The results of the exit poll will be officially presented by the students during a lunch talk on November 15.

# Braun '76 and Rokita '92

Continued from page 1

Rokita won the race for attorney general by a slightly wider margin, winning 59% of the vote to democratic candidate Destiny Wells's 41%. Rokita has previously served as Indiana's Secretary of State and as a US Representative. He was the incumbent in this race, having served as attorney general since 2021. The democratic challenger, Wells, is a former army officer and deputy attorney general of Indiana. A victory against Rokita was always going to be an uphill battle for Wells, an impressive candidate in her own right but lacking the name recognition to pull swing voters her way. But, as the rest of the races show, arguably Wells's biggest disadvantage was the lack of an "R" by her name on the ballot.

Republicans also won in Congressional elections. All nine Hoosier seats in the US House of Representatives were up for grabs this week, and the status quo held. Republicans retained the seven seats they currently hold, and the democrats kept their two districts: districts one and seven, centered around Gary and Indianapolis, respectively. None of these races were surprises, but democrats likely hoped they could be competitive in district five, which encompasses, among other counties, Hamilton and Madison. Rep. Victoria Spartz, who represents district five, has had some public gaffes during her congressional tenure and is the subject of a House Ethics probe due to allegations of "abuse," "rage," and "general toxicity" towards staffers. Nevertheless, Spartz won the district by more than 20%.

In the US Senate, Jim Banks (R) won over democratic competitor Valerie McCray by 20 percentage points, easily retaining for the GOP the Senate seat governor-elect Braun won back in 2020. Burgeoned by an endorsement from former President and now once again President-elect Donald Trump and experience in the Indiana Statehouse and as a US Representative, Banks's election was never in much doubt. He will join fellow republican Senator Todd Young in the Senate to round out the Indiana delegation there.

Indiana voters were also asked about retaining three Indiana Supreme Court justices, and whether the state constitution should be amended to remove the Superintendent of Public Instruction from the executive line of succession. All three justices were retained by Hoosiers, and each received about 57% approval from voters. The change to the line of succession was also narrowly approved by voters, with about 54% voting to amend the constitution to complete the change. Despite the fact that the role of superintendent of public instruction does not even exist anymore, about 46% of Hoosiers voted "No" to the proposed amendment.

It would have taken an optimistic Hoosier democrat to believe this election would yield anything other than a lion's share of the positions for the GOP and the same meager winnings for democrats. After this year's election results confirmed the usual for Indiana — Republican dominance across statewide offices and in most districts — such an optimistic Hoosier democrat looks equally misguided.

# News around the world

EVAN BAKER '27  
STAFF WRITER  
**Bolivia**

This past Friday, an armed militant group took control of a Bolivian military post on the outskirts of Cochabamba, a city in central Bolivia. According to the Bolivian government's report, the militant group has seized weapons and ammunition from the base and has taken over 200 military personnel as hostages. Bolivian President Luis Arce claimed that former president Evo Morales is affiliated with the armed group, however, his government has not released evidence supporting this claim.

Morales and Arce are two leading contenders for the upcoming 2025 election. Both sides' supporters have increased in hostility towards one another. Recently, Arce's government has disclosed charges of human trafficking to Morales. Morales' supporters have claimed these charges to be a political ploy to defame Morales' name, rather than true criminal charges. In the past weeks, Morales' supporters have blockaded many major highways around the country, leading to a shortage of food and gasoline that has impacted the entire country.



COURTESY OF REUTERS

**Bolivian security forces move to intercept supporters of Evo Morales on November 1, 2024, in Parotani, Bolivia.**

**Iran**

This past Saturday, an Iranian female student stripped down to her underwear outside of Tehran's Islamic Azad University in protest of Iran's enforcement of their strict Islamic dress code. Videos shared by the Amnesty International civil rights group show the student stripping down to her underwear and sitting outside the university entrance. Shortly after, the video shows her being surrounded by a group of men on an adjacent road before being shoved into a car and driven off. As of this Wednesday, her whereabouts are still unknown.

Iran, which is ruled by an Islamic Theocracy, has adopted a strict dress code that requires females to cover their hair and wear modest clothes at all times in public. The dress code is enforced by Iran's morality police, which have been known to inflict harsh punishments on Iranian women who have broken the rules. In the past two years, Iranian protests against the headscarf policy have been met with intense violence and scrutiny from the regime. Hundreds of activists have been beaten, imprisoned and killed.



COURTESY OF PBS

**Protesters gather outside of the Iranian consulate on October 11, 2022, in Istanbul, Turkey.**

**Israel**

This past Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu fired the Israeli defense minister, Yoav Gallant. Although both come from the same Likud political party, there have been a number of conflicting beliefs between members of the Likud as well as those in their ruling coalition.

Gallant has stated that he was fired over disputes between the mandatory "ultra-orthodox military service, the abandonment of hostages in Gaza, and the need for an official inquiry into Hamas' October 7th attack."



COURTESY OF REUTERS

**Yoav Gallant speaks at a press conference on December 18, 2023, in Tel Aviv, Israel.**



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**Palabek refugee camp, where the lightning struck, is home to more than 80,000 people.**



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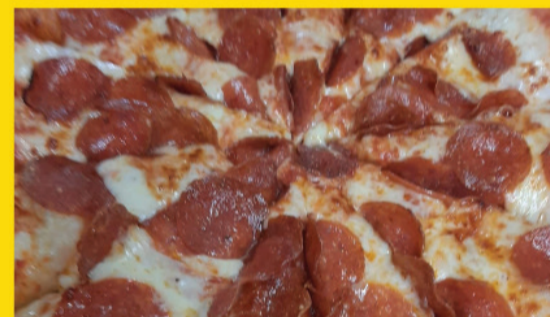


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## Student barbers keep Wabash looking sharp

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26  
FEATURES EDITOR

Certain things in life are inevitable: death, taxes and needing a haircut. Wabash students can be seen sporting various hairstyles throughout the year, but what many may not realize is the diverse range of places Wabash men can get a fresh cut. Some can certainly go into Crawfordsville for a trim at a local business or a chain salon, but many students instead opt to go somewhere even more local. In recent years, an underground economy of student barbers has flourished, with students setting up shop in fraternity basements and beyond to keep Wabash men looking fresh.

Oliver Ramos '26 got his start cutting hair in his senior year of high school, giving himself cuts since he couldn't find a good barber with time to fit him in. What began as an efficient solution to take care of himself quickly grew into an act of service once he got to campus. More impressively, Ramos is entirely self-taught, practicing on the hair of his brothers at the Kappa Sigma house.

"The most important part is getting the practice in," said Ramos. "I feel like you can watch a lot of videos and tutorials, but if you don't get your hands-on practice, you're missing out."

This opportunity to get hands-on experience allowed Ramos to broaden his horizons. A larger client base directly led to a more diverse demand for hairstyles to cut.

"My taste has expanded a lot," said Ramos. "Recently I've been getting into scissor cuts, because that's a whole different thing. I always like switching from the fade, because I feel like the fade is what I do the best and the most often. I love whenever somebody asks for something different."

While the clientele of Wabash barbers is mostly students, the broader community has caught on to the quality and convenience of a campus cut.

"I've cut a few professors, and even my admissions counselor," said Ramos. "I just got a text that told me a TA wanted a haircut. It's pretty awesome whenever I get to cut other people's hair besides students."

For Ramos, barbering is not only a source of income, but an important outlet for self-expression as well. Hailing from Mexico originally – by way of Austin, Texas – Ramos pays tribute to his home cultures by caring for his college community's hair needs.

"I try to remember where I come from," said Ramos. "I grew up in Mexico, so the barber culture is not big at all, but I met some barbers that are really good in Mexico, and they never get the reputation they deserve. I love cutting hair when it comes to my people, Hispanic people. I always feel like I'm representing my people."

On the other side of campus, Vaughn Taylor '25 cut his teeth freshman year, giving his pledge brothers and football teammates the iconic mullets respective of Bell Week. Using a tiny shaver, Taylor took a do-it-yourself approach and fully dove into haircuts even though he had never cut hair in his life.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
Vaughn Taylor '25 gives a haircut to Sam Benedict '25 at the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) on October 30, 2024. The MXIBS provides a space for barbers to provide haircuts to other students, while learning the craft.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
The number of student barbers at Wabash has grown steadily as educational materials become widely accessible and student demand remains high.

"I was not using the proper tools at all," said Taylor. "It was nothing that I would allow anybody to get up out of a chair with today. But then I was like, 'wait a second, that was kind of cool.'"

The excitement of trying a new skill stuck with Taylor and inspired him to sharpen his newfound passion. This momentum soon accelerated when a haircut at a local barber impressed on him the advantage of self-reliance.

"I paid \$25 for the worst haircut in my life," said Taylor. "I thought, 'I got to be able to do that better and easier. So I taught myself off YouTube and learned from another barber that was in the Malcolm X Institute, Kenny Coleman '21. After that, I cut hair for

free in Sigma Chi and got all my fraternity brothers to sign up. They trusted me, I did well and then I moved on to charging people money and cutting hair in the MXI."

Taylor credits his growth as a barber to his time in the Malcolm X Institute. Not only did the MXI provide another community with willing clients, it also provided the necessary facilities to upgrade his professionalism. The second floor of the Institute is home to a small barber shop that's open for anyone to use and allows student barbers to hone their skills.

"We used to have a full around-your-head mirror that I got with the barber club, but then it broke, so a lot of people would go in there and just practice cutting their own hair," said

Taylor. "It's open for use. My clippers are in there, there's other clippers in there, there's liners and all these different tools that people can mess around with."

What many clients don't realize is the extent of work that goes into not only cutting hair, but also operating a small business. The hands-on experience of growing a side hustle is a quintessentially Wabash experience, as Ramos grew his operation from being organized on his notes app to opening a website where anyone can schedule an appointment, complete with text reminders.

"Even if it's just barbering, to me it's something else," said Ramos. "It's helped me a lot. I learned to talk to people, make relationships and manage a small business. This is pretty much paying my tuition, which is pretty cool. Without this, I don't really know what I will be doing."

The practical lessons young Wabash men learn through cutting hair include interpersonal skills and logistical planning, but the experience also brings to life economic principles that they have learned in class.

"I used to be concerned about always trying to charge a price of \$15, largely because I didn't feel professional without a license," said Taylor. "I raised my price up to \$20 just because it's a convenience factor. It's like the [1832] Brew, it's right here in front of you. You don't have to get up and go anywhere, and it's cheaper than Great Clips."

Even though each barber works independently as a small business, the barber community on campus reflects more of Wabash's warm, collegial environment than a cutthroat competition for business. This collaborative and friendly spirit is reflected in Taylor's efforts to get the Barber Club off the ground.

"I tried to get the Barber Club kicked off pretty hardcore," said Taylor. "We had a few meetings where we were all together and agreed that we're not competitive, nobody is competing for leads on who to cut."

These barbers are also enthusiastic about welcoming new members into their fold. Ramos emphasized that other students interested in barbering should not shy away from trying to learn. The only thing standing in the way of the next great barber is practice.

"I love talking to other barbers and supporting them," said Ramos. "Just come to me and you can use my stuff, I'll teach you. Nowadays, there's so many resources; between YouTube, Instagram and TikTok, anybody can learn. It's just about getting that practice in and being consistent."

Student barbers offer their clients a quality haircut at a fair price, while campus patronage provides a wealth of practice running both the clippers and small businesses. Next time you start looking a little scruffy, consider stopping into the MXI or throw a dart at any of the fraternities on a map. You're bound to find an eager student with the ability to make you look your best.

## 'Talento y Alma'

*La Alianza talent show invites student acts to the stage*

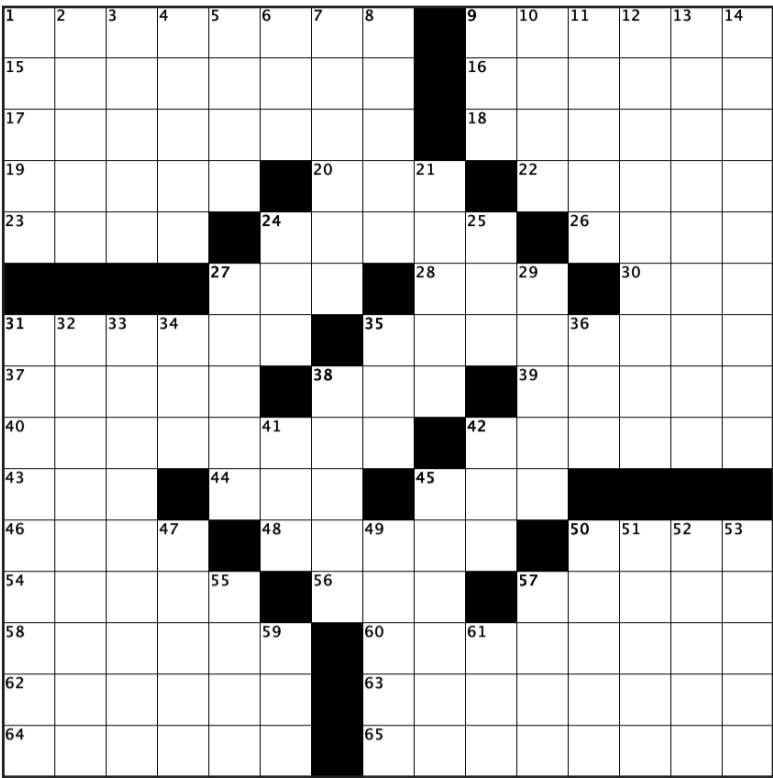


PHOTOS BY KYLE FOSTER '27  
At 'Talento y Alma,' students were invited to perform in front of their peers on November 1, 2024 in Ball Theater. Wally's Creek (bottom right), the Music Appreciation Club (bottom middle and top right) and Deacon and the Loosey Goosey Experience (bottom left and top left). The top performer, as voted on by the audience, was Deacon and the Loosey Goosey Experience.



# 'Themeless #4'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



**Across**

- 1. Some leafy green
- 9. Where "my eyes" are
- 15. Highly haughty
- 16. Bearnaise and Bordelaise
- 17. Identifier for approximately 11% of women
- 18. Practically
- 19. Ready to run
- 20. Poet's contraction
- 22. "Songs in A \_\_\_" (debut album from Alicia Keys)
- 23. Potato parts
- 24. 404, e.g.
- 26. Madame, across the Pyrenees
- 27. It may come with burritos
- 28. Bank roll?
- 30. Ending for "Bat" or "Spider"
- 31. Copernicus or Tycho
- 35. Checking out again
- 37. Slot machine symbol
- 38. Title of respect
- 39. Potential flower girl

- 40. Most abundant metal in earth's crust
- 42. Finished the dishes
- 43. Flier out of Stockholm
- 44. "Oops!" key
- 45. Like mood lighting
- 46. Wineglass part
- 48. Like a rainbow
- 50. Group of players
- 54. Played charades, perhaps
- 56. Bit of a joule
- 57. "Lord, we bless this food..." e.g.
- 58. "Monopoly" purchase
- 60. Hiding places in French farces
- 62. Past and present, for two
- 63. Texas city with a "Boomtown" museum
- 64. Will subject
- 65. Duo on the Staff of Hermes

**Down**

- 1. CNN's C
- 2. Lineup, as of troops
- 3. Enemy of Harvey and Harley
- 4. Jolly Roger figures
- 5. Got a touch of gray, say
- 6. Gangster's gun
- 7. Keys in
- 8. That's no bull!
- 9. Olympic chant
- 10. Handy tree?
- 11. Like August on the East Coast, typically
- 12. Markets responding to a specific frequency
- 14. No longer on speaking terms
- 21. Trireme mover
- 24. Oft-pierced part
- 25. Administered
- 27. Will Smith in "Aladdin" (2019)
- 29. Wrangler's material

- 31. Deskmate, perhaps
- 32. Those bound by blood
- 33. \_\_\_ park
- 34. Male turkey
- 35. Salted edge of a margarita
- 36. "Did Wabash \_\_\_?"
- 38. Serving avec café ou thé
- 41. Government spy org.
- 42. Dispose (of)
- 45. Wabash's used to be sheepskin
- 47. High-IQ society
- 49. Served with lemon butter
- 50. One half of Dostoevsky's landmark novel
- 51. Exodus brother
- 52. Potpourri output
- 53. Lab orders
- 55. Shared song
- 57. Rise, as prices
- 59. Lingual suffix
- 61. Feb. neighbor

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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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## Enjoy the rivalry: Celebrate Wabash more



**Matt Tanney '05**  
Director of  
Athletics and  
Recreation

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I love a good rivalry. I spent the first ten years of my career in inter-collegiate athletics working in NCAA Division I and watched some of the most celebrated college sports rivalries up close: The Ohio State University and the University of Michigan; the University of Dayton and Xavier University; and the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas. Every match-up guaranteed an energized crowd and a close finish down to the final buzzer. It's one of the reasons sport rivalries are so widely embraced. It's an exhilarating experience cheering for your team against a familiar opponent.

Next week, we'll welcome a production company to campus for a few days to film practices and interview coaches, alumni, and scholar-athletes as part of the LG docuseries, "The Rivalries." An episode on the 130th Monon Bell Classic is scheduled to air during the upcoming bowl season as part of a mini-series sponsored by the NCAA through its corporate partner, LG. The series focuses on less well-known athletics rivalries around the country, often at the Division II or III level. We fully embraced an opportunity to showcase the passion and pageantry of the Monon Bell Classic to a national audience. We have every reason to celebrate the game's significance at both institutions.

As an intense game with many traditions, most notably a 300-lb. bell, it's sometimes challenging to reflect on the experience of the event beyond the

scoreboard. In my first year back at the College, I brought my two grade-school aged daughters and wife to the game to sit in an experimental "family section" in the corner of the Wabash stadium, intended as a slightly milder environment for fans and alumni. Within minutes, after walking to our seats, incredibly hateful things were screamed in the direction of my young children. It was the last time my wife or daughters attended a Monon Bell Game. In that moment, I appreciated the unfortunate reality of the game, demanding a significant security and law enforcement presence. If the Monon Bell Classic required a movie rating, it's at least a "PG-13" event.

Last spring, President Feller gave a chapel talk titled "Rivals" that is required viewing this time of year. As the director of athletics, it's my sincere hope and vision that we host this rivalry game in the future with more families in attendance, less profanity, and a greater focus on excellent football showcasing the very best of Division III athletics, rather than vulgar noise that does not uplift or support Wabash. An early, actionable step in that process includes ending the "DePauw S\*\*\*\*\*" chant. It is wholly incompatible with the Gentleman's Rule, and it does not represent the quality of our student body or alumni. So here's my proposed alternative. If you've attended a home basketball game the past few seasons, you've probably noticed Wabash superfan, Jimmy Haffner, sitting behind the bench. Late in games, Jimmy often starts the cheer "We Love Wabash!" So, the first time that "Wabash Sucks" is volleyed across Blackstock Stadium, think twice and shout back "We Love Wabash!" or "Wabash Always Fights!" Because we do.

Let's bring home the Bell.

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### Slay

Hi-Five to Buck for launching his TikTok influencer career on the @wabashcollege page. Say hello to Addison Rae for us.

### "Peanut did not die in vain"

Lo-Five to the New York City officials for seizing and euthanizing Peanut the Squirrel from his owner, an OnlyFans \*content\* creator. If you haven't heard this story yet, prepare to go down a DEEP rabbit hole.

### LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... WE GOT HIM

Lo-Five to the former SEAL who (claims to have) shot Bin Laden for publicly announcing that he wanted to make a group of young male Kamala voters his "concubines." Don't worry, he clarified that by "concubines" he meant "slaves."

### CLASSIFIEDS 3:16

Hi-Five to Nick Bastian for offering a spiritual shoulder to his Wabash brothers, without regard for faith or creed. Is it cheating to pray for a quality comps board?

### COMEBACK KID

Hi-Five to Grover Cleveland for a 128-year run as the only president to be elected twice nonconsecutively. Between his 275-pound build, an alleged illegitimate child and a wife 27 years his younger, we're getting déjà vu.

# Fall fashion on campus: A guide to stylish layering and seasonal colors

This week I saw my roommates with their cozy-yet-fashionable autumn outfits, and I decided it was time to pen an article about what to wear this fall.

Fall fashion isn't just about looking good; it's about embracing the season's character, layering up against the chill, and feeling comfortable enough to walk to class or relax outside in the crisp air. This fall, I call all Wabash students to blend timeless classics with personal style, proving that the right fall look can be both practical and stylish.

In this article, I'll highlight three vintage-inspired ensembles and three denim-focused outfits that capture the essence of fall fashion on our campus. Each look showcases how Wabash students are combining seasonal elements like earthy tones, textured fabrics and versatile layering to create fashionable yet functional outfits.

### Earthy tones and textures with neutral layers

I want to start with the look that Christian Gray '25 showcases: the elegance of layered neutrals, a classic choice for any fall wardrobe. He's dressed in a cozy, beige vintage sweater (thrifed), which adds warmth and a touch of sophistication with its bold geometric patterns. Paired with dark khaki pants, the look is not only comfortable but seamlessly ties into the season's earthy tones. What makes this outfit work for fall is its versatility — neutral layers can be dressed up or down and complement the Wabash fall landscape. This ensemble strikes a balance between casual and refined, ideal for a day of classes or an evening out with friends.



PHOTOS BY CHRISTIAN GRAY '25  
**Look one**

In a similar vein, this second look features a light top half and dark bottom half. I am wearing a beige woolen jacket over a white undershirt, paired with dark brown corduroy pants. This combination elevates a timeless fall trend, adding a semi-formal touch that is perfect for staying warm and presentable while navigating campus throughout the day.



**Look two**

The standout look showcased by Tom Oppman '25 further exemplifies the appeal of earthy tones and textured layering. Tom's outfit centers around a dark brown corduroy jacket worn over a white sweater, complemented by tan chinos. The blend of natural shades captures the essence of the fall season, while the interplay of fabric textures — smooth, crisp, and cozy — adds visual interest to the ensemble. This layered approach is both practical and stylish, keeping the wearer comfortable without overheating as the temperatures fluctuate. The end result is a polished, grounded look that would be at home both in the classroom and at a more formal campus event.



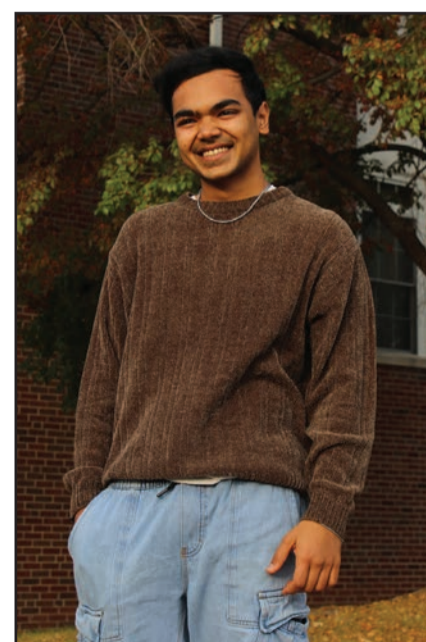
**Look three**



**Look four**

### The classic denim look

In contrast to the earthy neutral tones, the next few outfits highlight the enduring appeal of denim for fall. In this look, I'm wearing a vintage brown chenille sweater paired with classic blue jeans. The rich, warm hue of the sweater (thrifed from the Trinity Thrift store in downtown Crawfordsville) makes a subtle statement without overpowering the rest of the outfit, and it complements the greenery and changing leaves around campus. The baggy, timeless silhouette of the jeans grounds the ensemble, creating a comfortable yet stylish look that's perfect for someone who wants to stand out while still feeling at ease.



The final two outfits put a contemporary spin on traditional fall attire. While Tom rocks a dark blue plaid shirt and Christian wears a light, dark-brown jacket with a white undershirt and mid-fade jeans, the key elements that tie these looks together are the layering and the vintage-inspired details. The plaid overshirt and lightweight jacket provide an extra layer of warmth for chilly mornings, but the open-button styling keeps the ensembles breathable and laid-back. Paired with the mid-fade jeans and white sneakers, these out-

**Sarvik Chaudhary '25**

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fits nod to classic fall fashion while incorporating a more casual, campus-ready aesthetic.



**Look five**

### Why It works for fall

The secret to great fall fashion at Wabash lies in layering, earthy tones and a mix of timeless and contemporary styles. Neutral colors like beige, olive and tan are grounded and versatile, effortlessly complementing richer autumn hues such as burgundy and deep green. Textured pieces, like cable knits and flannel, add depth and warmth, making them ideal for the season. By embracing these elements, the Wabash students showcased in this article have created looks that are both practical and reflective of the fall season's unique charm. Whether you prefer a more vintage-inspired aesthetic or a modern, denim-centric style, there are plenty of ways to curate a fall wardrobe that blends functionality and personal flair. Go through your closet and see what you can find: A gentleman acting responsibly should dress similarly.

# Sporks are stupid

Eli Johnson '26

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Throughout the progression of humanity there has been a multitudinous amount of inventions with the sole purpose of making our lives easier. The wheel was invented to make our lives easier, as well as the printing press to increase the speed in which papers could be printed. A more modern invention that has helped the day-to-day lives of humans is the airplane.

But what do all of these inventions have in common? What makes these inventions so successful? I think this answer is quite simple to be honest. These inventions were able to successfully improve the day-to-day lives of the user. Wheels allow for people to move things faster, printing presses allow for people to print papers faster, and airplanes allow for us to travel hundreds of miles in just a couple of hours. These inventions improved people's lives and did it in an efficient manner.

This may lead people to ask, what does this have to do with sporks? Well, since the invention of the spork in 1874, there has yet to be a time where the spork has effectively served its purpose. The spork, a combination of a fork and a spoon, fails to be a good invention as it inefficiently accomplishes its job. To prove this, I will argue from both sides of the spork. From the side of the spoon and the side of the fork.

Let us start with addressing the spoon side of the spork. The spoon portion of the spork, the back half of the bowl behind the prongs, is too shallow. This doesn't allow for a healthy portion of the desired food to be scooped. Thus, creating the inefficiency I previously discussed.

Scholars, such as myself, who can wrap their mind around the stupidity of the spork use a per-scoop measurement to measure the efficiency of the utensil. Comparing the per-scoop ratio of a spoon to a spork brings a bad look upon the spork.

The spork is unable to even come close to competing. The spoon is able to produce numbers on the per-scoop ratio that the spork cannot come close to touching. After we have examined how poorly of a spoon the spork is, we can look to the fork side to save it, right?

That assumption is very wrong. The spork is arguably worse at being a fork than it is at being a spoon. The spork is a bad fork for the same reasons it is a bad spoon, it is incredibly inefficient. If we go back to our standardized unit of measurement, the per-scoop scale, we can see the inefficiency in the spork. The spork is unable to keep up with the fork in the per-scoop measurement due to the short tines (the prong part of the fork).

Yet, how can the spork get longer if the bowl is already too shallow to gather an efficient amount of food. This is the problem with the spork, it is unable to do either of its roles efficiently. This makes me question why there are sporks in the first place.

It isn't a good fork, nor is it a good spoon, so why do we have sporks? I am not saying that all sporks need to be abolished, I am just saying there will be judgment when people see you using one.



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## SPORTS

### Rugby will host home tournament Keg Game cancelled – DePauw rugby missing

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

After kicking off the season with a series of head-to-head matches, the Wabash rugby team is gearing up for their biggest event of the season so far. The team is set to host its highly anticipated "Bash in Black" tournament on Saturday, November 9, which will bring a full day of competitive and hard-hitting action to Little Giant Stadium.

In the early stages of the season, the rugby team has shown its growth in their matchups against the Indianapolis Impalas, Taylor and Hillsdale. Their strong performances and new strategies are a testament to the impact new Volunteer Head Rugby Coach Kelly Romano has made on the team thus far.

"I feel like one thing Coach has done is help us become more of a brotherhood," said Adam Frey '27. "She does a lot of drills where you work with multiple partners and you start to see some guys on the team as friends. At first you only know him as your rugby teammate, but she's helped us create that bond."

"Since the moment I stepped on the pitch I felt a special connection with the team," said Romano.

"In order to get to know each player I have scheduled one-on-one sessions. Each player I have met isn't only unique but their goals on how they can make the most positive impact within organizations and other communities after they graduate is truly inspiring. Those meetings have been wildly enlightening and humbling and this team is unlike any other I have ever coached or been a part of in my 30 years of rugby."

Team chemistry and confidence will be tested during this weekend's tournament with Cedarville, Marian, Ohio Wesleyan, Taylor, Trine and University of Health Sciences and Pharmacy in St. Louis (UHSP) all competing for the title.

"The bracket that we're going to do this is completely random," said Frey. "One team will get a bye depending on the draw, and there will



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26  
**Isaac Reilly '26 runs across the pitch in a scrimmage against the Indianapolis Impalas on September 28, 2024 at Marian University.**

be a champion at the end," said Silas Mills '27. "Marian and [UHSP] will be some of the tougher teams we'll face this weekend."

Given the tournament will last most of the day, the team will need to allocate their energy in an efficient manner as well as rely on their depth to give themselves a chance to win it all.

"A key for this tournament is that we'll limit each team to five substitutions a game to ensure everyone gets playing time," said Frey. "Each match will yield a different strategy. If our first match is against big, strong and slow guys, we want to put our smaller and faster guys to burn them out. Regardless, there will not be a set group of starters."

"This team is beyond ready to put in the hard work it'll take to win that final match," said Coach Romano. "They are some of the most focused and driven players I have ever had the pleasure to work with as a coach or player. They do an outstanding job keeping one another accountable and in a positive headspace. This weekend will not only set the tone for the future of this program, but will articulate how high the bar is when

playing a distinguished team such as Wabash."

Although the weekend will be filled with excitement, it may be the only such event this semester. One of rugby's most treasured traditions is in jeopardy, as it looks like we will not be having a Monon Keg Game this year. The Keg Game, which pits Wabash and DePauw in a head-to-head match is usually the highlight of the fall semester for the rugby squad.

"It seems the players on DePauw's team have either graduated or their team has just dissolved," said Mills. "Even though we have a big rivalry with DePauw, it's a blessing to be out on the field against them and it's sad to see guys who love the game graduate and don't carry on the legacy."

Although DePauw rugby has unraveled, that won't stop the Little Giants march through the rest of their season. This weekend's tournament will set the stage of where the team is at and their chances to go on a championship run.

### Swim takes on inaugural Western Michigan Invite

NOAH TAYLOR '28  
STAFF WRITER

The swimming & diving team was on the road over the weekend for the Western Michigan Invitational. The mid-season invitational took place over the course of two days. On Friday, November 1 the team competed at Hope College. Then on Saturday, November 2 they battled at Kalamazoo College. This being the inaugural Western Michigan Invitational the swim & dive team were presented a unique opportunity to hone their skills against stiff competition, including a tough Division II team in Davenport University.

"[Davenport is] faster than us, so going up there, competing against DII team, helps our team by simply being able to race someone who's better than us," said Head Swimming & Diving Coach Will Bernhardt. "We're trying to raise our level of competitiveness by going and swimming with teams that are better than us, and I think the team did a great job of that."

The team ended an uneventful Friday with a total of 164 points. This left them sitting in third.

**"My mindset is to race whoever is in the pool, no matter their times or division."**

-Ethan Johns '25

"Friday we actually had some really good swims," said Bernhardt. "Some of them were hidden in relays. So, we had some really good relay splits on Friday."

Saturday proved to be much more successful for the Little Giants. Grabbing six podium spots and capturing one individual victory. The lone victory was captured by Ryan West '28 who continues his stellar freshman campaign. He was joined by Nicholas Plumb '27 on the podium of the 200-yard backstroke, completing the Wa-

bash 1-2, West remains undefeated in this event.

West also captured a second place finish in the 400-yard individual medley.

Ethan Johns '25 finished second in the 100-yard freestyle, while Quinn Sweeney '27 touched the wall third fastest in the 200-yard freestyle race. On the distance side, Mason Gilliam '28 continued his success taking home third in the 1650-yard freestyle race. Bernhardt highlighted Johns as someone he thought had an under-the-radar weekend, placing high in all the freestyle sprint races.

"My mindset is to race whoever is in the pool, no matter their times or division," said Johns. "It certainly was a confidence booster to succeed throughout the weekend in multiple events against the tough competition we were presented with."

Wabash divers featured two impressive top ten finishes with Keane Albright '25 capturing fifth place from the one-meter board. His teammate Alexander Arruza '26 finished sixth from the same height. The two Wabash men flipped positions from the three-meter board, Arruza grabbing fifth and Albright taking sixth.

Swim & dive look ahead to their home invite coming up next. The Gail Peabworth Invitational will take place from Friday, November 22 through Sunday, November 24 diving events will take place in the Class of 1950 Natatorium while the swims will commence at the Crawfordsville High School Natatorium. The team will look to use a strong performance at their final invite to propel them as they transition into the dual and tri meet portion of their schedule.

"This is a dress rehearsal for the conference championship meet in February," said Bernhardt. "It really gives them a lot of confidence boosts heading into that second half of the season."

# Holsclaw '26 snatches late interception to defeat Big Red

ETHAN COOK '28  
STAFF WRITER

As the end of another Wabash football season approaches, the Little Giants continue to rack up wins. On Saturday, November 2 they scored a victory against Denison University by a final score of 24-23. With this win, the Little Giants have extended their perfect record in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) to 6-0.

While there were some mistakes along the way, the Little Giants played quite well in all three facets of the game. They were especially dominant in the fourth quarter, as they allowed just 27 total yards and forced an interception. The offense was able to score what would end up being the game-winning touchdown with 8:14 remaining in the fourth as well.

"There were times when we struggled a little bit," said Head Football Coach Don Morel. "But we played very well overall and we raised our level of play in the fourth quarter. We did a super job of getting a tough win."

Quarterback Brand Campbell '27 was on fire throwing the ball. He completed 18 of his 24 pass attempts for 345 yards, a new season and career high, and two touchdowns. Campbell is now playing like one of the best quarterbacks in the NCAC.

"Brand is the second most ef-



Jordan Cree '27 stands over Denison quarterback Tyler Green after breaking through for a sack. Wabash football defeated Denison on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

ficient quarterback in the conference right now," said Morel. "He leads the conference in completion percentage and he has a 15-1 touchdown to interception ratio. We know that we will have a chance to win every game with him."

Campbell and the Wabash offense were able to produce 477 total yards and score three touchdowns on the day. This was the second-most amount of total yards the Little Giants have earned in a game this season.

"The biggest factor was the game plan going into Saturday," said Campbell. "We knew what we were going to get from them and we exposed it."

While the Little Giants played

well, the win was a narrow one. This was due in large part to the grit shown by the Big Red. However, some late game heroics by cornerback Mike Holsclaw '26, who picked off Denison quarterback Tyler Green with just 39 seconds left in regulation, sealed the game for the Scarlet & White. The interception allowed Wabash to run out the remaining time on and extend the team's interception streak to nine games.

Holsclaw was later named NCAC Football Defensive Athlete of the Week.

"I saw the quarterback step up in the pocket and throw the ball my way," said Holsclaw. "I was just thinking that I have got to get this ball, I have got to come down with it no matter what."

With the final home win secured, 2024 is the first season since 2015 that Wabash has gone undefeated in Little Giant Stadium.

Now the Little Giants look to the future with Tigers on the horizon. They take on Wittenberg University on the road on Saturday, November 9 – their last game before the 130th Monon Bell Classic. Getting a win over a tough Wittenberg team that ranks third in the conference in both offensive points per game and points allowed per game would be crucial for the Little Giants' confidence heading into the final game of the season.

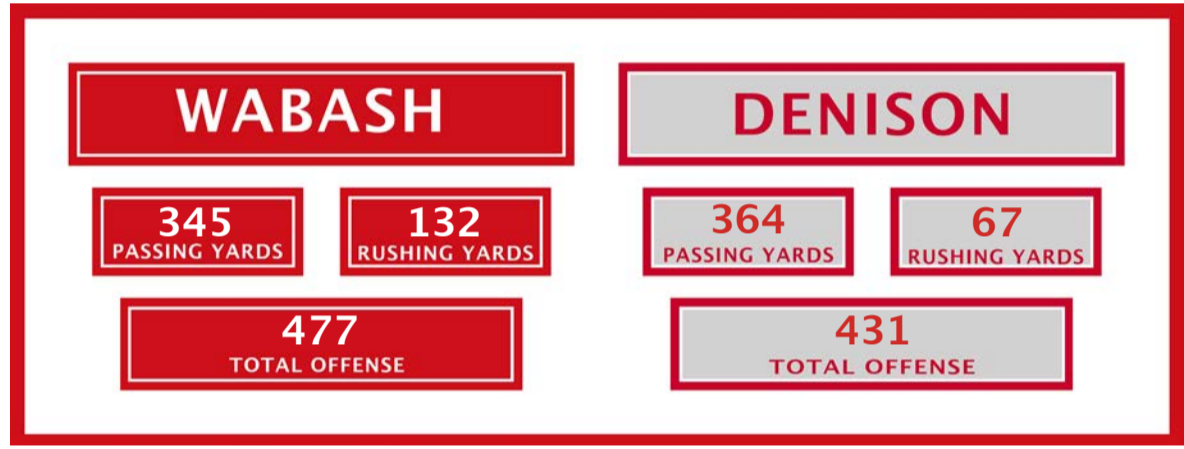
"A victory is all we are going there for," said Morel. "They could really ruin our season by beating us, and they would love to do that. So we have got to get ready and stay ready for them."

Following a narrow victory over Denison, the Little Giants continue to make strides as a team and will carry their momentum forward into their next matchup. As the Scarlet and White will look to improve to 7-0 in the conference, Wittenberg hopes to play spoiler to their season.



The Wabash defense celebrates the final interception from Mike Holsclaw '26 that allowed them to defeat Denison on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25



## McRoberts: Week 9 NCAC football power rankings

NOAH MCROBERTS '25  
STAFF WRITER

### 1. #10 DePauw University (8-0, 6-0 NCAC)

Well folks, November is here, which means cold weather, Thanksgiving and the Bell Game are both on the horizon. Usually, at least two of those are good omens, but with the Dannies' strength this year and potential election controversy around the dining table, we might be looking at an especially cold November. Our least favorite Tigers, though not by much, have scored more than 50 in all but two games, including a 33-0 shutout of Berry, a team in and out of the top 25 all season. However, the Bell Game again may have the ability to determine the conference champion. But the memory of a certain 21-0 comeback under similar circumstances leaves room for hope.

### 2. Wabash College (7-1, 6-0 NCAC)

There were questions about a team that graduated every starting skill position player last year, but Coaches Morel and Gilbert have orchestrated a remarkable season. On the back of a defense performing similar to that of DPU – holding teams to 13 points per game – the Little Giants have the ability to keep themselves in every game. With a trip to Springfield to visit the first of two Tiger teams, the Little Giants find themselves in a prime position, with a win, to travel to Greencastle in two weeks to compete for the Bell, a conference title and, at the very least, a potential at-large bid to the NCAA tourney.

### 3. Denison University (4-4, 4-2 NCAC)

Despite the return of off-brand Marshawn Lynch in the form of Trey Fabrocini, the Big Red was incapable of run-

ning over Wabash's front seven. This means that they are firmly out of conference contention and, even with the expansion of the DIII playoff, out of offseason prospects. They fought admirably against both Indiana squads, but their young offense floundered against the elite defenses brought against them. However, with another competitive season under their belts, they will certainly be back in contention next year.

### 4. Wittenberg University (4-3, 3-2 NCAC)

In what has been an up-and-down season, Wittenberg still has a chance to play spoiler. They bring their third-ranked offense and defense to a matchup on their home turf against the Little Giants on Saturday. They lost by 10 to Denison early on in the season, but have improved in most categories since then, so they still represent a challenge for the Scarlet & White.

### 5. Ohio Wesleyan University (4-4, 3-3 NCAC)

An excessively average team, the Battling Bishops aren't guaranteed to finish above .500 this year. They round out their season playing against a better-than-normal Kenyon crew before hosting the Big Red. With two great performances, they could finish third in the conference, or, if they fall short, they could drop to sixth. Though, I expect they'll stay right at home, at the average.

### 6. Kenyon College (4-5, 3-4 NCAC)

My, oh my, Kenyon College has won four games, including three conference matchups, for the first time since 2013 – when they beat DePauw 28-26. Sometimes we need moments like this to remind us that things can

change. I'm kind of rooting for Kenyon to take it to the Bishops this weekend and make it their third four-win season in what might be their school's history (or at least since they started keeping track on their website in 2009).

### 7. The College of Wooster (3-6, 2-5 NCAC)

Man, Wooster made me look bad this year. I stuck my neck out for them at the beginning of the year, suggesting that their youth was an advantage. However, instead of making leaps and bounds since last season, they've been searching far and wide for the deepest hole to jump into. They lost to Kenyon. They allowed Oberlin, who have only scored six points total otherwise, to score 21 points against them! And they only beat Hiram by 10 last week. I don't know if we can call them the "Fighting" Scots this year...

### 8. Hiram College (0-7, 0-5 NCAC)

Is it weird that I'm sad the Terriers are leaving the conference this year? I've had a lot of fun trying to make jokes about them that my editors wouldn't take down, but like them, I haven't had much success yet. If it's any solace, they might get their last win ever in a couple weeks when they face Oberlin for the last time.

### 9. Oberlin College (0-8, 0-6 NCAC)

It's always a struggle to come up with something to say at the end of one of these pieces. I always reach the bottom, just to find Oberlin winless again. They have beat Hiram a couple times in the last 20 years but, given that they've scored a combined 33 points this season, I'm not holding out much hope. Heck, they've only made 1 extra point this season. That's depressing.



## Good Luck, Wabash Rugby!



Support the Squad on Saturday.  
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# NCAC XC Championship

*Continued from page 1*

Curnutt crossed the finish line at 25:23.52.

“He made a good veteran move,” said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. “He got kind of impatient around 6k and just blew the race open, and finished really well.”

Curnutt became the third-ever Wabash runner to win the NCAC meet — behind Dominic Patacsil ’19 (2017 victory) and Sam Henthorn ’20 (2019 victory).

As a team, the Red Pack finished fifth in the championship meet with 102 team points — a score reached by adding together the number of each of Wabash’s top five placements. The four teams finishing ahead of the Red Pack include Oberlin, who won the day with 41 points, Wittenberg, DePauw and Wooster.

“We have a really good team here,” said McCreary. There’s just been a couple things about the nature of the sport, with things like injuries and some setbacks here and there, that I think held us from being what we could have been.”

Two other Little Giants, Haiden Diemer-McKinney ’26 and Jacob Sitzman ’25 earned their spots on the podium with Third Team All-NCAC honors. Diemer-McKinney finished 15th with a 26:32.27 finish. Just a few seconds behind him, Sitzman crossed the line at 26:40.23 to claim 18th place.

Will Neubauer ’26 came in 28th place at 27:20.91.

The final scorer for the Little Giants was Alex Orihuela ’28, making his first appearance in the NCAC Championships. The freshman came in at 27:54.73 for a 41st-place finish. Not placing, but putting himself in a strong position, Jonathan Loney ’28 finished 43rd just behind his classmate.

“My biggest takeaway is the step that the freshmen took,” said Diemer-McKinney. “With us losing four seniors next year, those are the next group of guys that are going to make a really big impact, and for them to step up in the way they did, regardless of the result, was very key to how the team is going to look during this track season and then moving forward in cross country next year.”

Justin Santiago ’25 — who had been the team’s fifth for the full season — began the race after weeks of fighting back from a persistent calf injury. However he was forced to tap out after the first kilometer, due to pain and risk of reinjury.

“I knew from the warm-up that it was going to hurt in the race,” said Santiago. “I just hoped it would be manageable. It felt fine for the first minute or two, then

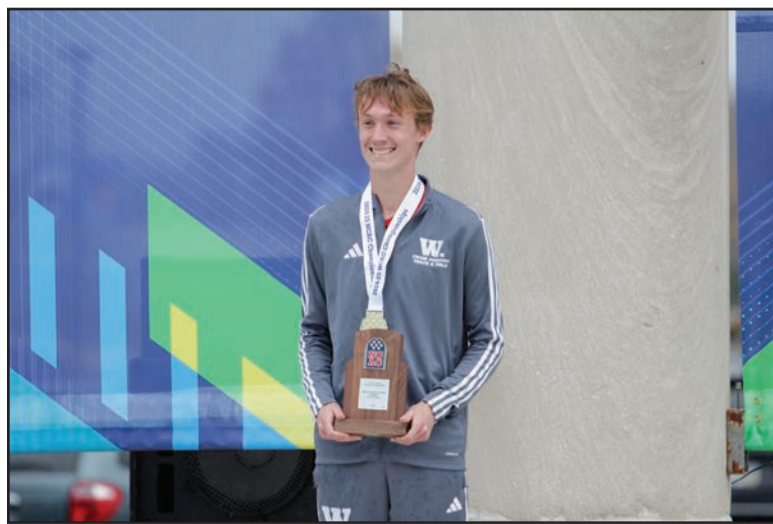


PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

**Top: Brayden Curnutt '25 stands on the podium wearing the first-place medal and holding his North Coast Athletic Conference Men’s Runner of the Year award. The NCAC Championships were held on Sunday, November 3, 2024, at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana.**



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

**Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 (left) and Jacob Sitzman '25 (right) stand alongside the other third team All-NCAC honorees.**

on the first big downhill it started to hurt quite a bit and I started limping and fell off the lead pack. I tried to tough it out until the 2K mark but I wasn’t making any progress on the front pack and Coach [McCreary] signaled [for me] to step off the course.”

But despite not contributing to the team score, Santiago had an important impact on the Red Pack’s performance.

“Seeing him [Santiago] cheer us on, even after he had to drop out because of his injury, was just so inspirational and encouraging,” said Sitzman. “It’s really hard to put into words how amazing it was to see him on the sidelines.”

Overall, the result was not quite what Wabash expected entering the meet.

“[Program growth] it’s never linear,” said McCreary. “This year we just made so much growth in a lot of areas. But today, it just didn’t totally click ... There’s a lot to build on. I think we can be far better in two weeks at the regional.”

The Little Giants will continue their season on Saturday, November 16 in the NCAA Division III

Great Lakes Regional. As a team, the Red Pack will look to finish the season well.

“We just want to go out there and show how good we can be,” said Sitzman. “We placed fifth at conference, but a lot of those same conference teams are in the regional. It’s almost like a rematch.”

Individually, Curnutt will use the regional meet as a stepping stone to nationals. A top-seven finish amongst runners on teams who do not qualify for nationals will earn him a guaranteed berth to the NCAA National Championships, which will be back at LaVern Gibson.

“I can go in there and get top 10 to top 15,” said Curnutt. “On a great day, I think top five is definitely doable. It’s all about putting myself in a position to qualify for nationals and go back to LaVerne Gibson and have one more cross country race.”



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

**Fernando Ramos '25 lines up a goal kick in the Little Giants game against the College of Wooster on Saturday, October 19, 2024, at Fischer Field.**

## Oberlin obliterates soccer’s playoff hopes

SAM SANTIAGO '26  
STAFF WRITER

A very intense match was lined up in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) as the Wabash Little Giants faced the Oberlin Yeomen for a potential fourth-place spot in the NCAC Men’s Soccer Tournament. As the match started DePauw played a 0-0 draw with The College of Wooster making the path to the tournament all up to the Little Giants.

Needing a victory over Oberlin to secure a place in the playoffs, Wabash faced the Yeomen on Saturday, November 2.

“We had no idea of the score from the DePauw, Wooster match,” said Myles Bernat ’26. “But in my mind it didn’t matter, we controlled our own destiny and unfortunately we as a team underestimated Oberlin and came out flat footed.”

The Yeomen started the match firing from all cylinders. Oberlin quickly grabbed a 1-0 lead with a goal from Nathan Thompson in the 10th minute. Less than two minutes later the lead would grow for the Yeomen as they notched another goal from Toby Wells-Zimmerman in the 12th minute.

Jose Escalante ’26 was able to get the Little Giants on the scoreboard as he scored on a penalty kick in the 13th minute to make it a 2-1 game. The Yeomen would

respond to the Wabash goal by adding two more goals before the half expired, both by Xander Francoeur. This gave Oberlin a 4-1 lead at half.

No goals were scored in the second half until Oberlin’s Louis Gandelheid notched a goal in the 87th minute to put the score to 5-1 Yeomen. The final buzzer sounded at the 90th minute, meaning the Little Giants would not be making the NCAC Men’s Soccer Tournament.

“It’s very crucial that we start putting in work for next year now,” said Escalante. “We saw how close we were to achieving our team goal but we weren’t close enough. It’s a long off-season and everyone on the team needs to be on the same page to build a new culture and become a hard working team because the conference is only going to get harder next year.”

The Little Giants finished the season 10-6-2 and were 3-4-1 in NCAC play. They finished fifth place in the NCAC.

The Little Giants graduate nine seniors this year. Next season, it will be upto the remaining players to find the right direction and in the end bring the team to the conference tournament for the first time since 2022.

## Wrestling opens season with a win

COLIN BAKER '25  
STAFF WRITER

The Little Giants wrestling team opened the season with a team victory at the Adrian Invite. The competition, hosted on November 2, gave fans their first look at the wrestling program for the year. With multiple returning national qualifiers, two returning All-Americans, a strong freshman class and good team chemistry, they come into the 2024-2025 season battle-tested and ready to face the challenges ahead.

Wabash wrestling has seen a lot of success in the last decade, producing several national champions, All-Americans and many top-10 team finishes. The program has made a strong name for itself, eventually finishing as the 20th-place team in the country in the 2024 season.

This year, the Little Giants look to continue that trend. Under the leadership of Head Wrestling Coach Jake Fredricksen — entering his second year at the head of the program — the team goes into the season with a chip on their shoulder and looking to make a statement.

“The guys were training really hard this fall, getting after it in the weight room and putting in the extra conditioning,” said Fredricksen.

Fredricksen is confident in the leadership of the team, and with several guys returning for another season, as well as a very promising freshman class, the opportunities for the program and its future are endless.

The Little Giants come into the season with a very mature and battle-tested team. Six national qualifiers, and two All-American



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27

**Mawuli Nevis '25 prepares to wrestle in the Wabash College Invite held on January 20, 2024, at Knowing Fieldhouse.**

icans return to the lineup this season. Chase Baczek ’25 goes into his senior year as a two-time All-American at 184 pounds, then finishing sixth place in 2022, then finishing seventh in the country in 2023. Baczek looks to keep putting in work and improving so he can be ready for the season ahead.

“We know what it’s like to compete with the top guys and what it takes to win those matches, because it’s by a slim margin,” said Baczek. “I know anything can happen, so we’re ready to go and account for everything.”

Another returning All-American this season is James Day ’26, who finished third in the 2024

National Championship at 125 pounds. On his way there, Day beat several tough competitors, including national champion Jacob Decatur. Having this experience and confidence, Day will be a big part of the team’s success this season.

“Being able to finally attain that goal of being an all-american, I feel like there’s less stress,” said Day. “I’ve already done it once, so I know I’m fully capable of doing it again.”

Jesse Herrera ’26, Tim Smith ’26, Ray Arebalo ’25 and Daniel Uribe ’25 are a few more of the returning national qualifiers.

Herrera made the starting lineup as a sophomore, quickly

proving himself as he qualified for the 2024 national championship. He goes into this season with not only more experience but also more confidence.

“[My experience] gives me a newfound confidence in myself and my wrestling ability,” said Herrera. “It makes these tournaments seem a lot easier. It makes them seem a lot less impactful due to already being one step higher at nationals.”

The Little Giants go into this season ranked 15th in the country on the National Wrestling Coaches Association Preseason Poll. But with the strength of returning members on the team, they have a chance to prove why

they should be ranked higher.

“You talk about bottoms and ceilings, I think where we’re at right now is the bottom right now,” said Fredricksen. “Our ceiling is huge. Looking at who’s in the field that’s in front of us right now, I think we can creep into the top five.”

In the first meet of the season, the team put up a dominant performance, taking first place out of nine teams scoring 177 team points. Finishing with four first-place finishes along with 16 placers across all weight classes, the Little Giants flexed their muscle in this competition.

James Day ’26 at 125-pounds, Edgar Albino ’28 at 141-pounds, Andrew Ross ’26 at 149-pounds and Titus Waters ’27 at 285-pounds all started off strong by taking first place in their respective weight classes.

Among the others, the Little Giants saw three second-place finishes, which include Tim Smith ’26 at 157 pounds, Mawuli Nevis ’25 at 165 pounds and Neil Johnson ’27 at 184 pounds. In third place was Andrew Punzalan ’27 at 125 pounds, Jesse Herrera ’26 at 165 pounds and Zachary Huckabuy ’28 at 174 pounds.

In their next outing, the wrestling team will split their roster with some heading to Albion College in Albion, Michigan on Saturday, November 9 and others traveling to Decatur, Illinois to compete in the Millikin University Open that same day.