

Interfraternity Council elects new executive board

The combination of veteran experience and new perspective looks to continue growth of Greek Life



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Zade Kalesperis '27, Kyle Foster '27, Lucas Carpenter '26, James Wallace '26 and Derek McDonald '27 (left to right) began serving as the Interfraternity Council executive board on November 19, 2024.

SAM BENEDICT '25 EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Interfraternity Council (IFC) executive terms have come to an end following a successful Monon Bell "Megagate." The new cabinet was elected by fraternity presidents and IFC representatives on November 19 inside Pioneer Chapel, welcoming a mix of veteran experience and youthful energy.

The IFC is a student organization that oversees all fraternity life on campus. Members of the organization plan activities such as the "Megagate" where all Wabash students and alumni were invited to gather in a communal area prior to the Monon Bell football game. Dues are collected from every fraternity and each house is expected to abide by the rules that the IFC sets for conduct as well as respect punishments given to fraternities for violations of these rules. Most notably, the IFC has regulated actions surrounding the painting of the Senior Bench and punished fraternities for "dirty rushing," actions that are in violation of the IFC rules surrounding proper recruitment conduct.

Current IFC President, Matt Lesniak '25, kicked off the voting by announcing that Lucas Carpenter '26, a brother of Beta Theta Pi and previous IFC internal vice president, would be unopposed for president of the IFC. This is the third straight election where the president has run unopposed.

The rest of the election process saw deliberation and statements made by multiple candidates for the other three positions. Kyle Foster '27 defeated Derrick McDonald '27 for treasurer, Zade Kalesperis '27 was elected internal vice president, McDonald was elected as secretary following his defeat for treasurer and James Wallace '26 was appointed by Carpenter as the external vice president.

"We put a lot of hard work into this [the IFC]," said Lesniak. "It was a pretty wild year, thinking back... I did accomplish my goal of increasing the fraternity numbers on campus. That was huge."

Prior to Lesniak taking over as president, fraternity numbers had rebounded from their low following COVID-19, but hadn't peaked to pre-pandemic numbers. Currently, 59.2% of students are in a fraternity at Wabash and 40.8% are housed in independent living units.

Looking ahead to the upcoming year, a common theme of the discussion throughout elections was improving financial transparency.

Both candidates for treasurer recognized that some fraternities have been skeptical and confused with how the IFC funds are spent.

"Transparency is extremely important, especially with having 10 fraternities," said Foster. "It's 10 separate organizations that we cover. I think the transparency between us and the house reps, and then the house reps to the houses about how funding is being allocated, especially when it comes to things like Fraternity Day, Admitted Students Weekend and Scarlet Honors Weekend, is highly important."

Carpenter's term begins immediately, but he will have to deal without a common communal space that the IFC has used in the past to host events: Wally's. Wally's has played host to numerous gatherings including karaoke nights, trivia nights and watch parties. With the Sparks Center being permanently closed ahead of its impending demolition, the IFC will need to revitalize their event format.

"I would look to hopefully implement some new events," said Carpenter. "Trivia Night is off the table at this point, so we'll get something valuable enough to replace that. I'd also like to continue the success of Wabash Fraternity Day and Hugh Vandivier '91 has recommended some very interesting changes that I'll hold off on mentioning until later down the line."

This year's cabinet features returning members like Carpenter and Wallace, but also showcases a diverse group of young members. The cabinet has fraternity representation from Beta Theta Pi, Phi Gamma Delta, Sigma Chi and Theta Delta Chi.

"I'm very excited," said Carpenter. "I couldn't picture a better group of gentlemen to work with. I think that they're kind of the new farm system for the next IFC cabinet. I'm really excited to see how that turns out."

The cabinet's first test will be to see how they handle Scarlet Honors Weekend on December 5 and 6. In previous years, the IFC has worked with the admissions office to coordinate events that promote fraternities and place prospective students in a fraternity for the night. The weekend requires communication among all parties involved, as well as an ability to effectively promote Greek Life at Wabash. The new cabinet will have their work cut out for them as they quickly focus on a seamless transition.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Matthew Hendrick '25, Dalton Waldman '25, Matt Lesniak '25, Lucas Carpenter '26 and James Wallace '26 (left to right) facilitate Interfraternity Council Executive Board elections on November 19, 2024 at Pioneer Chapel. Carpenter and Wallace will continue serving on the IFC Executive Board in different capacities.

Wabash prepares for NIL

Forming a partnership with Opendorse opens doors for Wabash athletes hoping to capitalize on their name, image and likeness

ETHAN WALLACE '25 SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash has taken its first step into the frontier of NIL. Earlier this month, the College announced a partnership with Opendorse to provide aid to Wabash students looking to capitalize on their name, image and likeness (NIL) for monetary gain.

In 2021, the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) announced they would no longer prohibit athletes from profiting off of their name, image or likeness. After NIL immediately boomed in Division I athletics, it became a question of when, rather than if, NIL would make its way to Division III.

While no longer restricted, NIL agreements are still heavily regulated. Athletes are required to declare all NIL activity and to comply with a number of policies. Opendorse – the same organization hosting the Opendorse Bowl series which Wabash football will play in on Saturday, November 23 – specializes in providing NIL services to help student-athletes navigate the process of monetizing their name, image and likeness.

The partnership between Wabash and Opendorse will give athletes an avenue to easily and safely approach NIL agreements.

"[Opendorse is] a comprehensive NIL suite of services," said Director of Athletics and Recreation Matt Tanney '05. "That would include education, which is first and foremost, the highest priority for me ... They provide an infrastructure for tax forms [to help] students understand the tax implications of NIL. This is what they do. They're the most well known and respected vendor in the Division III space, and we think they'll do a great job for us."

Continued page 8



GRAPHIC BY JAMES WALLACE '26

Currently, Opendorse is utilized by at least 297 colleges and universities. Wabash will be joining the ranks of at least nine colleges and universities in Indiana that already utilize the service.

News around the world

JACKSON GOODYEAR '27 STAFF WRITER

France
 Angry French agricultural workers continued to protest in Beauvais, France, as the European Union-Mercosur Trade agreement negotiations are currently ongoing. The negotiations between the European Union and the Mercosur trade bloc (Brazil, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Bolivia) have been reopened since their initial agreements in 2019. They are expected to take place once again at the G20 summit this week in Brazil. The trade agreements are expected to increase the amount of South American agricultural imports from the Mercosur trade bloc countries. An influx of foreign imports would make it tougher for French businesses in the agricultural industry to be successful. Farmers themselves are the ones staging the protests, by dumping manure and tires near government buildings, creating loud noises and blocking roads or bridges. On the contrary, those in support of the trade agreement boast that it will eliminate tariffs and create a better relationship with South America.



COURTESY OF AP

Farmers gather around a fire during protests on November 18, 2024, near Lyon, France.

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom imposed sanctions on Iran on November 18, after Iran was caught shipping weapons to Russia for use in the ongoing Russia-Ukraine conflict. These weapons included ballistic missiles, a weapon that is starting to be utilized more in the war by both sides. The U.K.'s sanctions focused on freezing assets on both the state-owned Iranian airline and the state-owned shipping company that operates within the United Kingdom, preventing financial transactions between English companies and the Iranian state-owned businesses. These sanctions follow

previous sanctions against Iran that the United Kingdom enacted in September alongside Germany and France. Both sets of sanctions continue to show the influence that NATO countries have on Russia's campaign in Ukraine.



COURTESY OF VOA

United Kingdom Foreign Secretary David Lammy speaks during an U.N. Security Council meeting on November 18, 2024, at U.N. headquarters in New York, United States.

India

The residents of New Delhi woke up on November 18 to a layer of toxic smog covering the city landscape. New Delhi is the capital of India and has a population of 33 million people – the city is prone to producing toxic emissions because of its dense population. One of the main causes of the current smog is the burning of crop residue in the agricultural regions outside of the city. The smoke produced by these activities eventually made its way to New Delhi, engulfing the city and its people. The smoke isn't the only factor that has contributed to the city's polluted air. Automobile emissions and emissions from industrial areas in the city also have contributed to the amount of toxins in the air. India's environmental agency, SAFAR, has ranked the city's air quality farther into the severe category. The pollution levels in the air in many parts of the city were measured to be more than 50 times stronger than the World Health Organization's recommended safe level. City officials have begun enacting temporary policies to help reduce the smog and keep residents safe. These policies include moving the majority of schools online and banning older diesel fueled cars from entering the city. New Delhi and their battle against toxic smog emissions is yet another example of how people have been forced to adapt to rising pollution levels around the globe.



COURTESY OF AP

Smog blankets the skies of New Delhi, India on November 18, 2024.

Vatican City

Survivors of clergy sexual abuse from around the world attempted to pressure the Vatican on November 18 to expand their zero-tolerance policy in regards to sexual abuse. In 2002, many Catholic priests were exposed to being involved in sexual abuse in the United States. In response, the Vatican had approved a zero-tolerance policy for the US, creating a "one strike and you're out" rule for Catholic officials in the US convicted of sexual abuse. Despite this rule being enacted in the US, it has not been accepted universally. A main reason that the US policy has stayed in effect for so long is because Catholic officials have continually insisted that it stays in place. In recent years, the Vatican has preferred to having an approach towards sexual abuse cases that is proportional to each country's own cultures. This strategy may be more accommodating for priests in countries where the culture is different than the United States, but it allows light punishments for priests convicted of sexual abuse. The proposal of the zero-tolerance policy being put into effect universally is unlikely. As a result, sexual abuse among the Catholic Church still continues to be an issue worldwide.



COURTESY OF AP

Pope Francis presides over a mass on November 17, 2024, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican.

Theater revives student-led One Acts



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Antonio Grandinetti '28 (left) and Josh Campbell '25 (right) lock into a heated gaming session. With the plays being written by Wabash students, many of the themes and situations are relatable to students.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

Uncensored. Hilarious. Student-made. Ingredients like these make a fun activity even more enticing to your typical Wally. They are also hallmarks of Studio One Acts, a tradition that endured a brief, COVID-19-induced hiatus for the past three years but roared back to life this year. Studio One Acts are student written, directed and acted theater productions that are free to the public. The short plays were performed for audiences in the Experimental Theater this past Wednesday and Thursday.

Studio One Acts originally came to Wabash with Professor of Theater Michael Abbott '85 when he returned to campus to teach in 1994. It was difficult to coordinate all the playwrights, directors and actors because at the time there were only two faculty in the Theater department, but the College wanted Abbott to coordinate Studio One Acts because he had taught them at his previous job. Abbott found a solution, the same formula the department uses today.

"What we did was we offered the "Intro to Acting" class and the "Directing" class at the same hour, and we offered the playwriting in the previous semester," said Abbott. "The magic formula for the One Acts is the playwrights wrote a bunch of plays,

and the acting class and the directing class meet at the same time and stage the plays that were written by the Wabash playwrights the previous semester."

This arrangement worked nicely until COVID-19 came along. There was a version of One Acts during the pandemic, but producing a play while people are separated by screens proved to be too much logistically. The Theater department was forced to put a hold on One Acts, but everyone knew they wanted to bring the program back.

The first couple years back in-person after lockdown were fruitless, however. Studio One Acts rely on there being enough actors who take THE-105, Introduction to Acting, to blossom into directors by enrolling in THE-207, Directing, for which THE-105 is a prerequisite. Since COVID-19, there was simply a shortage of students progressing from acting to directing. However, this year's cohort of five directors made the program's return possible. Their reward is the student-centered education that first lured them to campus.

"When you're an actor, you're sort of bossed around by a director," said Alexander Schmidt '27, one of this year's directors. "Your entire thought during that process is, 'How am I going to put this on stage as a character?' But when you're a director, it's very much, 'Oh crap, I'm in charge of



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Alex Schmidt '27 (left) puts on a show for Brody Frey '26 (center) and Eamon Colglazier '26 (right) hoot and holler.

five guys. How do I put these guys on stage and make a message apparent? And, of course, how do I make them act?"

"The magic formula for the One Acts is the playwrights wrote a bunch of plays, and the acting class and the directing class meet at the same time and stage the plays that were written by the Wabash playwrights."

- Professor of Theater
Michael Abbott '85

When done in this manner, students who experienced One Acts from the actor's perspective find themselves on the other side of the looking glass as a director, charged with a completely new task in the realm of theater. The switch requires an adjustment from the students, one that forces them to open their mind to the broader array of elements in a given production.

"We tell students in our admissions literature that we're going to give you a lot of

freedom and a lot of responsibility," said Abbott. "That's what these are. It's a lot of freedom and a lot of responsibility. We just turn over a whole slot of time to them."

But it is not just the writers, directors and actors who reap the rewards of Studio One Acts. Because the plays will be watched by Wabash students, they end up being a learning experience that everyone can share in.

"What it brings to the liberal arts college experience as a whole is a chance to express the arts and humanities to a broader audience," said Schmidt. "By incorporating the acting class, where most guys are taking that class for an elective credit, into something that they would never do, will bring a broader audience. Maybe a football player brings in some football buddies that may never go to a play or a theater experience on campus. One Acts reach the campus as a whole, not just the fine arts people."

By coming out of hibernation, the return of Studio One Acts is the last nail in the coffin of COVID-19-era disruptions. More importantly, though, One Acts are a welcome re-addition to the catalog of dearly loved student-run learning experiences.

What to watch over Thanksgiving break



COURTESY OF POSTER ESCAPE

BEN WALLACE '25
STAFF WRITER

Many of you remember the theater phenomenon "Barbenheimer," which dominated the box office in July of last year. This Thanksgiving, prepare for its spiritual successor: "Glicked" — a double feature that offers something for everyone. With its combination of a historical epic from an acclaimed director and a vibrant musical that appeals to

family audiences, "Glicked" mirrors the spectacle and appeal of "Barbenheimer".

Mark your calendars — "Glicked" debuts in theaters on November 22, just in time to elevate your Thanksgiving plans. Early screenings of "Gladiator 2" and "Wicked" have already received glowing reviews, with critics hailing "Gladiator 2" as "a worthy sequel" and praising "Wicked" as "a beautifully crafted movie" with standout performances by Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo. If you've been on the fence, the early buzz suggests these films are must-sees this holiday season.

For those worried about the "Glicked" excitement ending after its initial run, there's good news. "Wicked" is only the first part, with its sequel already planned. Fans will be thrilled to know that the story doesn't stop here. Meanwhile, "Gladiator 2" could also be setting the stage for more to come. Director Ridley Scott has hinted at plans for a "Gladiator 3," suggesting high confidence in the sequel's success.

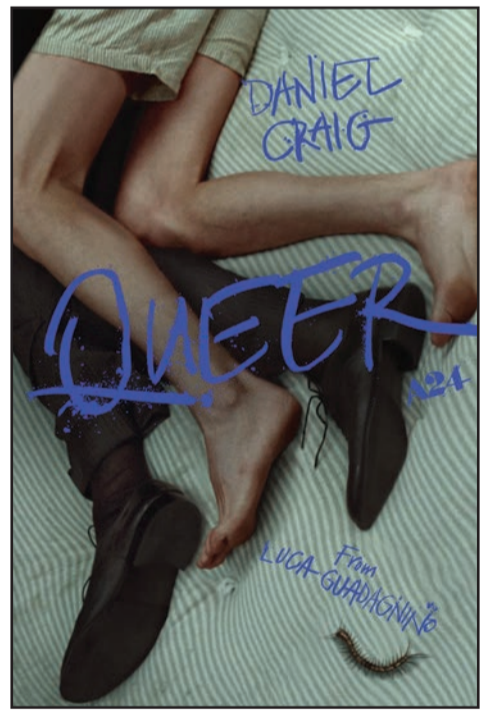
But the holiday movie magic doesn't end there. Just five days later, on November 25, "Moana 2" sails into theaters. With the original "Moana" beloved for its stunning animation, unforgettable songs and heartfelt story, fans are eagerly anticipating the sequel. However, some are concerned about the absence of Lin-Manuel Miranda, whose genius shaped the music of the original film. Whether the

sequel can capture the same magic remains to be seen, but expectations are high for this Disney favorite.

A smaller release this Thanksgiving is Luca Guadagnino's "Queer." Unfortunately, it won't be getting a wide release and will only play in select theaters across the country. If you're lucky enough to live near one of these theaters, it's definitely worth checking out. The film has received glowing reviews at the various film festivals where it has been screened. Additionally, Guadagnino is a proven director, known for critically acclaimed films such as "Call Me by Your Name" and "Challengers." His track record alone makes "Queer" a must-watch.

If you're not in the mood to head to the theaters this Thanksgiving break, there are plenty of new releases available on streaming services to keep you entertained. "Challengers" is now streaming on Prime Video, "The Fall Guy" has landed on Peacock and Netflix has added several surprisingly good originals, including "It's What's Inside" and "Rebel Ridge." With so many options, you can enjoy a cozy movie night from the comfort of your home.

Whether you're eager to head to the theaters to catch one of the exciting new releases or prefer to enjoy a cozy movie night from the comfort of your home, this Thanksgiving season has something for everyone. From epic



COURTESY OF IMDB

blockbusters like "Gladiator 2" and "Wicked" to streaming hits like "Challengers" and "The Fall Guy," there's no shortage of entertainment options. Whether you're sharing the experience with family, friends or indulging in a solo movie marathon, it's the perfect time to relax, unwind and enjoy the magic of cinema.

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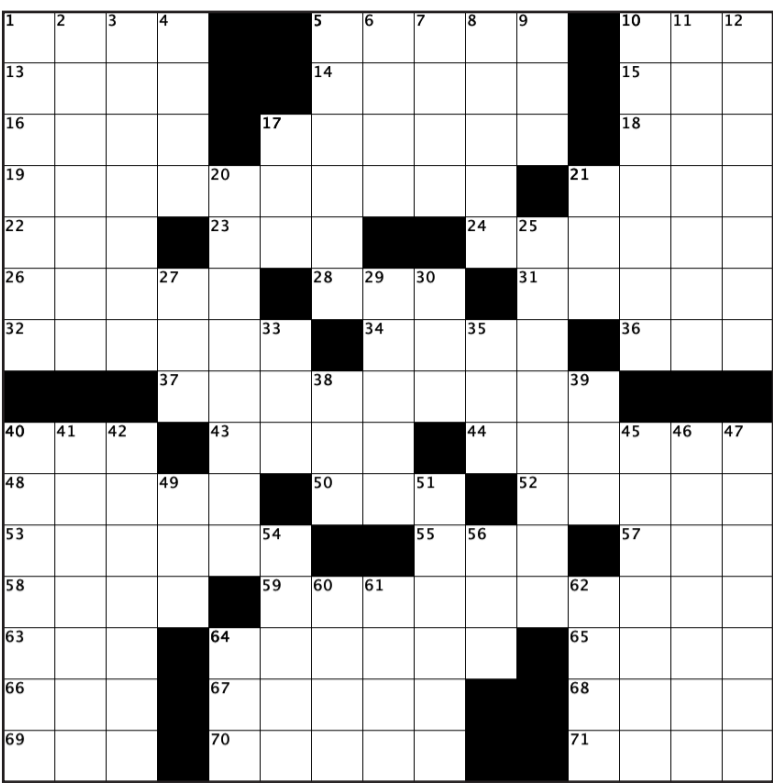
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'The reviews are in'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



- Across**
ACROSS
- "Watch your ____!"
 - Starred?
 - In a slump
 - Ace place
 - Gets the consolation prize
 - 3, 4 or 5 on a golf course
 - It controls a lot of U.S. imports
 - Triwizard Tournament selector, in "Harry Potter"
 - Inflation fig.
 - "This 2003 Broadway musical is pretty decent!"
 - Bag at many a farmers' market
 - First full fall month: Abbr.
 - Place for sweaters?
 - Turkey or deer, e.g.
 - Old curmudgeons
 - Aus. state named for a U.K. country
 - To ____ (in vain)
 - In need of repair
 - After-shower powder
 - ____ Moines, IA
 - "Bravo! I can't get enough of this 2012 Broadway musical!"
 - Cumberland, e.g.
 - Mayor's purview
 - Play God, in a sense
 - Escape, as arrest
 - Anagram of 23-Across
 - Book form that replaced the scroll
 - Mother ____ (Nobel-winning nun)
 - Feeling under the weather
 - GPS display
 - Like most Jordanians
 - "Dude, this 1972 Broadway musical is lit!"
 - Big roll of bills
 - "Circum-" meaning
 - Andrews of FOX Sports
 - Time of one's life
 - One "M" of MGM
 - Section in a till
 - "Right!"
 - Cancun coins

- Down**
- Grandstander
 - Like an anesthetic that's applied to the skin
 - Greek play that inspired a Freudian complex
 - Gallon : quart :: bushel : ____
 - Ad phrase
 - Boxcar hopper
 - European capital west of Helsinki
 - Coffee and crosswords in the morning, for some
 - N.Y.C. clock setting
 - Anti
 - What a hustler pulls
 - Quakers
 - Macroeconomics stat.
 - Perfume ingredients
 - "____ Te Ching" (classic Chinese text)
 - Isolate, as a military force
 - Rare bill
 - Lingers
 - Dog's tail movement
 - 601, Roman style
 - Fond du ____, WI
 - Train schedule abbr.
 - Figure at the center of "The Matrix"
 - Quick vacation
 - Middle of the pack
 - Celebrates Mardi Gras, maybe
 - Idolized
 - Making the rent?
 - Cost of doing business
 - Interior secretary Haaland
 - Upright and grand
 - See eye to eye
 - 1960s drug
 - Goes bad, as fruit
 - Money in Malta
 - Big bash
 - Guitar attachment



Scan for solution!

12-team College Football Playoff Bracketology: Who's in?

Haiden Diemer-Mckinney '26
Staff Writer

College football is entering a new era as it prepares for the long-anticipated 12-team playoff format. After years of the Bowl Championship Series era and the four-team playoff, this expansion is sure to bring more opportunities for teams to compete on the biggest stage. And given how open the race has been to earn those top 12 spots thus far, the debate and controversy is here to stay.

Although this is not the first time college football has used a playoff format, the criteria to secure a bid is much more complicated. Here are a few important points to keep in mind...

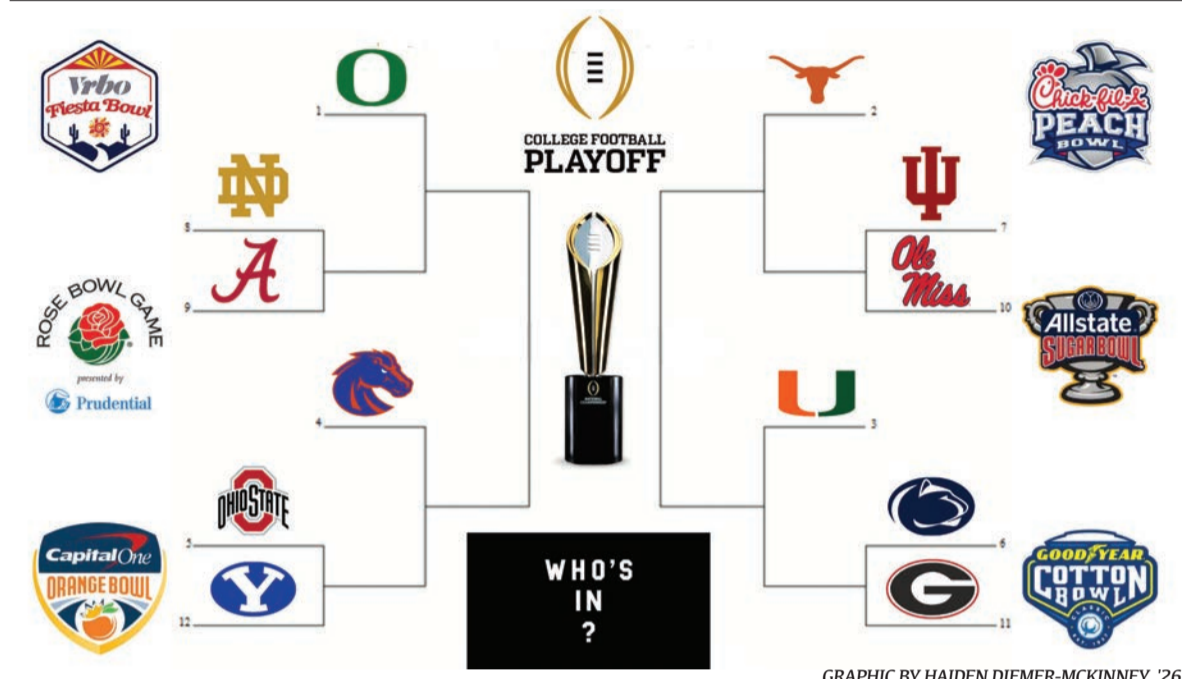
The five highest-ranked confer-

ence champions receive automatic bids.

- Four highest-ranked conference champions are seeded #1-4 and receive first-round byes.
- Seven at-large teams are determined by the remaining highest-ranked teams.
- Seeds 5-8 host first round games
- The quarterfinals will be hosted by the Fiesta, Peach, Rose and Sugar Bowl.
- The semifinals will be hosted by the Orange and Cotton Bowl.

Given these new criteria, the value of winning your conference has skyrocketed. Before, winning the

SEC, Big Ten, Big 12 or ACC didn't guarantee a spot in the four-team playoff, as the top-four were determined solely by ranking. Now, a team will automatically be granted a spot in the playoff if they're victorious on conference championship Saturday. Additionally, the concept of home playoff games is unlike anything the sport has even seen. Seeds 9-12 will be forced to travel to hostile environments that seeds 5-8 have to offer. Whether it's a Midwest team breathing hot and humid air, or a southern team grinding in frigid and snowy conditions, a win-or-go-home situation on a college campus is must-see TV and promises to deliver an electrifying atmosphere.



GRAPHIC BY HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26

Breaking down the bracket

The rankings from the College Football Playoff Top 25 reveal show on Tuesday, November 19 are as follows:

- Oregon (11-0)
- Ohio State (9-1)
- Texas (9-1)
- Penn State (9-1)
- Indiana (10-0)
- Notre Dame (9-1)
- Alabama (8-2)
- Miami (9-1)
- Ole Miss (8-2)
- Georgia (8-2)
- Tennessee (8-2)
- Boise State (9-1)
- SMU (9-1)
- BYU (9-1)

Before we dive into the rankings, it's important to distinguish the difference between where a team is ranked and seeded. The rankings are displayed as above, while the seeding comes into play when forming the bracket. Remember, the four highest-ranked conference champions are seeded #1-4 and will receive first-round byes. Therefore, the bracket as it stands now is projecting who the conference champions will be based on the rankings.

You may be wondering why I included #14 BYU in this list. That's because they currently lead the Big 12, giving them an automatic bid and pushing Tennessee out of the playoff. Because the Cougars are the lowest seeded conference leader and are ranked below the top-12 teams, they'd project at the #12 seed and wouldn't get a first-round bye. In another example, Miami is currently ranked #8, but because

they're atop the ACC, they'd receive a first-round bye and project as the #3 seed. Trust me, it's complicated. But once we get closer to the conference championship Saturday, the playoff picture will slowly begin to reveal itself.

As of these latest rankings, there was no movement in the top five, as each team won last weekend. #1 Oregon is the consensus best team in the country with no losses and the best win in the country over #2 Ohio State. The Buckeyes have the edge over #3 Texas as they had a competitive one-point loss on the road while the Longhorns fell to a lower-ranked #10 Georgia at home, 30-15. Ohio State also has a better win against Penn State who sits at #4. #5 Indiana rounds out the top five and although they're undefeated, they have a much weaker strength of schedule than the Nittany Lions. #6 Notre Dame is sitting in a favorable spot, but because they're independent and aren't in a conference to receive an auto bid, the Irish cannot afford to lose in the next two weeks.

It seems the committee is giving #7 Alabama the advantage over #8 Miami because of their three wins over current CFP Top 25 opponents, while the Hurricanes only have one and have looked fraudulent against lesser teams like Virginia Tech and California. The next three spots are rather self-explanatory: #9 Ole Miss beat #10 Georgia and Georgia beat #11 Tennessee. #12 Boise State is stuck behind these two-loss SEC teams, most likely because they've yet to beat a team in the Power 4. However, their only loss

was a tight 37-34 battle at Oregon, which should tell the committee they'll give their all against the national championship favorites if given the chance.

In the latest ranking release, College Football Playoff Committee Chair Warde Manuel outlined a few important criteria the committee will consider when evaluating the teams to come to their decisions.

- Strength of schedule matters, but the eye test and play on the field is just as important.
- Metrics are valuable, but watching the games and seeing how the teams are performing will carry the day.
- Teams who make their conference championship will put in a high-esteem, even if they were to lose and be compared against a team in the same conference with fewer losses.

These are important bits to watch for these final three weeks of the regular season. Even in the top 12 above, there are some decisions that seem to support better resume (like how #4 Penn State has a better strength of schedule than #5 Indiana, even though the Hoosiers have been much more dominant), while other placements can be explained by the eye test (such as #7 Alabama over a one-loss #8 Miami who despite two losses, are hitting their stride with strong wins in favor of a team who's play has been inconsistent). But come Selection Sunday on December 8th, we'll see what the committee ends up valuing the most.

Games shaping playoffs in the coming weeks

Week 13 5 Indiana at 2 Ohio State

We're living in a time where Indiana is competent in football! While the Hoosiers have a rather weak strength of schedule, they have a chance to prove their legitimacy when they travel to The Shoe to challenge the Buckeyes of Ohio State. Unless complete chaos ensues, this game will determine who plays Oregon in the Big Ten Championship. If Indiana wins, Ohio State still maintains a strong case for an at-large bid, with quality wins and two losses against top-five opponents. But if the Buckeyes pull away, the Hoosiers aren't a write-in for the playoff due to their lack of quality wins. Indiana will need to look competitive for all four quarters, as the committee should respect a team who goes on the road and gives a scare to one of the national title favorites in their house. However, if the Hoosiers were to get blown out by the Buckeyes, it'll be a narrow window for a team who has no top-25 wins and looks horrible when given the chance.

Week 13 14 BYU at 21 Arizona State

Don't look now, but Arizona State has quietly climbed their way up the Big 12 standings and are in strong contention for a conference title. The Sun Devils welcome a heartbroken BYU team who suffered its first loss to Kansas last week in a 17-13 slugfest. This defeat doesn't look good on the Cougars' resume, as the Jayhawks were 3-6 going in and had not won a road game until this past weekend. Their hopes for an at-large bid are essentially over, but they remain atop the conference regardless. Assuming these two programs win out, this weekend's matchup will be an elimination game for the conference title. Given the strength of the other conferences, the Big 12 will most likely be a one-bid league. This type of game is paramount for a program in a less competitive conference to give themselves a shot to reach Championship Saturday.

Week 14 3 Texas at 15 Texas A&M

In a conference that has beaten each other up at the top, this renewed rivalry could determine who gets into the SEC championship game. Given where Texas A&M is ranked, this is a must-win. Depending on what happens in front of them, a victory for the Aggies could put them one step closer to securing an auto bid. And despite sitting at #3, if Texas were to lose this game, they're not a shoe-in for an at-large bid. While their two losses would be to top-15 SEC opponents, their best win would be against unranked Vanderbilt, which they barely escaped 27-24. A lack of quality wins remains the problem for the Longhorns, but on Saturday, November 30 they have a chance to prove themselves when they enter the hostile environment of College Station.



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Why Harris lost the 2024 election



Jacob White '25

Reply to this opinion at
jewwhite25@wabash.edu

We got the famous “October Surprise” this year, when prolific pollster J. Ann Selzer released Selzer & Co.’s Iowa poll, showing Democratic Nominee Kamala Harris up three points in a state that went for Trump by 9.5 and 8.2 points in the previous two elections. This seemed to spark a turning point in the vibes, as Trump had a great October according to the polls and the prediction markets. Then, just a few days later, it became clear by about midnight on Election Day that Trump would return to the White House. Here are eight reasons why Trump flipped the White House in arguably the greatest political comeback in American history.

1. Voters’ top issue, according to every poll, was the economy. And Trump had a solid lead on the economy, according to most polls. Take the NYT/Siena poll, which had him up six points coming into Election Day. According to CNN exit polling, voters did prefer Trump on the economy, 52-46, the exact margin NYT/Siena predicted.

2. The working-class vote abandoned Harris. In 2020, Joe Biden won 55% of voters who made less than \$50,000, while Trump won just 44% of that demographic. Now, in 2024, Trump carried that group 50% to 47%, a 14-point swing. Similarly, Trump won voters who made between \$50,000 and \$99,999 by five points, a group that voted for Biden by 15 points in 2020!

3. The second largest issue to voters, according to most polls, was immigration. The Biden administration did little to combat substantially high border crossings and Harris did little to explain what she would do differently from Biden

regarding the border. In the end, voters trust Trump more on immigration, 53% to 44%.

4. The global political climate made this election inherently difficult for Harris and the Democrats to overcome. Leading up to the US Presidential election, all seven incumbent parties worldwide who participated in national elections lost voter share from their previous election. Harris and the Democrats were not immune to this phenomenon; although, to their credit, they lost less voter share than any other incumbent party globally did in 2024 in their respective election.

5. The political realignment among education continued, working in Trump’s favor. Non-college-educated voters, who made up 57% of this year’s electorate, voted for Trump by 14 points. This same group only favored Trump by two points in 2020 and by nine points in 2016.

6. Trump’s age and cognitive ability, one of Harris’s would-be stronger issues, was thwarted by her party’s previous support of Joe Biden to seek the White House until he was 86 years old.

7. Dobbs had seemingly no effect on the national vote. Abortion was one of Harris’s strongest issues, and yet it seemed not to motivate voters on the national stage. In fact, of the seven states—Arizona, Colorado, Maryland, Missouri, Montana, New York and Nevada—that voted to add abortion rights into their state’s constitution, just three of those states voted for Harris, with key swing states Arizona and Nevada granting their electoral votes to Trump, despite their states’ support for more access to abortions.

8. “She Shoulda Picked Shapiro,” as Nate Silver has been fond of saying. In an election this close, with Pennsylvania emerging as the likeliest tipping-point state, it seemingly behooved Harris to tap Josh Shapiro, the extraordinarily popular governor of Pennsylvania, to be her running mate. Instead, she selected Tim Walz, the governor of Minnesota, only to win Minnesota by fewer points than Biden did in 2020. Maybe Shapiro wouldn’t have made a difference, but it was surely worth a shot.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

WE DIDN'T THINK THE BAR COULD GO ANY LOWER

*Lo-Five to D***** for broadcasting Dannies saying f*** Wabash over the PA system multiple times. We draw the line at little kids flipping Buck the bird. =*

MOVING UP IN THE WORLD

Hi-Five to Oberlin for getting their first NCAC football win since 2021 by beating Hiram over the weekend. It also happens to be their third win since 2019. lo-five to Hiram for going 0-9 in their final NCAC football season by losing to Oberlin. The Terriers will have one more chance to redem themselves in a game against Wittenberg.

AMERICA'S TEAM

Hi-Five to the ESPN MNF broadcast crew for running an embarrassing statline for the Cowboys almost every time play stopped. Our sincere apologies to that one Cowboys fan everyone knows.

ELDER ABUSE

Lo-Five to Jake Paul and Mike Tyson for giving us the least entertaining fight in history. Making Wabash men stay up late before Bell Game was the only knockout on Friday.

MUH FIRST AMENDMENT

Hi-Five to the Onion for attempting to purchase Infowars. Lo-five to the federal government for colluding in the selling of Infowars, cancelling the transaction. If only Alex Jones was able to report on this terrible act of corruption.

Seniors — The short end of the stick



Connor Craig '25

Reply to this opinion at
ccrcraig25@wabash.edu

Perhaps it’s a situation that only applies to me, but I’ve gotten the short end of the stick for any and all, immersion courses at Wabash. Especially as a senior.

To be completely fair, I’ve received my turn to study abroad for a month in Salamanca, Spain, at USAL – a fantastic experience that I cannot complain about by any means. I was able to live with a host family and had plenty of opportunities to bolster my language skills. Most of all, I would not have been able to do it without Wabash funding and prioritization of students seeking chances to expand their field of knowledge. Some may say I have no room to complain because of this circumstance, especially because students across the country – and likely here at Wabash – dream of studying abroad. I certainly fell under that category. But I don’t believe that I’m the only senior this year that wasn’t able to experience a unique and interesting immersion course because of outlying circumstances.

What I am primarily frustrated by is that one of the main “pulls” that we advertise to prospective students is the fact that our institution intends on sending our students

abroad and emphasizing that these classes are widely available. During every tour that we give to prospective students, we always stop at the display case in the north wing hallway of Hays Hall on the first floor to talk about how Wabash always prioritizes abroad experiences. I was once in the shoes of the prospective student, eyes wide thinking about an enlightening classroom journey that I would be able to synthesize with a real-world experience rather than simply from a textbook. I’ve been eagerly waiting since then, keeping up with science, public/global health and language-based course offerings with experiences abroad.

Because of other course requirements that I’ve needed to fulfill to apply for medical schools, I was never able to put this eagerness to rest. The scheduling of immersion courses have mostly conflicted with lab periods, and when an opportunity was present to apply for one, it was either a) something that I didn’t have the prerequisites for, b) wasn’t a topic I was interested in or c) would have been banked a surplus of credits negatively affecting financial aid.

I didn’t intend to write an opinion piece just to complain though. While I hope this has been constructive so far, I would much rather provide solutions here rather than spreading antics. Here’s what I think: seniors should be allowed to go on immersion trips that are scheduled for after graduation upon certain conditions, more courses should have trips that occur during spring break or there should be immersion courses specifically designed with interdisciplinary topics that are catered towards seniors.

After a productive conversation with Dean Hardy, I completely understand why second semester seniors aren’t allowed on summer trips after graduation. Grades are in, diplomas have been earned and our mindsets are more towards “enjoying a pint at the pub” rather than the actual learning side of immersion trips. It’s inherently part of the second-semester senior mindset (which I neither claim nor support in this context), so the argument is sound.

And while there is a reality where second-semester seniors can make an appeal to enroll in a summer trip, there are financial obligations associated with that. However, rather than financial obligations being a part of the appeal process, I think there should be some sort of legally binding statement that seniors should sign who want to take immersion courses with trips during the summer. These conditions could be up for consideration, but I think this is potentially a common ground solution since, after all, a point of immersion trips is to alleviate financial stressors.

To my knowledge, there was only one course available this upcoming spring with its immersion trip occurring during spring break (which I applied for), and I’m really grateful that some of my peers who are seniors without immersion are able to enjoy this course. But only one course with an immersion trip in the spring? In years past, I remember there being three to five different courses that have trips during spring break. Is there not enough funding? Were there constraints with the timing of planning the trips? How are decisions made to determine when the trips occur?

I think these are valuable questions to ask that can be clarified to help inform students interested in immersion courses and supplement planning them into our schedules. Perhaps an “Immersion Courses 101” session in the spring run by the Off-Campus Immersion Committee directed towards second-semester freshmen and sophomores could assist in making sure everyone can budget time in their schedules for immersion courses.

Lastly, immersion course offerings catered towards second-semester seniors will provide students in the future with “one last chance” to get time abroad. We’re no strangers to senior-only courses, such as senior seminars and senior colloquium. This course could potentially be within humanities that fulfills a distribution credit, focuses on three or four interdisciplinary topics and analyzes how they connect. I’m no expert on designing courses, but this is a relatively basic approach that could specifically allow future seniors on campus to appreciate the opportunity for an immersion course.

Again, I want to make it clear that I’m extremely grateful for being able to study abroad this past summer and I would not have been able to do so without Wabash’s generosity. I wouldn’t have traded it for anything. Furthermore, I don’t want this to be interpreted as me shouting complaints into an echo chamber. I was dealt the cards and got the short end of the stick, and fortunately, my month in Spain helped balance my bad luck with immersion courses. I want to make sure though that my Wabash brothers who are going to inevitably be seniors one day have the same opportunities as everyone else.



‘Thanksgiving scaries’

Comic by Drake Green '28

Letters from the MXIBS

Hayden Lewter '26: I want everyone who knows me to take my leadership in the MXIBS away, my leadership roles on campus away and my name and image away – but leave the label of a white man. I, as a white man, saw and heard the remark at Chapel, and I felt disgusted. I didn't stand to cheer, I didn't celebrate and I didn't feel energized or happy afterward.

I felt disgusted at the fact that a week so deeply rooted in tradition and "Brotherhood" had to be broken down by what to others was a simple sentence but to the minoritized brothers on campus and myself was an implicit racial comment. I speak as a white man at a predominantly white institution saying that racism has no place at our college, and especially not in an environment where young minds are being shaped and guided. The comments made were not only inappropriate but also damaging to the values we as a college promote. No one, especially someone in a position of leadership, should ever perpetuate such harmful attitudes.

Keane Albright '25: The remarks made at the Chapel were not only unnecessary, but also undermined the reputation of one of the most respected figures on campus. Introducing political ideals into a Bell Chapel Talk was entirely inappropriate, particularly in the highly charged post-election climate. While everyone is entitled to their own opinions, the content of that speech was profoundly out of place and drained the

energy from what should have been an uplifting occasion.

What was the purpose of that speech? It derailed the excitement and anticipation for the game, replacing it with disappointment and frustration. The references to "the magic of Taylor Swift" and "the magic of Disney" felt disconnected and irrelevant. How do these topics contribute to the broader goals we share as a school or to the spirit of the game?

Maximus Rosa '26: In addressing the comments made by Don Morel in the Monon Bell Chapel Talk, I want everyone to imagine a scenario in which your brother or sister was publicly humiliated by the school bully in front of you. The same reaction that you would have to that is the same one I was expecting from my fellow Wabash brothers on the day the words "you'll be okay" were uttered. Those words were not forgotten. They were, in fact, held tightly despite the censorship done on the Chapel Talk video to edit out the words.

Despite this, the Brothers in the Institute championed flyers and media initiatives to spread awareness on the matter. This movement has led to many necessary conversations with the broader community with genuine support, curiosity and similar stories on this campus. Alas, it is another case where administratively and as a student body, we have falsely advertised a brotherhood that is unconditional but at heart is conditional.

Wally's Wall: Thanksgiving

The Prompt:

What is your dream Thanksgiving?

Samuel Shockley '25

I would love to have the Colts playing the patriots, a bowl of cookie dough ice cream in my lap after a huge feast filled with honey smoked ham, mashed potatoes and gravy, green bean casserole, smoked BBQ ribs, and a pieces of pecan pie. The weather of course would have to be a brisk 42 degrees early in the day with a decrease down below freezing as the day goes on, then a slight snowfall in the evening as the fam begins to play some scrabble or uno.

James Wallace '26

The perfect Thanksgiving requires two very important variables: The presence of a Turducken and seeing the Dallas Cowboys suffer yet another, crushing defeat.

Nathan Ellenberger '26

The best plate only needs to be sufficiently large enough that I fall into a three hour coma immediately afterward.

Ethan Wallace '25

A good Thanksgiving begins with a healthy breakfast, ideally one including eggs, toast, bacon and pancakes. Earlier is better to give you time to digest before lunch. Anything too sugary is a no-go as you want to save your sweet tooth for the dessert later in the day. Coffee, milk and orange juice — in that order — is the best choice of beverages.

Elijah Greene '25

For my perfect Thanksgiving, I want a definitive victory for the Packers, green bean casserole and mustard-glazed ham on my plate, a house full of family affection and a glorious afternoon nap.

Letter to Wabash



Don Morel
Head Football Coach

To the Wabash community, I want to apologize for my thoughtless quote regarding the election. It was completely wrong to bring politics into the Monon Bell Chapel. It was also hurtful which I ignorantly did not consider.

I told my team, I hate the fact I hurt the people I love and I do love our students, all of them. I did not consider everyone in our community when I made the statement. I am ashamed and embarrassed.

Wabash deserves better. I failed on Thursday and I am very sorry.



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PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Gavin Ruppert '26 fights to get to DePauw's junior running back Caden Whitehead in the 130th Monon Bell Classic on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Blackstock Stadium.

Bell Game goes south

Head Football Coach Don Morel concludes coaching tenure

ETHAN COOK '28
STAFF WRITER

After the final whistle blew in the 130th Monon Bell Classic, the Wabash Little Giants were unsuccessful for the third consecutive year. On Saturday, November 16 they went 29 miles south to take on the DePauw Tigers and would lose by a final score of 42-21. This was a crushing loss that saw the Little Giants be dominated in all three phases of the game.

Offensively, the Little Giants struggled to get anything going early on. An insistence on running the ball caused them to fall behind the eight-ball, as the Tigers defensive front was consistently getting the better of the Wabash offensive line. The Tigers allow just 26.8 rush yards per game, good for second in the nation, and that dominance was on full display. Naturally, Head Football Coach Don Morel wanted to stick to his rushing attack that has done them so well all season, but DePauw just would not let it happen.

“We had a good game plan. We just needed to execute better as coaches and players.”

-Head Football Coach Don Morel

“We really wanted to run the ball as we did in 2023 and 2024,” said Morel. “Most importantly we wanted a one-score game at halftime, which we got, but we needed to be more efficient in the run game.”

Despite the uninspiring run game, the Wabash offense was still able to amass 318 yards of total offense. This was due to the Little Giants being able to get their passing game in rhythm and provide some versatility to the offense that it was desperately missing. Because of this, they were able to drive right down the Tigers throat to close out the first half. The Little Giants started with the ball on their own 25-yard line with just 1:54 remaining in the half. They put together a seven-play, 75-yard drive that was capped off by a Conner Thompson '25 touchdown from Brand Campbell '27 with just 29 seconds left.

“We went with a fast paced, two-minute drill kind of offense and I think that is what really got us going passing the ball,” said Thompson. “The touchdown was a great ball by Brand, it hit my hands and I got my feet down for the score.”

The Little Giants offense was able to produce 284 yards through the air and Campbell remained as efficient as he has been all season. Despite the bright spots, it was still a disappointing outing for the Wabash offense.

“I think the biggest thing was

the slow start, which is something that you just cannot do against a great defense,” said Thompson. “Not executing on certain drives hurt us as well and that is something we needed to avoid.”

Defensively, the Little Giants had a good first half, but were eventually worn down by the eighth-ranked offense in the nation. They were able to stay strong in bad situations and force two red zone takeaways. Despite a valiant effort by the Scarlet & White, the Tigers were still able to accumulate 543 yards of offense. Big chunk plays were the bane of the Little Giants defense. They allowed four plays that went for more than 30 yards, three of which came in the second half.

“Our defense showed a lot of heart, but there is always room for improvement,” said Brody Frey '26. “We could have communicated better and been more consistent, but it is a team effort and we will make sure that we are stronger moving forward.”

Frey was able to claim the Little Giants' only sack on the day. With 5:10 left in the third quarter, Frey managed to push his way into the backfield and take down DePauw quarterback Nathan McCahill. This was Frey's fifth sack of the season as he added on to his great 2024 campaign.

“The play was all about trusting the game plan and my teammates,” said Frey. “I saw an opportunity to beat my blocker and make a play.”

Gavin Ruppert '26 was making big plays as he has all season as well. He came away with the Little Giants' only two tackles for a loss in the game. Mike Holsclaw '26 was able to pick off McCahill in the red zone and steal the ball back for the Little Giants as well. While the defensive execution was good in some areas, the overall performance left much to be desired.

“We had a good game plan,” said Morel. “We just needed to execute better as coaches and players.”

The first three minutes of the second half was the lowest point in the game for Wabash. The Little Giants had cut it down to a one score game going into halftime. The offense was hot, coming off of the quick scoring drive and the defense took the field first. The Tigers immediately halted any momentum that they had built and scored in just one play that went 75 yards for the touchdown. Then, the kickoff was dropped after TJ Alexander '26 signaled a fair catch. The Little Giants did recover the fumble, but they were pinned back inside their own five yard line. Two plays later, Campbell was intercepted, allowing the Tigers to start with the ball inside the redzone and score with ease. This series of events gave the Tigers a 28-7 lead, from which the Little Giants were unable to come back from.

“We felt really good at halftime,” said Morel. “But the first three minutes of the third quarter ultimately cost us the game.”

The loss in the 130th Monon Bell Game officially marked the end of Don Morel's coaching career. He has officially relinquished head coaching duties to [Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator] Jake Gilbert '98, who will be the head coach at the upcoming Opendorse Bowl. While at Wabash, Morel has led the team to some of their greatest victories in program history, such as the 21-point comeback victory against DePauw just three years ago. However, despite all of the special moments, Morel considers none of them his greatest success. For Morel the more important achievement was leading a successful team in the wake of the death of Evan Hansen '19 – it was a chance at healing for his team.

“My greatest success as a head coach is the fine men whose lives I have been able to touch here at Wabash,” said Morel. “And there are so many great memories, but my favorite is the joy that the 2018 team felt after such a tremendous tragedy.”

“We felt really good at halftime. But the first three minutes of the third quarter ultimately cost us the game.”

-Head Football Coach Don Morel

Morel has made a huge impact on the lives of the players' lives that played for him, but he has made a huge impact on Wabash as a whole. Morel was one of the biggest contributors to the making of Little Giant Stadium as it is today.

“I was lucky to be a part of the team that got the stadium built and finished in record time,” said Morel. “This also made me aware of how special Wabash is and how much our alumni love it.”

Morel will continue to have an impact here at Wabash College. He has accepted a new role with Wabash outside of coaching.

“I will be working in development for the college,” said Morel. “And I will be trying to help the college with fundraising and alumni relations.”

With the Bell Game now in the books, the new look Little Giants now look ahead to the Opendorse Bowl and to next season. With a new head coach to lead the team, they will continue to strive for improvement every day in order to win the North Coast Athletic Conference and bring home the Bell next season.

Opendorse Bowl ahead for football season finale



COURTESY OF FLOFOOTBALL.COM

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
STAFF WRITER

Rebounding from a conference championship loss is tough, especially if it's one of the biggest rivalry games in Division III. But things aren't quite over for the Little Giants, who will have an opportunity to end the season on a high note.

Wabash football will take part in the inaugural Opendorse Bowl Series on Saturday, November 23.

The Opendorse Bowl Series takes the highest-ranked team in each of the North Coast Athletic Conference, Ohio Athletic Conference, Heartland Athletic Collegiate Conference (HACC), and the Presidents' Athletic Conference that did not make the NCAA Division III football playoffs and allows them to play in a bowl game. This series is to be played annually at the Tom Benson Hall of Fame Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

After losing in a physical contest in the 130th Monon Bell Classic, Wabash's only hopes of the NCAA tournament were left up to the Division III selection committee.

Wabash ultimately was left out of the playoff bracket. However they still stood in second place in the NCAC. With DePauw being guaranteed a spot in the playoff after being placed in the protected top eight, Wabash was invited to participate in the Opendorse series, where they will face Hanover College. The matchup will be called the Forever Lawn Bowl. The second game of the day will be the Extra Points Bowl between Westminster College and Marietta College.

One of the main benefits of adding a bowl game to the end of the season is that it grants the seniors one last chance to play. While some seniors have understandably called it a career after the Bell Game, several made the decision to travel with the team to Canton, Ohio.

“I am playing in the bowl game because I want to take advantage of another opportunity to suit up in the red and whites with my team,” said Connor Thompson '25. “I'm very excited to get one last chance to play with my guys and finish the season on a high note. I couldn't turn down the chance to take the field with my teammates one last time, and I think it'll be a great way to cap off my experience as a player.”

“I chose to play because it was important for me to get an extra week with the team,” said Cameron Ford '25. “Unlike other sports like baseball and basketball, when you're done playing football, you'll never play it again. So I just wanted one more opportunity to suit up and play with my brothers.”

Wabash fans will be able to

witness the first game with Head Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98 leading the program. Long-time Little Giant's head coach Don Morel has officially retired after 12 seasons coaching at Wabash. This bowl game against Hanover will help lay the foundation for Gilbert's promising future at Wabash College.

“This is a jump-start opportunity to put my stamp on the leadership of this program,” said Gilbert. “I get the honor of being the head coach of Wabash College ... I get to do my dream job, and I'm thrilled beyond measure to do this.”

Although there are many important seniors on this roster, the numerous juniors and underclassmen will be the future of the program. One extra game will also provide the younger players with more experience before they step into the starting roles next season.

“It gives the team an opportunity to gain momentum going into the off-season,” said Ford. “Big things are coming, and the young guys get an opportunity to play and grow, and the seniors get an opportunity to finish out their careers with a really cool experience.”

Hanover 7-3 is coming into the game on a six-game win streak. Hanover went 5-1 in HACC play, only falling to the conference champion Mount St. Joseph in a 41-49 shootout at the beginning of the season. In their previous game, the Panthers defeated their rival Franklin College 31-27 in the 94th Victory Bell Game.

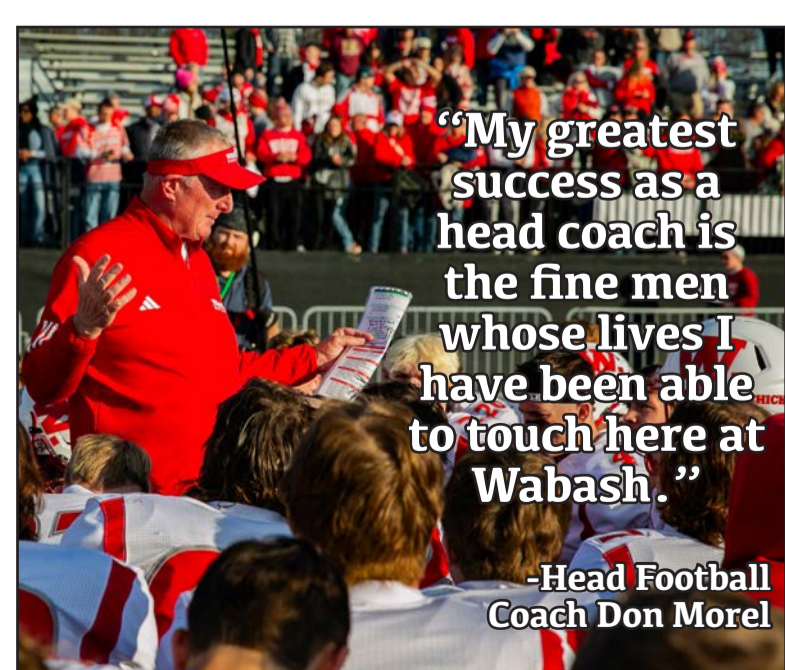
“[Hanover had] a lot of seniors,” said Gilbert. “They just beat their rival, so they are fired up and excited to play. So we better be also.”

They excel in the passing game where they averaged 250 yards a game with 31 touchdowns to seven interceptions. Their high-powered passing game led their offense to average nearly 35 points per game.

“Their kind of offense keeps you on your toes,” said Gilbert. “They run a lot of shifts and motions. They do a good job spreading the ball around. You can't just key in on one guy. Their quarterback is a dual threat, and their running back can run and catch out of the backfield.”

As a run-first team, Wabash will be able to take advantage of Hanover's run defense that allows 104 rushing yards a game.

Gilbert's head coaching debut and the seniors' last dance will set the table for a pivotal off-season. Winning could fuel this Little Giants roster's momentum into next season. They already have a 300-pound locomotive bell sized chip on their shoulder, adding a bowl game win on top of that won't hurt.



“My greatest success as a head coach is the fine men whose lives I have been able to touch here at Wabash.”

-Head Football Coach Don Morel

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Head Football Coach Don Morel addresses his team after the 130th Monon Bell Classic on Saturday, November 16, 2024, at Blackstock Stadium.

Basketball captures first win at Chadwick Court

HAIKEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
STAFF WRITER

After two tough battles at the Trine Classic to open the season, the Wabash basketball team got the better of Mount St. Joseph University on Thursday, November 14 to secure its first win of the season. Returning to Chadwick Court for their home debut, the Little Giants made use of the paint and showcased their depth to dominate the majority of the game. With contributions across the roster and a strong home-court advantage, Wabash cruised to a 87-59 victory, re-establishing some confidence after its first two losses against high-level competition.

“The biggest thing I want to show these guys is to cherish every game, take it day by day and appreciate each opportunity.”

-Vinny Buccilla '25

The Little Giants made strong statements early, as guard Vinny Buccilla '25 set the tone offensively by attacking the rim consistently, going five of eight from two-point range. The senior currently leads the team in points with 15 a game, and while four Little Giants shot their way to double-digits last week, Buccilla aims to be the foundation of offensive production for the team.

“I think our main strategy is to find the easiest buckets possible in every game,” said Buccilla. “Coach always preaches to us about our lifting to use our size and strength against our opponents. We want to set the tone from the jump, take the ball in the paint and make the defense guard us.”

Driving the lane and going for layups seems like a smart game plan for Wabash. For their opponents, however, that strategy will be far more difficult to rely on for one reason – Noah Hupmann '25. The 7-foot 2-inch center anchored the defense against the Lions, grabbing eight rebounds and swatting away four shots, displaying the same dominance that became his bread-and-butter last season. Hupmann currently leads the team in rebounds and blocks per game at 8.7 and 3.7 respectively.

Additionally, guard Josh Whack '26 is also causing fits on the defensive side as he's racked up five steals thus far, leading the team. As these players step into consistent starting roles this year, Hupmann and Whack seek to bring an intimidating presence in the paint to shake up opponents' offensive implementations.

“Noah and Josh are disruptive defensive guys,” said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. “So when you have a perimeter and a post guy that can cause so much disruption, it's going to speed up the other team, forcing them to take quick shots and miss some that they normally make.”

In Thursday night's matchup, guard Nate Matelic '27 came off



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Rich Brooks '26 finishes with a soft touch in the Little Giants' home contest against Mount St. Joseph University on November 14, 2024, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Wabash fans cheer in the Little Giants' home contest against Mount St. Joseph University on November 14, 2024, at Chadwick Court.

the bench with a key block and multiple fast break points, sparking a faster tempo that wore out the Lions. The sophomore is demonstrating his importance as a key contributor after an encouraging freshman campaign.

“With the senior leadership from last year, I think I tried to take full advantage of the playing time I got while also learning what it took to be a part of the winning culture here,” said Matelic. “Going into this year, I knew the responsibility was going to be a lot heavier. I'm asking for this responsibility to be one of the guys, so it's just another part of that learning curve as an underclassman.”

The team is still in the learning phase of figuring out who they want to be this season. With a short break before more competitive play after some challenging matchups, the Little Giants will hone in on finding their leaders and identity as a unit.

“The guys know that I'm less of a vocal leader, but more of a mod-

el of showing the team the ways,” said Buccilla. “Even if you have an off game, you still can be a great teammate and be a leader that way. The biggest thing I want to show these guys is to cherish every game, take it day by day and appreciate each opportunity.”

“The break gives us an opportunity to try to figure out what each guy's role is going to be and what the rotations are going to look like,” said Brumett. “Many of these guys have little experience, so my goal is to get them in stretches where they can learn how to play with whatever the situation is.”

The Little Giants have a chance to rack up a few wins heading into Thanksgiving break. The quest starts back up on Friday, November 22 at 7 p.m. when they welcome Franklin College to Chadwick Court.

Wabash prepares for NIL

Continued from page 1

On their website, Opendorse promotes their affiliation with 297 different colleges and universities, including several schools from Indiana – Indiana University Bloomington, the University of Notre Dame, Purdue University and several more. The majority of affiliated institutions are Division I, however, other familiar Division III schools, the University of Mount Union and Capitol University have made the move to NIL partnership with Opendorse.

“We're thrilled to welcome Wabash College as our newest NIL partner,” said Opendorse President of Collegiate Operations Blake Lawrence. “They are committed to equipping their student-athletes with a holistic, education-first NIL experience that will help to maximize opportunities, while developing skills for the future. We're excited to work with their team to provide an excellent athlete experience and continue to expand our

footprint at the Division III level.

While NIL has yet to completely take hold on Division III, the rapid development over the past three years could very well mean that NIL will have spread to every Division III institution by the end of 2025.

By partnering with Opendorse, the College has created a reliable path for student-athletes to follow when the wave of NIL agreements eventually reaches Wabash.

“This partnership with Opendorse positions us in a way that it creates greater transparency, greater education and greater opportunities to make sure our athletes know what they're walking into when it comes to NIL,” said Tanney.

It remains to be seen what scale NIL will reach in Division III. However, when it does arrive, Wabash student-athletes will not have to face the potential hurdles alone. For now, any athletes looking to investigate NIL should contact either Tanney or Associate Athletic Director Allison Manwell for more information.

Wrestling claims dual win at home

COLIN BAKER '25
STAFF WRITER

The Wabash wrestling team picked up a win on senior night as they topped the University of Chicago 27-14. The energy in Chadwick Court on Friday, November 15 helped the Little Giants in their victory winning six out of ten matches and securing their first home win of the season.

Coming off of a 14-25 loss to Albion College the previous week, the team went back to work to make the needed adjustments. Head Wrestling Coach Jake Fredricksen said the team's main focus was how they would respond going forward.

“What we talked about moving into that week was a response from the week prior,” said Fredricksen “[Last week] we lacked a little bit of fight in tough positions. I definitely think we did a better job of that.”

Starting the meet off was Andrew Punzalan '27 at 125 pounds with a first period technical fall over Chicago's Matteo Littman, winning the match 15-0 which put the Little Giants ahead early with a five point lead. Punzalan's win set the tone for the rest of the night as the team continued to dominate.

Continuing the momentum was the returning All-American James Day '26 at 133-pounds. Day won a second period fall over Parisi showing why he is one of the top-ranked athletes in his weight class. Day's win put the Little Giants ahead 11-0.

Chicago gained two wins at 141-pounds and 149-pounds closing in on the lead making it 11-8 still in favor of Wabash. At 157-pounds, returning national qualifier Tim Smith '26 had a second-period fall over Cael Saxton of Chicago. Smith's dominating performance put the Little Giants back on track with a 17-8 lead.

Following the win at 157-pounds was Ayden Lutes '26 at 165-pounds picking up another win for Wabash with a 10-2 major decision over Daniel Gunlogson.

Getting into the heavier

weights, the team gained a few more wins including Mawuli Nevis '25 at 174-pounds with a 7-2 decision win over Chicago's Hutch Lynott.

Chicago took a decisive win at 184-pounds making the score 24-11 but that momentum was quickly ended. The two-time All-American Chase Baczek '25 showed his experience as he cruised to the 5-1 decision over Cade Creighton at 197-pounds. Making the score 27-11 in favor of Wabash.

With the win already secured for Wabash, Chicago finished off the meet with a 2-1 decision win at 285-pounds making the final score of the dual 27-14.

After cruising to a smooth victory with things going their way during the meet the team is happy with the results and how they performed overall.

“I think we did really well,” said Fredricksen. “[It's] a definite improvement from the week prior. [We had] Some good adjustments and good responses. I think our leaders and our upperclassmen really stepped up and did a good job when they needed to.”

The team looks to continue improving to maintain this success and keep the momentum from this dual going. As their season progresses their main focus will be on building on the skills they already have and making the necessary adjustments so they can continue to see success.

“You see the adjustments you need to make and you voice to the team what the expectations are for that week and the adjustments we need to make,” said Fredricksen. “By the end of the year many of the cracks we have in our foundations are going to be patched up.”

The Little Giants' next outing is this Saturday, November 23 as the team travels to Mequon, Wisconsin to compete in the Concoridia University Open.

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Brayden Curnutt '25 dominates regional meet

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

The end of the fall sports calendar is almost here, but cross country season isn't over for one Wabash man. Brayden Curnutt '25 turned in a career-best time to finish first in the NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional on Saturday, November 16. The meet was held at the Blue River Cross Country Course in Shelbyville, Indiana. His victory secured him a spot in the national meet.

As a team the Red Pack raced to 21st out of 42 teams at regionals, and Curnutt led the way with a career-best 24:36.83. He was followed by Jacob Sitzman '25 who finished 87th and Will Neubauer who finished 120th. With Jacob Sitzman '25 and Haiden Diemer-Mckinney '26 sidelined by injury, two freshmen, Johnathan Loney '28 and Alex Orihuela '28, finished 143rd and 238th, respectively, for the Little Giants. The result was short of high expectations the team set at the beginning of the season.

"Sometimes you get to the end of a season and you have some injuries that pop up," said Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary. "We ran into that this year, and I ultimately made the decision to give some guys rest. And unfortunately, that means a subpar team performance that we didn't want from the beginning of the year."

Individually, Curnutt dominated



COURTESY OF TYLER CURNUTT

Brayden Curnutt '25 finished first in NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional Meet with a time of 24:36.83. The meet was held on November 16, 2024, at the Blue River Cross Country Course in Shelbyville, Indiana. Curnutt finished the race 11 seconds ahead of second-place Luke Witvliet of Calvin University.

with an 11-second gap between his first-place finish and Luke Witvliet from Calvin University who finished second.

The next stop for Curnutt will be the NCAA Division III National Championships. The meet will be held on Saturday, November 23 at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country

Course in Terre Haute, Indiana. It is the same course where Curnutt won the North Coast Athletic Conference Championship on November 3.

"[I've joked] I think I could run that course with my eyes closed at this point," said Curnutt. "Knowing how to run it is an advantage, but everyone else in the field has run

it at some point or another. So, I guess we'll just see how that plays out on Saturday."

With an incredible season behind him, Curnutt will enter uncharted waters for his career as injury has held him back in previous years.

"This has been his first cross country season that was complete-

ly and totally injury-free," said McCreary. "And so he's obviously taken a massive jump. There's some mystery as to how good he could be at the national championship... The sky is kind of the limit of where he could be."

For Curnutt the injuries also count for an experience of a different kind.

"The past is the past, like the injuries that happen," said Curnutt. "But I don't think I would be where I am today without those things happening. From the surgery that I had freshman year, to some of the other little nagging things, I don't think I would be going into the national meet with as much confidence on Saturday if I didn't have those setbacks."

Whatever happens, this will be the last cross country race of Curnutt's collegiate career, but it also offers the biggest rewards for the senior. The goal for Curnutt will be to finish in the top 40 to secure the honor of all-American. He would be the Red Pack's first all-American since Dominic Patascil '19 in 2017.

"I'm not treating the national meet any differently than I [did] the regional meet or the conference meet," said Curnutt. "It's not just another meet. But I think in order to put myself in the best position to succeed, I have to think of it that way."

The DIII National Championships will begin at 12 p.m..

Gail Pebworth named DIII Hall of Fame inductee

Swim embraces the legacy of long-time coach ahead of namesake invitational

TY MURPHEY '27
STAFF WRITER

The weather might be getting colder, but the Wabash swimming & diving team is just starting to warm up. As the conference meet gets closer and closer, it is important that the teams start firing on all cylinders soon. And starting Friday, November 22, they will get a chance to see where they are with the Gail Pebworth Invitational at home.

"We are starting to get close to the halfway point of our season," said Head Coach William Bernhardt. "And meets like this are really important for us to start to see the fitness levels of guys and get a good benchmark."

The Gail Pebworth Invitational will be a three-day meet with several hundred swimmers competing from the likes of schools such as Franklin College, Anderson University and DePauw, there will be nothing short of competition. And the team is ready to test themselves.

"I'm excited to have fun and race and see where I'm at," said swimmer Quinn Sweeney '27. "But I'm also excited to see where the team is at too, because a lot of guys have some potential to go really fast, not just me."

But it is not just about times this meet. The team has not gotten the opportunity to race at home since late October. With a big test in their season, they are also focused on the energy they can bring for their teammates.

"Each meet this season, we've had the best deck presence, and we race other teams pretty fast," said Sweeney. "And there's big schools who haven't been able to just be as energetic as we have. So, I think we're at an advantage there. They're going to come into



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

Gail Moll Pebworth H'91 coaches poolside at the Class of 1950 Natatorium. Pebworth served as head coach of the swimming & diving team for 18 seasons between 1984 and 2002. In 2000, she was inducted into Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame.

Crawfordsville. And it's our home. I mean, we're going to bring energy. We're going to be swimming fast, so we're excited to take it to those guys."

For the upperclassmen this is a great test to build on their training. But for the freshmen, this meet also will help build on their experience and get them ready for conference.

"The transition to college meets has been a little challenging, not challenging, but just different," said freshman swimmer Ryan West '28. "And this championship meet or pre-championship meet is going to be different from a club or high school championship meet. So, it's going to be getting used to it, but I think it's going to be really fun, and I am ready. I'm looking to set a few records and put myself into a good position for conference and hopefully NCAA."

Fans should be on the lookout for Sweeney and West to make big moves but also watch for captains Ethan Johns '25 and Justice Wenz '25, as well as diver Keane Albright '25 as they continue to perform this season.

There will be nothing short of competition, but this race will be a little extra special for the team. Coach Gail Pebworth H'91 has been named CSCAA DIII Hall of Fame Class of 2025 Honoree. And while going into an invitational named for her, the team and school are reminded of her impressive legacy at the college.

"What an amazing honor it is to have Gail enter the NCAA DIII Hall of Fame," said Bernhardt. "Her impact on our program and the college as a whole cannot be measured. She raised the bar and set the standard for our program not only athletically but also in the classroom. It is so

nice for her to receive this recognition for all that she has given to the sport of swimming and diving. This year's Gail Pebworth Invitational will certainly be a little more special as we try to emulate her success and legacy as our current team moves forward into the future."

Pebworth's impressive career includes a 775 - 112 win record, six conference titles, two NCAA top-10 finishes, three NCAA top-20 finishes, 48 all-Americans and a member of the 2000 Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame class. But her impact is much more than these numbers. She also had a deep impact on her athletes.

"Like many of my teammates, I came to Wabash because of Coach Gail Pebworth," said Associate Director of Advancement Initiatives Hugh Vandivier '91 who swam at Wabash during Pebworth's tenure. "To many, she's a trailblazer: a woman hired to coach at a men's college who also became Wabash's first associate athletic director, and the first woman inducted into the Wabash Athletics Hall of Fame. To us, she was our coach who had high expectations for us while getting us to realize our potential ... Her record of accomplishments might have earned her this great honor, but what she did between meets make all of us who swam and dove for her especially proud."

It's safe to say that this meet will be a little extra special for the swim & dive team as they look to challenge themselves this weekend. Fast times at home will prepare them for the second half of the season where they will eventually work to prove themselves at a tough conference meet.

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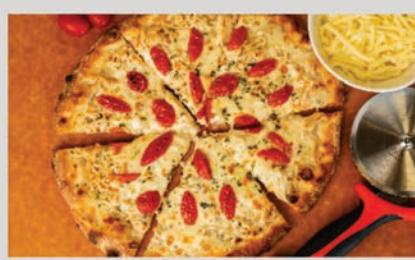


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