

Feller’s strategic priorities

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steps within this priority. But Feller made clear that his goal is creating an inclusive Wabash not just for students.

“This doesn’t just mean for students—it also means a sense of belonging among staff,” said Feller.

The second strategic priority is philanthropy, a term many college administrators understandably endorse. But to hear Feller tell it, philanthropy to him means more than mere financial support.

“I think philanthropy is about relationships,” said Feller. “And we’ve got to continue to strengthen the relationships that people have with the College. That’s largely about our students and alumni, but about other friends of the College as well. Financial support is a huge part of that, but so is identifying internships and job opportunities. There are lots of ways people demonstrate their love for Wabash College.”

Feller’s third major strategic goal is enrollment, focusing on the projected demographic shifts facing colleges nationwide.

“Wabash in the future is going to draw more students from more different places,” said Feller. “We already have the highest number of international students in the history of the College. We’re going to draw our student body more nationally and more internationally. And our faculty and staff too. So we’ve got to make sure that when those folks come here, they find a welcoming community where they feel a sense of belonging. “This College is relational, not transactional.”

Naturally, focusing on enrollment and retention often goes hand-in-hand with creating a sense of belonging and inclusion.

“We know that our out-of-state students are not retained at the same level as in-state students,” said Feller. “Distance is a risk factor retention-wise.”

Part of Feller’s action steps for all three of these involves the long-discussed plans to build a campus center, a non-classroom space for students to live, play and engage with each other. Though the library currently serves a similar role, Feller believes that the student body could use a separate, non-academic and purpose-driven space for student life.

“To me, the campus center is at the intersection of belonging, enrollment and

Part 2 of this series will discuss the plans for a new campus center in further detail



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

President Feller takes the stage at the 2022 Commencement and prepares to deliver an address.

philanthropy,” said Feller.

In choosing which strategic priorities to emphasize, Feller also focused on removing older strategic priorities, ones that had already been sufficiently operationalized.

“There are some that are ready to be retired, not because they are unimportant, but because we have incorporated them,” said Feller.

Feller pointed to two clear examples. The first was expanding the academic footprint. With recent years seeing the development of new majors in computer science and PPE, along with several new interdisciplinary minors, Feller found this goal to be sufficiently engaged with.

Another example was articulating the value of a liberal arts education. As anyone who has received the many informational flyers from admissions or advancement can explain, the College has certainly made this goal a reality.

“Nowadays, it’s everywhere on the web page,” Feller said. “That’s no longer a strategic priority—that’s just what we do on Mondays.”

Focusing on big-picture strategy and 2032 also led Feller to reflect on his own legacy—what exactly he hopes to be remembered for as president.

“What I want to accomplish is what I think the College needs right now, in this moment,” said Feller. “And that’s not what the College needed ten years ago, and not what it will probably need 10 years from now.”

Feller described what he viewed to be the greatest threat to small, liberal arts colleges, especially in the post-pandemic world: financial threats.

“Right now, liberal arts colleges like Wabash are facing intense financial pressures,” Feller said. “We’re committed to a

style of education that is fairly resource-intense. At the end of the day, we’re more student-focused than any other college. Because we only do one thing: educate undergraduate young men.” That education comes with a high financial cost.

This is part of the rationale for Feller’s focus on philanthropy, and he hopes it will be a cornerstone of his legacy.

“I want people to remember that President Feller put us on strong financial footing,” said Feller, “so we can decide our own future. I don’t want the future to be imposed on us because it’s what we have to do to survive. I want us to be able to determine our own destiny. And a lot of that involves us having the financial resources to do so.”

Of course, 2032 is still roughly a decade away, and many of Feller’s plans may come to fruition under a different College president—after all, if President Feller remains president until 2032, he would become the longest-serving president of the College in the modern era.

Feller’s answer: taking it one year at a time.

“I’ve not been a big planner in my professional life,” Feller said. “I’ve always tried to treat my professional life as a series of opportunities. I never planned to be president because I never planned to be a dean. Right now, this is both a better job than I expected, and it’s a dramatically better job than I inherited in fall 2020. So I’m pretty happy.”

Feller explained that he has enjoyed his role more and more with each passing year. So thoughts of the horizon are off the table, for the time being.

“When they quit getting better, that’s probably when I’ll figure out what my horizon is. But I’m not putting a timeline on it.”

Benedict named Editor-in-Chief

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COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

cess—and I believe it happens when leaders lead by example.”

“Sam [Benedict] is a coalition builder,” said Assistant Professor of Economics Dr. Eric Dunaway, Benedict’s academic advisor. “He sees guys on the outside of the group and finds ways to bring them in. A leader is a person who can take the abilities of many individuals and create something that is greater than the sum of their individual parts. Sam exhibits this, and I am excited to see where he takes *The Bachelor* after its excellent run these past few years.”

Benedict plans to continue many of the themes of the current volume of *The Bachelor* while recentering the paper’s identity as a local, campus-oriented paper.

“One of the things that I really want to focus on is creating a Wabash-centric issue of *The Bachelor*, one where we focus a lot on what’s happening at Wabash itself,” Benedict said. “That’s what students care about most—sure, they want to read about politics and national events—but I think there are plenty of Wabash events, ideas and news that we should focus on.”

Beyond serving as News Editor for *The Bachelor*, Benedict is highly involved on campus. The FIJI brother is a pitcher on the baseball team, a CIBE consultant and the Student Senate’s Student Events Committee Chairman. A political science major and history minor, Benedict is currently considering law school for his post-Wabash endeavors.

“Sam [Benedict] is a student-athlete who has really taken advantage of all that Wabash has to offer,” said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin ’03. “He has worked hard to develop his craft on the baseball field, while balancing several leadership roles on campus. I’m excited to watch his growth as a leader on campus, as a member of the baseball team and as Editor-in-Chief.”

SVB financial collapse sparks public fears, politicians react

TIERNAN DORAN ’26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • Silicon Valley Bank (SVB), the 16th largest bank in the United States, has collapsed, sending shockwaves through global market communities and raising serious questions about the future.

One Wednesday February 8, SVB announced that it had sold a number of securities for a loss and would be selling \$2.25 billion worth of new shares to raise capital. Upon this announcement, several key venture capital firms advised companies to withdraw any money they had in that bank. The panicked withdrawals, which totaled \$42 billion, lead to plummeting stocks for SVB which in turn dragged down the stocks of other banks such as First Republic, PacWest Bancorp and Signature Bank. Eventually SVB’s shares were halted, and the FDIC took over.

“SVB’s condition deteriorated so quickly that it couldn’t last just five more hours,” said Dennis M. Kelleher, CEO of Better Markets, a Washington DC-based nonprofit. “That’s because its depositors were withdrawing their money so fast that the bank was insolvent, and an intraday closure was unavoidable due to a classic bank run.”

U.S. regulators have said that all SVB customers’ deposits will be guaranteed, while investors in the company will not be protected, marking a distinction from the bail-outs of 2008.

“Investors in the banks will not be protected,” said President Joe Biden. “They knowingly took a risk and when risks don’t pay off investors lose their money. That’s how capitalism works.”

As 2023 began, the economic outlook remained largely positive, and while the Fed continued to hike rates to combat inflation, it seemed that the U.S. would make a soft landing and avoid recession. However, SVB’s collapse has drastically changed the outlook on future interest rate changes. Stress on the banking sector raises a problem for the Feds who must juggle fighting inflation while preventing rising interest rates from creating further financial instability.

Deputy Treasury Secretary Wally Adeyemo clarified the state of the banking system after the SVB’s collapse.

“Federal regulators are paying attention to this particular financial institution and when we think about the broader financial system, we’re very confident in the ability and the resilience of the system,” said Adeyemo. “We have the tools that are necessary to [deal with] incidents like what’s happened to Silicon Valley Bank.”

As far as who’s to blame, Democrat and Republican politicians seem busy pointing the finger at each other, with Democrats blaming the Trump Administration’s rollback of Obama era regulations and Republicans blaming Democrat “wokeness.”

“President Trump and Congressional Republicans’ decision to roll back Dodd Frank’s ‘too big to fail’ rules for banks like SVB – reducing both oversight and capital requirements – contributed to a costly collapse,” said Senator Elizabeth Warren (D-MA).

“During the Obama-Biden administration, we put in place strict requirements on banks like Silicon Valley Bank...to make sure that the crisis we saw in 2008 would not happen again,” said President Biden. “Unfortunately, the last administration rolled back some of these requirements.”

However, others have chosen to blame DEI initiatives, rather than economic policies, for the collapse.

House Oversight Committee Chairman Kentucky Republican James Comer called Silicon Valley Bank “one of the most woke banks in their quest for the ESG-type policy and investing.” He went on to say that “this could be a trend,” and that blames the collapse on “bad Democrat policy.”

“I mean, this bank, they’re so concerned with DEI and politics and all kinds of stuff,” said Governor Ron DeSantis (R-FL) “I think that really diverted from them focusing on their core mission.”

As primaries for the 2024 begin to ramp up, Republican hopefuls are likely to latch on to the economic fears stoked by SVB’s collapse as they make a case of why they are better equipped than President Biden to lead the nation. Whether their involuntary impulse of crying “woke,” whenever presented with a problem will get them into office, only time will tell.



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

Silicon Valley Bank on the morning of March 10, 2022.

Wabash Club of Indianapolis

Cheers to These Little Giants!

Chase Baczek '25 Wrestling All-American

Jack Heldt '23 Wrestling National Champion

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 Track & Field All-American

facebook.com/groups/wabashclubofindianapolis

Commencement to be held in Little Giant Stadium

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bility of Commencement, there will not be any limitations on tickets for those who desire to attend. As a result, in addition to the family, friends and loved ones of the graduating class, Wabash students, their families and members of the Wabash and Crawfordsville Communities will all be able to easily attend Commencement without the worry of whether there will be a spot available for them.

“In the last four years, we were on the Mall, live streamed a virtual Commencement, had the ceremony in the stadium and finally returned to the mall,” said the President’s Chief of Staff Jim Amidon. “All of them had their pros and cons. But during COVID, the cost of renting bleachers for the ceremony rose by over 300%. It became difficult to justify a nearly six-figure expense with the new stadium offering so many amenities, including equitable, accessible seating, restrooms, centralized audio and video systems and so much parking adjacent to the stadium.”

Importantly, Little Giant Stadium also affords the college additional logistical advantages that will better serve the graduates and the attendees versus holding Commencement on the Mall. Prominently, there is significantly more parking for persons with disabilities in the Knowing Fieldhouse lot and all of Mud Hollow is available for other guests.

“I think the upside is having lots of available, accessible seating with good sightlines, built-in audio capabilities and accessible bathroom facilities for parents and guests,” said Associate Professor of Theatre Jim Cherry, the Faculty Marshal of Commencement. “I personally like the mall as a site for aesthetic reasons, but there are a lot of good, practical reasons for having it in the stadium.”

An additional benefit is that the traditional Commencement lunch buffet is held in Knowing Fieldhouse, which is immediately adjacent to the stadium.

“From my point of view, we seniors care about graduating—the venue isn’t a huge concern for us,” said Student Body President Bryce McCullough ’23. “We’ll still be walking across that stage and then under the arch for the first time. From what the administration told me, the new stadium makes a lot of sense. It allows us to have more family members in the audience, provides better accessibility for our grandparents and others and gives us optimal audio quality. You bet that I’ll still be taking pictures in front of our historic Chapel afterwards.”

The 185th Commencement Ceremony of Wabash College will begin at 2:30pm on Saturday, May 13 on the field of Little Giant Stadium, honoring the Wabash Class of 2023.



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Dr. Jeremy Hartnett leads the Class of 2022 during the 2022 Commencement Ceremony that began on the College Mall.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Cristian Aleman '22 graduates at Chadwick Court in May 2022. Commencement began on the Mall but moved inside due to inclement weather.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

New graduates of the Class of 2022 embrace during the 2022 Commencement Ceremony that began on the College Mall.

ChatGPT-4 Unveiled: A New Era in Conversational AI

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | CARTOONIST, STAFF WRITER • OpenAI has ushered in a groundbreaking epoch with the unveiling of ChatGPT-4, the most recent version of its highly advanced conversational AI agent. Boasting enhanced accuracy and an unparalleled range of skills, GPT-4 employs a neural network, a complex mathematical system akin to the technology that powers digital assistants like Siri and autonomous vehicles.

OpenAI asserts that ChatGPT-4 has triumphed on the Uniform Bar Exam, earning a score that places it within the top 10% of examinees. This virtual prodigy not only excels in mental arithmetic, but also demonstrates a rare ability to elucidate its thought processes.

The newest model now accepts and interprets images, a feature showcased by OpenAI’s president, Greg Brockman, in a live demonstration on March 14. Upon uploading a photograph of a handwritten note outlining his vision for a website, ChatGPT-4 astoundingly generated the requisite code to materialize his concept.

GPT-4’s prowess is grounded in its analysis of vast troves of data gleaned

from the internet, marking a significant advancement over its predecessor. With uncanny precision, it tackles tasks such as acing the SAT, instantaneously computing tax liabilities and providing intricate descriptions of visual stimuli.

As ChatGPT and similar technologies permeate society, students and educators grapple with the question of whether to embrace or shun these tools. With the potential to revolutionize work by automating tasks such as programming and business operations, the rise of such systems portends a seismic shift in the professional landscape.

Already, a select group of companies have begun to harness the power of GPT-4. Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, for instance, is developing a system that seamlessly retrieves data from company documents and records, presenting it to financial advisors in a digestible, conversational prose.

While they may not supplant doctors, lawyers, or accountants, they could, for instance, render paralegals obsolete, subject to the scrutiny of seasoned legal professionals. Many AI experts also predict a future in which content moderators

are supplanted by these virtual virtuosos.

As we stand on the precipice of this brave new world, the possibilities for innovation and progress are boundless, heralding a new chapter in the annals of artificial intelligence.



IMAGE GENERATED BY MIDJOURNEY

Elevator crashes in Martindale Hall with student inside

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • This past weekend, a Martindale Hall elevator crashed with a student inside. On the evening of March 12, Sean Bledsoe '26 entered the elevator on the basement level, traveling up to the third floor with another student. His companion exited and the doors shut behind him, when instead of continuing to the fourth floor, the elevator began to slowly descend, with Bledsoe still inside.

“I’m not going to lie, it was pretty freaking scary. I haven’t used the elevator since then.”

-Sean Bledsoe '26

“It slowly started going down, slower than usual,” Bledsoe said. This slow descent continued until the first floor. “Once it got past the first floor, it just fell.”

After the rapid drop and impact from one floor, Bledsoe was trapped inside the cabin, with the doors not opening for several minutes, eventually releasing him into the basement.

While Bledsoe escaped unscathed, the incident left an impression.

“I’m not going to lie, it was pretty freaking scary. I haven’t used the elevator since then.”

This is far from the first major building malfunction at Martindale. The elevator crash is not even the first one this semester, considering the flood that occurred soon after students returned from winter break. Campus Services has been in and out of the building, attending to various concerns, including those about the elevators. However, the elevators may be a recurring issue.

“We have somebody come to fix it, then the next day it’s sounding weird or making unusual stops, just not working properly,” Bledsoe said.

Martindale RAs weighed in with their perspective. Nikolai Jones ’24 felt unprepared to deal with a situation like this.

“There was no protocol, which was the most concerning thing,” said Jones. “At other private schools, there’s so much training and bureaucracy, which seems redundant, but it serves a purpose in times like these.”

Jones reflected on the role of autonomy for residential leadership at Wabash.

“That’s something we actually pride ourselves on,” Jones said.

Instead of extensive training for various situations and challenges they may encounter in the position, new RAs feel that they receive minimal guidance from administration, often just a brief run-down from Associate Dean of Students Marc Welch ’02 at the beginning of the year.

“It’s reminiscent of the Gentleman’s Rule, but also highlights some of its shortcomings too,” Jones said.

The other major concern from the independents and RAs is transparency with Campus Services and administration.

“Communication could be better,” Jones said. Regarding ongoing maintenance in Martindale, Jones feels that he has had difficulty getting clear information.

“I emailed Campus Services to ask for a rundown, and no one ever got back to me,” added Jones. “As an RA, I feel obliged to be able to at least provide information to my residents.”

Speaking with *The Bachelor*, Campus Services contested the characterization of the incident as a “crash.”

Still, the students are hopeful for the future of independent housing.

“I hope this event makes the higher-ups on campus more aware of student safety, especially in the dorm rooms,” Bledsoe said. “I think that this incident, with student safety being involved, should make the higher ups take a more thorough look at the elevators to see if they are functioning properly.”

‘Lunch and Learn’ series informs students of the dangers of vaping

JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER • Wabash students have had the opportunity to discuss the dangers of vaping and nicotine through the campus’s first “Lunch and Learn” series, which ended on February 27, 2023. The series centered around informing the student body about vaping and nicotine dependence was led by Student Development and Wellness Coordinator Tristen Abbott.

“This program was designed to be a positive experience and educational opportunity to start having the conversations we need to have about vaping and nicotine dependence,” said Abbott. “It’s an opportunity to evaluate your own vaping use, if applicable, explore alternative options, and consider how to develop healthier lifestyle habits.”

This educational opportunity was open to any student interested, though it was

important that students who signed up attended all of the sessions. This allowed students interested in learning more about vaping and how it can affect them to get the information they wanted.

The four-week program aimed to provide students with valuable information about the details of vaping and nicotine dependency. The programming also gave students the opportunity to discuss the information that was given to them. However, this balance of education and discussion over a four-week period could provide some difficulties for the Lunch and Learn series in the future.

“I would love to have the Lunch and Learn series again,” said Abbott. “However, I know that four weeks is a super long commitment. So we have been toying with the idea of either a two or three week program instead.”

While shortening the series doesn’t seem to present any challenges upfront, the shift would likely require a reworking of the program’s structure itself. This is due to the way in which the program is built to inform as well as provide a discussion space afterwards.

“The programming was adapted from a training from the American Lunch Association,” said Abbott. “They structured their program so that weeks one and two are more material heavy, while weeks three and four focus more on group discussions.”

The discussion that occurred in weeks three and four was critical to the series’s goals. It allowed for the students interested in learning more about vaping and nicotine to be open to each other about how vaping has impacted either them or their peers.

Abbott acknowledges that most of the programming in the initial Lunch and Learn series was critical, so it will be difficult to condense the program in the future.

“When I was initially writing the four week program, it was hard to think of what could possibly be eliminated,” said Abbott. “However, now that we’ve done the program once, I think I have a better idea of how to narrow it down.”

While the potential shifts could present challenges for the Lunch and Learn series, there is no guarantee that these adjustments will be made. The initial run of the four-week series achieved its goals: informing Wabash men about vaping and nicotine dependency. Only time will tell if the series will be adjusted in future renditions or remain the same length.

BACHELOR

301 W. Wabash Ave.,
Crawfordsville, IN, 47933

Twitter: @WabCoBachelor_
Instagram: wabashcollegebachelor

SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cooper E. Smith • cesmith23@wabash.edu

JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sam Benedict • ssbenedi25@wabash.edu

MANAGING EDITOR

Jakob Goodwin • jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu

OPINION EDITOR

Andrew Dever • atdever25@wabash.edu

FEATURES EDITOR

Logan Weilbaker • laweilba25@wabash.edu

SPORTS EDITOR

Benjamin Bullock • bbulloc23@wabash.edu

PHOTO EDITORS

Jake Paige • jwpaige23@wabash.edu

Elijah Greene • eagreene25@wabash.edu

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 500 words.

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Guest Opinion:
The Sphinx Club is not
diverse. Here's why.



Kihyun Kim '23

Reply to this opinion at
kkim24@wabash.edu

Recently, it came to my attention that there have been criticisms that the Sphinx Club is not racially diverse. The Sphinx Club, founded in 1921, is a student organization that has had chapters in various schools in Indiana. Wabash College's Sphinx Club is its only existing chapter in the present day. Aiming to foster campus unity and spirit, the club initially started as an interfraternity leadership club but soon changed its policy to recruit members from all living units on campus. Undoubtedly, the Sphinx Club has been an integral part of Wabash since its foundation. Even Wabash's mascot character "Wally" is often described as wearing a "white pot" and "stripe," which are symbols of the Sphinx Club members.

“It can be easily misunderstood that the Sphinx Club does not welcome people of color, especially when its new members are predominantly white. However, when one sees the Sphinx Club as a whole, he will quickly notice that such a claim is false.”

So, is the Sphinx Club racially diverse? Although it is hard to quantify diversity, I find it hard to say it is racially diverse. No. The Sphinx Club is not racially diverse. Only a few members of the club are people of color, and it is easily noticeable. Then, is Sphinx Club not racially diverse because its members intentionally discriminate against people of color? Based on my experience of being a member of the Sphinx

Club and my interactions with others who are part of it, I can attest that there is no such discrimination. Race does not play any role in selecting pledge members of the Sphinx Club nor affect the affiliation process, commonly known as rhyneship. Instead, one's social groups-such as a fraternity, sports teams, organizations/clubs-and performance in those groups are much more important.

Then, why are there only a few Sphinx Club members who are people of color? I firmly believe it is because of Wabash College's ethnic diversity. According to the US News, 24% of Wabash students are racial minorities, while 76% are White. If one calculates the current ethnic diversity of the Sphinx Club (the current club member list is open to the public), they will find out that it similarly resembles Wabash's ethnic diversity. It can be easily misunderstood that the Sphinx Club does not welcome people of color, especially when its new members are predominantly white. However, when one sees the Sphinx Club as a whole, he will quickly notice that such a claim is false. Being a leadership society that tries to recruit student body leaders, I firmly believe (and as far as I know) the Sphinx Club does not give that much attention to one's socio-economic background, including race, as being a leader is not related to such characteristics.

Still, although racial discrimination is most likely not the reason why the Sphinx Club is not racially diverse, it is true that it is not racially diverse. I can see and understand why some people think this is an issue. However, it is not the Sphinx Club's job to solve this: it is the college's. Wabash has claimed that "We might be the best school in America," but recruited most students from a few specific states. If the college truly believes that we are the best school in America, it should try to expand its territory, which would require many changes in its fundamental structure of recruiting strategy and student life. However, I believe we have enough resources to achieve such a goal. The problem is if the college wants to do this. Of course, this is a complicated issue and needs a lot of discussions, and I don't believe this job can be done in a short period of time. However, I would love to see more diverse backgrounds on campus when I visit Wabash in the future.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

BETA THETA BYE

Hi-Five to the Beta senior class for—wait, are there any of them left?

A PROACTIVE APOLOGY

Hi-Five to March Madness for providing us a respite from the post-midterms slump. Professors, we hope you'll forgive us for watching basketball in class instead of paying attention to your slides. Blix, until you can dunk, we're checked out.

CAN'T STAND THESE
SNOWFLAKES

Lo-Five to Joe Rogan for opening an "anti-woke" comedy club in Austin, TX where the attendees are required to turn in their phones at the door. Way to prove how fearless and thick-skinned comedy should be, guys.

CORPORATE NEEDS YOU
TO FIND THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN THESE TWO
PICTURES

Hi-Five to the Raiders for cutting Derek Carr only to sign Jimmy G. Sounds to us that Las Vegas fans can expect more of the same in a better looking package.

KEEP MALALA'S NAME
OUT YOUR F---ING
MOUTH!

Lo-Five to Jimmy Kimmel for his awkward moment with Malala Yousafzai at the Oscars last weekend. Asking a Nobel Peace Prize winner about two actors spitting on each other is about as dumb as two Dork Club members giving people dating advice.

My Issue with Dr. Carl Hart's Stance on Drugs:
The Pursuit of Biased Happiness



Isaac Caines '23

Reply to this opinion at
itcaines23@wabash.edu

A few weeks ago, when I first heard the news that Dr. Carl Hart, a well-established American psychologist and neuroscientist, was planning a trip to our campus, I could not help but feel intrigued by his unique stance on drugs. When I first heard of the fella, I immediately resorted to Google in order to get some quick information about his theories and beliefs. One of the things I came across was YouTube videos of Dr. Hart speaking on Joe Rogan's podcast, where I got my first glimpse into his deeply problematic stance on drugs. Hart published a book that has been floating around campus over the past little bit titled *Drug Use for Grown-Ups: Chasing Liberty in the Land of the Fear*. At first, I was seriously excited to get into the read and see what this guy is all about, but then I began reading. Dr. Hart does an impressive job at looking back over history and giving a fresh look at drugs such as cannabis, cocaine, MDMA, and other various sorts. Before we get any further, for those of you that do not know, Dr. Carl Hart advocates for an open use drug policy. He believes that an individual who meets his definition of a "grown-up" should be allowed to utilize whatever drug they deem necessary to live up to the pursuit of happiness authorized by the United States Declaration of Independence.

In the first chapter of Dr. Carl Hart's book, he outlines a bit of his past and talks about how he managed to get to where he is today, so if you are wondering about that, then you should resort to reading his book rather than seeking those answers in this article. The point of this article is to highlight his problematic suggestion that the pursuit of happiness requires a broad acceptance and legalization of drugs that kill people every day. Dr. Hart begins his stance by making it known that at one time, he was "just like the others" who were avidly against certain drug use, especially in a recreational sense; however, as he spent more time researching cannabis, cocaine, and MDMA his original stance began to change... quite similar to how a person who tries a drug and likes it veers from a stance they may have once held that opposed the use

of the said drug. Hart wrote about his time in Geneva working at a heroin clinic responsible for administering heroin to individuals who are heroin dependent, or in other words, addicted. His time around these individuals had a remarkable impact on his stance on drug use and is partially responsible for his belief that those who do drugs are simply pursuing happiness. Well, Mr. Hart, you are right about one thing: these individuals are simply pursuing happiness, a skewed version, but a version of happiness nonetheless.

My issue with this is the potential that this particular pursuit of happiness has shown time and time again that users of certain drugs of high potency tend to infringe upon other individual's happiness; and if you think this is an inaccurate statement, consider a grown-up drug user who has begun to neglect their children because they are nodding off. Hart gives a stern warning in his spill about drugs that it is essential for an individual not to take what he is saying and relate it to drug users one may know because of the possibility that they have not met the criteria that he has provided that is required to be considered grown-up in his sense.

I come from the tri-state area between Kentucky, Ohio and West Virginia, and for those of you that do not know, this is an area that has been severely and negatively affected by the opioid epidemic as well as other drugs, including Dr. Carl Hart's beloved heroin. Needless to say, some of my family and dearest childhood friends that I grew up with have led themselves down a rather unfortunate path of drug abuse, and I have been a first-hand witness of how it changes and shapes an individual's drive.

With this in mind, at the end of Hart's lunch talk last week, I was eager to ask him about his thoughts regarding a person who has experienced such a long spout of unhappiness or depression that when they experience "happiness" offered by a drug such as heroin, they are fooled into thinking that true happiness is only offered by the drug they have been using. Although Dr. Carl Hart is clearly intelligent and well worth respecting, his response was downright ignorant. Carl looked at me with no hesitation and claimed that the idea of a person experiencing a high so enjoyable that they chase that high until they get it again is a MYTH. I am referring to what common drug users (specifically heroin users) call "chasing the dragon." Since he admitted to having heroin in his system while giving this speech, I couldn't help but write him off as a biased drug user, which I think he would understand more than I do since he is so well-trained in psychology.

I am honestly appalled at his suggestion that it is a myth that drug users "chase the

dragon" because when my best childhood friend was enduring some of the most challenging days of his life, he would look at me and tell me about how when he is sober all he can think about is the pill and that no matter how much time passes or what other substance he abuses, the void can only be filled by one thing: the drug. This is ultimately the reason drug users relapse. In Hart's response to me, he resorted to a point about an orgasm and how no one experiences an orgasm so great that they chase it; this seems like an inaccurate statement considering that there is such a thing as sexual addiction. At the end of the day, while most students here at Wabash have been idolizing Hart for his stance on drugs, I have been trying to figure out how he rationalizes claiming that "chasing the dragon" is a myth when each and every one of us "chase the dragon" in one way or another (obviously in a way that does not involve the use of heroin, but instead we chase the dragon by doing things such as sports such as soccer for example because there is only one way to get the feeling of scoring a soccer goal

and that is by playing soccer).

Then it finally hit me; he is an "unapologetic drug user" because he has experienced the same high that has altered so many other unfortunate minds, and he can't fathom a happy life without the needle or whatever his avenue of use is. I think it is a dangerous ploy to suggest the normalization of heroin and other potent drugs that terrorize families and communities across the globe. I can't help but wonder where Carl Hart would be had he begun using heroin before 1996 when he obtained his Ph.D. in psychology/neuroscience. Ultimately, I think Hart advocates for a biased version of happiness so in my opinion he should reconsider his advocative approach.

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FEATURES

Spring break takes Wabash students around the globe



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Dr. Eric Wetzel's Biology of Invertebrates class traveled to South Water Caye, Belize, where they studied at the IZE research facility and snorkeled along the second largest coral reef in the world.



COURTESY OF DR. ZACHERY KOPPELMANN

Members of the Writing Center traveled to Athens, Greece, where they participated in a research exchange with the Student Academic Support Services team at the American College of Greece.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Assistant Professor of French Karen Quandt's French Language and Francophone Culture and Introduction to French Literature classes traveled to Paris and Normandy, France, where the students presented their research on various French landmarks.



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Review: I scream, you scream, we all scream for Scream VI



COURTESY OF DOLBY

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • A sequel to a 'requel,' six films in, "Scream VI" has no right being as awesome as it is, and yet here we are. The first Scream ranks among my favorite films of all time and five movies later, I can honestly say there is no "Scream" film I do not love. That being said, some are better than others; "Scream VI," is better than most. "Scream VI" follows the "core four" survivors from 2022's "Scream," Tera Carpenter (Jenna Ortega), Sam Carpenter (Melissa Barrera), Mindy Meeks-Martin (Jasmin Savoy Brown) and Chad Meeks-Martin (Mason Gooding), as they relocate to New York, going to college, partying, and getting menaced

by a new Ghostface. Despite being the first "Scream film without Sidney Prescott (Neve Campbell), Scream VI, manages to capitalize on returning characters Gale Weathers (Courteney Cox) and Kirby Reed (Hayden Panettiere), while still letting the new characters shine. In this way, the Scream franchise continues to subvert horror tropes by building interesting and likable characters as opposed to expendable meat to be slaughtered solely for spectacle.

That being said, this film does have its fair share of both slaughter and spectacle, but not at the expense of the story. Jason took Manhattan in "Friday the 13: Part 8" (a movie explicitly referenced in "Scream VI") and now it's Ghostface's turn. The movie begins with the opening kill scene we've come to expect from "Scream"; And yet, it manages to turn things around with a shocking twist, leading to the best opening to a "Scream" film since the first. The excellence doesn't stop there, with quite possibly the most intimidating Ghostface yet, the series continues to ramp up the scares, while still managing to feel unique. The new environment lends itself well to creating interesting and creative perils for our main characters, with a standout scene on a crowded New York Subway.

I'm thankful to "Scream" (2022) and now "Scream VI" for keeping my favorite horror franchise going on strong for longer than I would have ever expected, all while honoring the legacy of its originator Wes Craven.

FINAL VERDICT:
5/5 WALLYS



What might next year's Senate look like ? Students weigh in

JAMES WALLACE '26 | STAFF WRITER • In one week, campus will come to life with warring campaigns vying to take the reins of the student body and become the next Student Senate cabinet. Friday, March 24 marks the end of the registration period for student government elections for the 2023-2024 Senate Cabinet and Chief Justice. This will mark the beginning of the official campaigns of anyone registered for the elections this year. But what do students want to see this year that is different from last year's elections?

"I think that if anyone thinks they can serve, then they should definitely run in the election," said Interfraternity Council President Brett Driscoll '24. "I think having more candidates would be good."

This push for more candidates is supported by many students across campus, as it would allow the student body to have more options when it comes time to cast their vote. This comes after only two Student Senate cabinets were on the ballot last year, leaving campus without many options.

However, an increase in candidates would likely also complicate the debate process. More candidates would make it harder for each campaign to set themselves apart and for their goals to be heard.

"I think the debates last year were pretty good," said Driscoll. "My only concern this year is a bigger space, rather than having them at Baxter like last year."

Moving the debates to a larger space would likely encourage attendance and

potentially increase voter turnout, as students would have the opportunity to be more well-informed about who they are voting for.

Another concern among students is the length of the process itself. Matthew Lepper '25, President of the Independent Men's Association, believes that the length of the election process last year was too long, and that adjustments should be made.

"Last year, cabinet elections went far too long. The majority of voting took place within the first couple of days, yet campaigning went on for two weeks," said Lepper. "It should be short and sweet. Allow those running to give a thorough background on themselves as well as the cabinet, but then turn over to voting rather quickly."

Regardless of these concerns going forwards, students across campus know that they will only be voting for a cabinet that represents their own values. For most, that means a cabinet that strives for unity and promotion of the Wabash culture.

"A student cabinet body should be a cabinet of motivated individuals that work tirelessly to make Wabash the best campus it can possibly be," said Lepper. "They should be free of any predispositions or agendas, but rather have Wabash and their fellow peers as their main priority."

As registration wraps up for this year's elections, students are curious to see how this year's process will play out. Voting will begin on April 10 and conclude on April 12.

Meet the new Student Senate Chairman: Ben Jansen '24



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Ben Jansen '24 (middle) adds his name to the Rules of Order book after being sworn in as Chairman of Student Senate on December 13, 2022.

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • There's a new Chairman in town: Ben Jansen '24, a junior biology major and a chemistry and Spanish double minor hailing from Kendall, Indiana. Coming to Wabash after graduating from East Noble High School, Jansen quickly got involved across campus.

As a freshman, he became a brother of Lambda Chi Alpha, got involved with the Spanish Club and Global Health Initiative (GHI) and served the Class of '24 as a class representative in the Student Senate. Once he was fully adjusted to the changes that college life presents, Jansen's impact on campus grew further, and he stepped up as a student leader with a bigger role in the college. Subsequently, Jansen's work with the GHI allowed him to give back to the community through an internship with the Noble County Health Department. In this capacity, Jansen helped facilitate the second round of vaccinations in his community, solidifying his reasoning for why he wants to pursue a career in public health as a dentist. In Lambda, Jansen held the distinct honor of serving as the primary "ritualist," responsible for "developing the secret and detailed initiation process."

"It was truly meaningful to be involved in something greater than myself," Jansen said.

And most prominently, this semester, Jansen was elected as the Chairman of the Student Senate, starting a term that will last for the duration of the calendar year. In his role as Chairman, Jansen oversees all Student Senate meetings.

"I mainly make sure the meetings run smoothly and surely... and that everyone has the platform to speak what they want to say [and] everyone's being heard," Jansen said.

Additionally, as a member of Senate, Jansen is tasked with handling issues brought up during Senate, including the schedule of Senate, club-funding and—as of late controversially—financing various clubs. Nevertheless, Jansen has embraced the role and continues to enjoy helping the Senate provide for and aid the Wabash student body.

Additionally, Jansen has benefited greatly from the Wabash experience, including having the opportunity to study

abroad this past summer in Valencia, Spain. Jansen was enriched by the cultural and educational exchange that occurred daily through his Spanish studies.

"What's so great about studying abroad is that not only are you able to learn so much about the culture that you are living in, but you can also travel outside and experience the greater trends of a unique way of living. It is truly eye opening," Jansen said.

For example, Jansen was able to participate in a special Valenciano tradition, called the festival of San Juan, where the population would gather on the beach at midnight, build giant fires and blast music and then jump over the flames seven times to make seven wishes for the year. With much of Valencia present at the festival, Jansen was able to make new connections and have a truly novel experience abroad while improving his Spanish and enjoying the nice Mediterranean weather.

Furthermore, Jansen was a part of the Biology of Invertebrates class that spent Spring Break on an immersion course in Belize studying the ecology and invertebrates native to the region on an island about 12 miles offshore. Through this instruction-based opportunity, Jansen and his classmates built off their previous exposure in biology, further enriching their academic experience at the college, and had the privilege of snorkeling twice a day to get an in-depth look at the invertebrates and conduct research for projects as part of their class.

Looking towards the future, Jansen will begin applying to dental schools this upcoming summer, with subsequent interviews, applications, and meetings following in the fall. After he graduates in the spring of 2024, Jansen will head straight to dental school for four years, divided between two years of in-class learning and then two years of clinical learning through practicing on actual patients and developing skills in the field. Once he graduates from dental school, Jansen suspects that he will pursue a dental route involving surgery or another dental specialty but is committed to keeping an open mind about his potential professional prospects.

Women on Campus holds luncheon and crafts event



PHOTOS BY JAKE PAIGE '23

The Women on Campus Committee welcomed Stacey Burkhardt and Kristin Thayer (top left), owners of Sweet Pickin's craft shop, Wednesday afternoon in Detchon International Hall. The pair led a make-and-take crafting workshop in which the attendees made a spring decoration while enjoying a light lunch and warm company. The Committee organizes monthly meetings to promote community awareness and provide fellowship for the ladies who work on campus.

Word ladder

Turn the top word into the bottom word by changing only one letter at a time. For an extra challenge, try to get the optimal number of steps.

KICK

ROAD

BALL
(5 steps)

STOP
(6 steps)

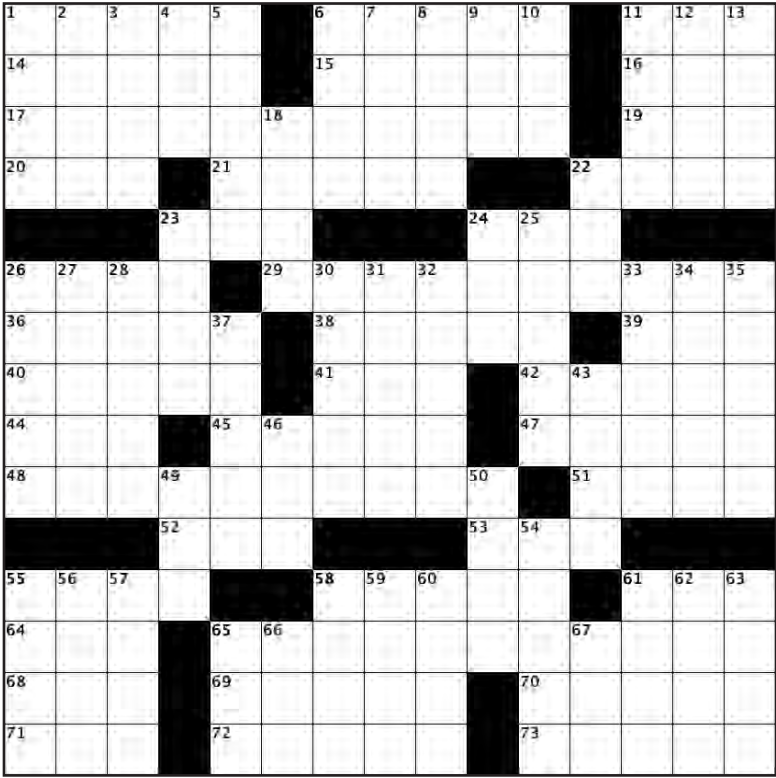
WIND

TRUE

MILL
(5 steps)

THAT
(4 steps)

'And the Oscar goes to....'

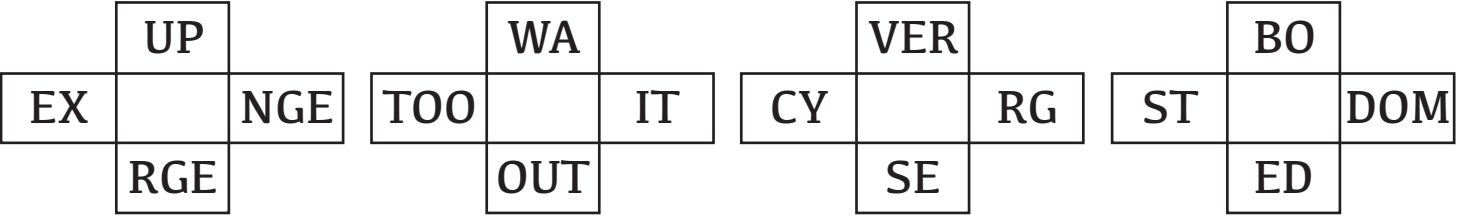


- Across**
- 1. "Hocus Pocus" setting
 - 6. Emulates Hugh Glass in "The Revenant"
 - 11. The Dark Knight's symbol
 - 14. Like Guy, vis a vis the other characters in "Free Guy"
 - 15. Game fish featured in "A River Runs Through It"
 - 16. "Pokémon: The First Movie" protagonist
 - 17. "And the Oscar goes to..." (1995)
 - 19. "Titanic" heartthrob
 - 20. Yellowstone bugler
 - 21. Writes a screenplay, say
 - 22. "Cocaine ____" (2023)
 - 23. Birth day gift?
 - 24. Guardians of the Galaxy antagonist
 - 26. Eat up, with "down"
 - 29. "And the Oscar goes to..." (1943)
 - 36. Both leading actresses in "The Parent Trap" (1998)
 - 38. Los Angeles theatre that's home to the Oscars
 - 39. Not 'neath
 - 40. Film still, e.g.
 - 41. Follower of "Inside" or "Knives"
 - 42. Liable (to)
 - 44. Body of eau
 - 45. Like many sequels, stereotypically
 - 47. Ornamental with showy leaves
 - 48. "And the Oscar goes to..." (1996)
 - 51. Discount word
 - 52. Mr. Potato Head piece
 - 53. Practical effect in "Deepwater Horizon"
 - 55. Adult film
 - 58. Aside (from)
 - 61. Leia's lover
 - 64. Anger
 - 65. Academy Award won by each of the three films in this puzzle's longest answers
 - 68. Number of hated things, in a famous movie poem
 - 69. Hit it big
 - 70. Ed of "The Hangover"
 - 71. Boss Baby, for one
 - 72. Makeup of Cogsworth's mustache
 - 73. Buy for bakers and brewers
- Down**
- 1. "Ocean's 11" target
 - 2. Off base?
 - 3. "Happy as a" bird
 - 4. Blow it
 - 5. Comes together, like Harry and Sally
 - 6. ____://www.imdb.com
 - 7. Burning desire
 - 8. "Entre ____" (French film)
 - 9. "Cats" cat Rum ____ Tugger
 - 10. Popular gas additive
 - 11. "The Dark Knight" star
 - 12. Like Moana, for most of the movie
 - 13. Marvel film spurring three sequels
 - 18. What Oscar co-presenters might speak in
 - 22. "Snakes on a Plane" menace
 - 23. Oscars attendee's "bag"
 - 24. Flow's counterpart
 - 25. Ancient Egyptian symbol
 - 26. "____ Ev'ry Mountain"
 - 27. "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" writer
 - 28. "Gone With the Wind" role
 - 30. Idolize an actor
 - 31. "The Stars and Stripes Forever" composer
 - 32. Take in, as a dress
 - 33. Western loop
 - 34. Piggy bank filler
 - 35. Sites
 - 37. Like "Star Wars: Episode III," vis a vis "Star Wars: Episode IV"
 - 43. "____ the tape!"
 - 46. Unit of resistance
 - 49. Fillmore, in "Cars"
 - 50. Actress Spelling
 - 54. "The ____ & Scratchy Show"
 - 55. One half of Brangelina
 - 56. "Milk's favorite cookie," according to ads
 - 57. Musical with a 2005 movie adaptation
 - 58. P ____ pterodactyl (confusing spelling hint)
 - 59. "American Sniper" theme
 - 60. "Planet of the ____"
 - 61. "Lilo & Stitch" dance
 - 62. General Grievous's four
 - 63. It's for the birds
 - 65. Scrooge's cross word
 - 66. Silent or Golden, in film history
 - 67. Theatrical start?

Scan for solution!



At the crossroads



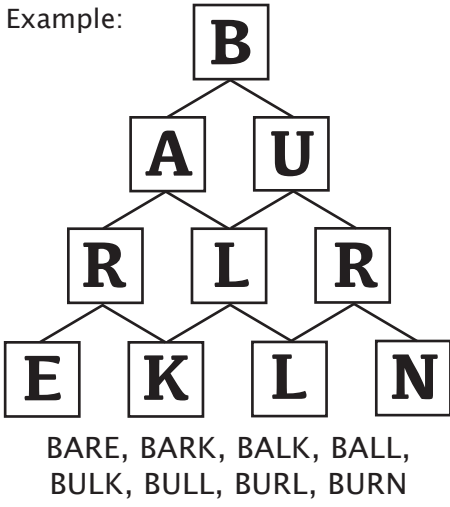
Fill in the crossing boxes with letters that will complete a word vertically and horizontally. When entered correctly, they will spell out the answer the riddle below.

What is black when it's clean and white when it's dirty?

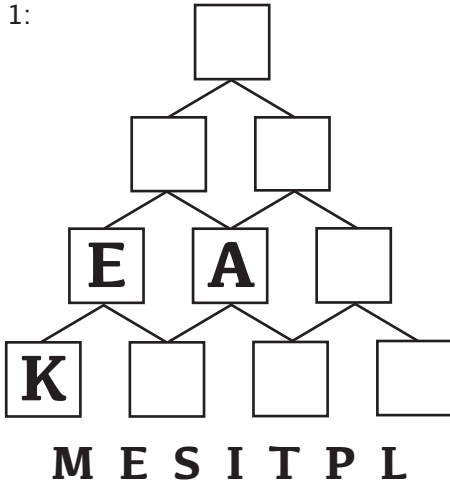
Word waterfall

Place the given letters given below each diagram into the squares to form eight four-letter word reading from top to bottom. The top letter is the first letter of all eight words, each letter in the second row is the second letter of four words, and so on.

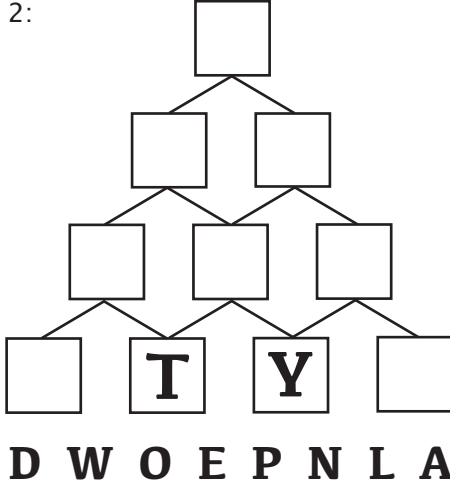
Example:



1:



2:



Sudoku

3	7	4					2	
1	5			6	2	9		
			3			1		
9		2	5			4	7	
	3	7		2	6		5	
			4				1	
7	9				5	3		8
2	4	3	6		8		9	
8			9		1		4	

Easy

				4				1
			6		4	7	3	
4	8		9					7
	9		5		8		2	
7	5		2		8			
	4		3	1				
2	7	6			9			5
1		8		5				6

Medium

				6	2			
9	4					7		3
					4		2	
		9		5			8	
	8		4		6	1		
		4	2		8	3	9	
	6					5		
7		5					3	1
					1		7	

Hard

Complete the grid by entering one number in each square so that each row, column and square contains the numbers 1-9 only once.

‘A pure pleasure to coach’

Jack Heldt ’23 wins national title, goes unbeaten on the season

BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Jack Heldt ’23 firmly cemented his Wabash legacy by capturing the national title at 285-pounds on Saturday, March 11, at the NCAA Division III National Championships in Roanoke, Virginia. He joins an exclusive club of Wabash wrestlers, becoming the fifth Little Giant to win a national championship.

The national title capped off an impressive college career for the Carmel native, finishing with a 91-14 record over four years. It also made him just the second Wabash wrestler to compete for two consecutive national titles, with four-time champion Riley Lefever ’17 the only other Little Giant to do so.

Heldt went into the national tournament seeded number one and unbeaten on the year. In the first two rounds held on Friday, March 10, Heldt swept aside the University of Chicago’s Cole Fibranz and the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Carl DiGiorgio to make it to Saturday’s semifinal and secure All-America honors.

In the semifinal, Heldt faced off against fourth-seeded Tyler Kim of Augsburg University. Just 2:46 into the match, Heldt put Kim on his back and pinned him to the mat—Heldt had secured his place in the final, where he would wrestle the No. 3 seed Kaleb Reeves of Coe College.

“It’s definitely a rollercoaster of emotions—not much sleep is had over the weekend, that’s for sure” Heldt said. “But once you get to the tournament, you have to realize that you’ve already done as much as you can. So even in the matches where I knew I was the favorite, I just had to go out there and keep doing my thing, try not to let the pressure get to me.”

“It is a pure pleasure to coach Jack Heldt. His day-to-day approach and championship lifestyle have been the key to his success. He is a relentless worker and competes in everything he does.”

- Coach Brian Anderson

Reeves came into the final off the back of an upset victory over Olivet College’s Donovan King. But he was no match for the in-form Heldt. The Little Giant dominated the match, taking an early lead and holding out for a 6-1 victory. Heldt was the national champion.

“It is a pure pleasure to coach Jack Heldt,” said Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson. “He has done a great job at being very coachable during his career at Wabash and knows how to adapt in high pressure matches, which is a special gift to have. His day-to-day approach and championship lifestyle have been the key to his success. He is a relentless worker and competes in everything he does.”

Heldt finished the season undefeated with a 40-0 record, despite this being his first year wrestling at 285. In all three of his previous



COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

Jack Heldt ’23 defeated third-seeded Kaleb Reeves of Coe College in the 285-pound final at the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament on March 11, 2023, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Virginia.



COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

Jack Heldt ’23 grapples with the University of Chicago’s Cole Fibranz in the first round of the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament on March 11, 2023, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

years at Wabash, he had wrestled in the 197-pound category where, in 2022, he finished as national runner-up. But the shift, he says, came naturally.

“It honestly wasn’t a crazy adjustment,” said Heldt. “Wrestling is wrestling, so it’s not like by going up weight class I reinvented

the wheel. I just worked really hard over the summer to put on as much mass as possible and try to get to where a lot of the other heavyweights are.”

The senior’s undefeated year is made even more impressive by the fact that, in the middle of the season, he had to study for com-

prehensive exams. But student-athlete as he is, Heldt achieved a distinction in biology, the highest grade awarded on senior comps.

Five other Little Giants wrestled at the national tournament, including Chase Baczek ’25 who, alongside Heldt, also earned All-America honors. Baczek placed seventh at

184 pounds, falling to a 3-2 defeat in the opening round of competition. He was, however, able to make amends in the seventh-place bout, defeating Roanoke College’s Mahli Sallah with an 8-0 major decision.

James Day ’26 entered the tournament as the No. 3 seed at 125. However, Day fell in his opening match to the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point’s Luca Paladino in a 5-3 decision. Evan Burge ’23, who competed at 141, also lost in the first round after having beaten Bradley Rosen of North Central College in the preliminary match.

The Little Giants finished tenth in the standings, extending the team’s run of top ten finishes to seven years.

“The coaching staff knew that this season would be a ‘hold in the top 10’ season,” said Coach Anderson. “Our expectation is to never fall out of the top 10, and we fully expect to challenge for a top four trophy next season. We have finished in the top 10 at nationals every year since 2014, and we don’t plan to stop!”

With five of Wabash’s six national qualifiers returning in 2023-24, the Little Giants hope to come back even stronger next year.

“It’s tough to lose the firepower we did to graduation in 2022, and we were a very young team this year,” said Coach Anderson. “But place a strong recruiting class on top of [this year’s national qualifiers] and good things are going to happen at the 2024 Championships. I’m excited already!”



COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

Jack Heldt ’23 pins the U.S. Coast Guard Academy’s Carl DiGiorgio in the second round of the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament on March 11, 2023, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Virginia.



COURTESY OF KODIAK CREATIVE

Jack Heldt ’23 celebrates after defeating Tyler Kim of Augsburg University in the semifinal round of the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament on March 11, 2023, at the Berglund Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

Diemer-McKinney '26 takes third place at indoor nationals

Continued from front page

chance. Fortunately for Diemer-McKinney, he made the cut—he was going to Birmingham for the national championships.

“It was seven o’clock on Sunday night, and my heart was pounding,” said Diemer-McKinney. “I thought to myself, ‘I don’t know if I’m going to make it.’ But then I clicked the accepted entries and saw my name at 16—I just went nuts.”

Diemer-McKinney wasn’t fazed by the low ranking. In his semifinal heat on Friday, March 10, he pulled away into second place early on. But as he jostled for position, he slipped down into fourth, where he finished outside of the automatic qualifying places.

There were a few tense seconds while the officials finalized the times, but it didn’t take long for the result to come through: Diemer-McKinney had clocked a time of 1:51.73, enough to earn him the final spot in Saturday’s final.

“The benefit of being in the last heat is you are able to know how well everybody else ran, but I really didn’t want that to get to my head,” said Diemer-McKinney. “Getting fourth in that heat, I really thought that was it. So, when the announcer said my name, I couldn’t believe it. And with it being the very last qualifying spot, it was extra special.”

“It was the best national meet I have seen in my 22 years of coaching. Haiden ran two very mature races.”

- Coach Clyde Morgan

He may have gone in as the lowest seed, but he wasn’t going to let the opportunity pass him by. In the final round, Diemer-McKinney stormed his way into third place, but it wasn’t without a fight. At the 400m mark, he sat in fifth place behind MIT’s Charlie Glass. But as Glass fell off in the third lap, Diemer-McKinney saw his opportunity to chase down third-place Garrett Lenners of Nebraska Wesleyan.

As the runners hurtled down the back stretch, Diemer-McKinney sized up Lenners. He took to Lenners’ right-hand side and, lunging forward with all his might, strode past the Nebraskan with an ease

one might only expect from a professional. And as he rounded the final corner and crossed the finish line, Diemer-McKinney threw up his hands in disbelief, awestruck by the moment on DIII’s biggest stage.

“It was the best national meet I have seen in my 22 years of coaching,” said Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan. “Haiden ran two very mature races. He wasn’t satisfied with just qualifying for the final, he was in it to win it.”

Nor was he satisfied to run any ordinary race. His time of 1:50.16 was over a second and half quicker than his previous fastest time.

“I had a true runner’s high,” said Diemer-McKinney. “I didn’t even notice we were going that fast. I remember moving up into fourth going into the last lap and thinking, ‘okay, we gotta go for it.’ It was just a lot of adrenaline.”

Diemer-McKinney may not have won the race, but it was by far the toughest field he has faced all season. The winner of the race, Mike Jasa of Loras College, finished in a time of 1:49.30, setting a new NCAA DIII championship record. Despite the fierce competition, Diemer-McKinney proved to everybody that he deserved to mix it with the best.

“If I had to sum up Haiden in one word, it would have to be dedicated,” said teammate Thomas Gaines ’23. “On and off the track, he excels in everything he does. Whether it be making friends, getting all A’s, or placing third in the nation—he makes it all look easy. Don’t let that fool you though, he works day in and day out honing the craft of being a perfect student-athlete.”

Diemer-McKinney’s stellar performance at nationals topped off what has been another remarkable indoor season for the track and field team. Over the weekend of February 24-25, the Little Giants competed in the NCAC Indoor Championships. Hosted at DePauw, Wabash finished in first place out of eight teams and clinched their ninth NCAC title.

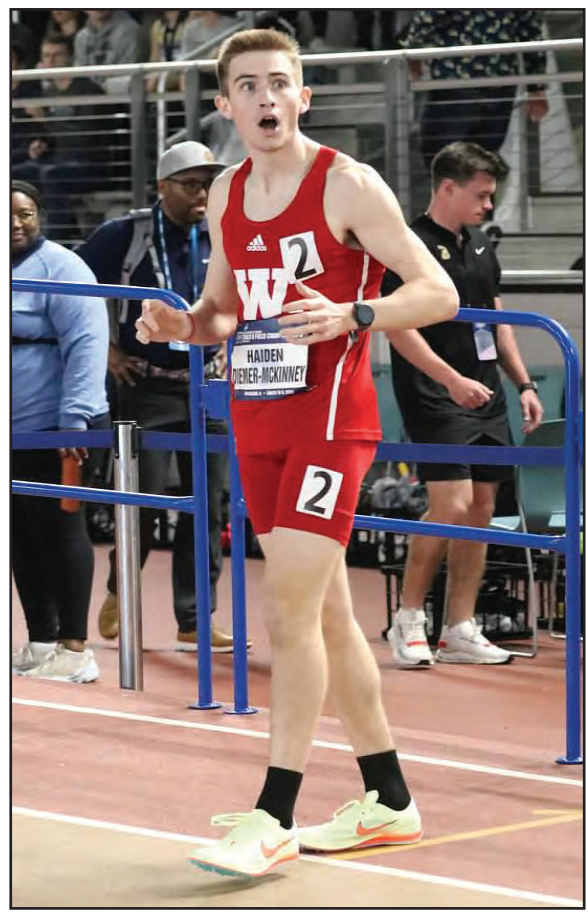
Quinn Sholar ’26 was the star of the show, receiving the NCAC Men’s Field Athlete of the Year and All-NCAC honors after winning the shot put with a mark of 15.87 meters. Sholar also finished third in the weight throw, setting a season-best distance of 16.45 meters.

But there were winners all



COURTESY OF DEAN STEVEN JONES

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 overtakes Charlie Glass of MIT in the men’s 800m run at the NCAA DIII National Championships at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama.



COURTESY OF DEAN STEVEN JONES

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 reacts after finishing third in the men’s 800m run at the NCAA DIII National Championships at the Birmingham CrossPlex in Birmingham, Alabama.

around for the Little Giants. In the men’s mile, Brayden Curnutt ’25 finished in first place with a time of 4:21.73. Curnutt was also part of the team that won the men’s distance medley relay. Alongside Diemer-McKinney, Will Neubauer ’25 and Howie Steele ’24, the quartet of Wabash runners finished almost five seconds ahead of second-place Oberlin with a time of 10:27.89. Wabash also won the 4x400 relay, the team of Neubauer, Steele, Nathan France ’24 and TK Walls ’23 finishing with a time of 3:23.18.

“The young guys on the team have done exactly what we asked them to do: don’t put pressure on yourself, just continue to have fun and work hard,” said Coach Morgan. “Those guys have done a phenomenal job stepping in and helping us win championships.”

In field events, Jake Oostman ’25 finished third in the long jump with a mark of 6.48 meters. Oostman also finished fifth in the high jump, while teammate Kannon Chase ’26 finished third.

With the indoor season fully wrapped up, the team now looks



COURTESY OF DEAN STEVEN JONES

Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 (center) celebrates after winning the men’s 800m run with Coach Tyler McCreary (left) and Head Track and Field Coach Clyde Morgan (right) at the NCAA DIII National Championships in Birmingham, Alabama.

toward the outdoor portion of their year. The Little Giants open with trips to Eastern Illinois University and Murray State University on March 24-25. Wabash will host a

home outdoor event later on this season, the Huntsman Family Invitational, which will take place on Saturday, April 8.

Baseball brings the heat in south Florida

LIAM BUCKLEY '23 | BASEBALL WRITER • For seven days in southwest Florida, the Little Giants baseball team brought the heat to the Suncoast.

Powered by an offensive onslaught and dominant starting pitching, Wabash went 6-2 against a series of non-conference opponents including Misericordia University, Swarthmore College, Lebanon Valley College, Kean University, Saint John’s University and Western Connecticut State.

The squad got off to a slow start on Sunday, March 5, in Port Charlotte, losing both games of a double-header against Misericordia by final scores of 3-8 and 2-5. The matchups were the closest games Wabash would play all week, and from there they didn’t look back, racking up 23 runs in a win against Swarthmore the next day and a total of 60 runs over their next five games. Perhaps aware of the nor’easter bearing down on their home campuses, Wabash’s opponents averaged only six runs per game compared to the Little Giants eleven.

“It was a great week in Florida—we faced some really good competition,” said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin. “I thought the guys did a nice job of playing solid baseball all week long. From a pitching standpoint, we were really good. Defense was strong all week and the bats came alive in several of the games.”

“From a pitching standpoint, we were really good. Defense was strong all week and the bats came alive in several of the games”

- Coach Jake Martin

The story of Wednesday’s win against Kean was Caleb Everson’s ’26 electric pitching performance. In eight innings pitched, Everson gave up just four hits, struck out seven and allowed zero earned



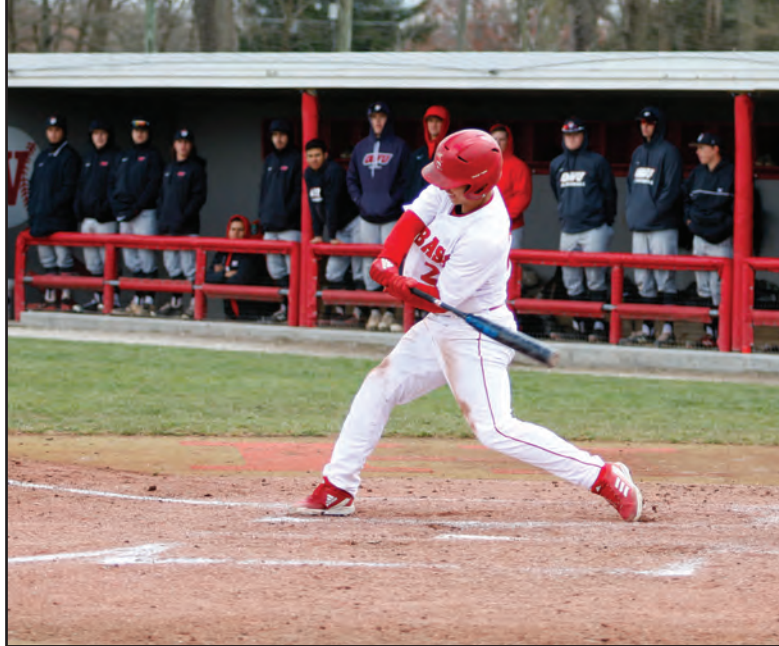
COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Against Ohio Wesleyan University on April 19, 2022, at Goodrich Ballpark. Above, AJ Reid '24 transfers the ball from his glove, looking to throw to first base. Below, Kamden Earley '25 takes a swing.

runs. The start earned him NCAC Pitcher of the Week honors for the second time this season, the first one having come the week of February 19.

“It feels great to have contributed to the team in a positive way,” said Everson. “Our team has been working hard all year, and it’s nice to see W’s early. I think all of us are proud of the way we bounced back after a rough start. We didn’t get discouraged after two losses to a good team, and then played some really good baseball the rest of the week.”

“Caleb is really competitive,” said Martin. “The moment wasn’t too big for him. He throws a lot of strikes and can throw multiple pitches for strikes. He doesn’t look like a freshman out there.”



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Everson was not the only Little Giant starter to deliver on the mound. In Friday’s matchup against Saint Johns, Grant Stratton ’25 went seven innings giving up two runs and striking out six. Derek Haslett ’23 bounced back from a rough outing against Misericordia by pitching five innings of two-run ball against Western Connecticut.

On offense, the power bats of A.J. Reid ’24 and Kamden Earley ’25 proved a formidable duo in the top third of the order. During the seven-game stretch, Reid hit .471 while driving in eight runs and homering twice. Earley was similarly impressive, reaching base in 18 of his 30 at bats and playing flawless defense in right. Catcher Liam Patton ’23 recorded hits in all six of his starts, raising his season batting average to .442.

From top to bottom, the Little Giants lineup offered little relief for opposing pitchers. Batting seventh against Saint Johns, shortstop Benjamin Henke ’26 delivered a four-hit game while scoring two and driving in two more. After a slow start to the season, the Jasper native has raised his season average to .340 and caught the attention of Coach Martin.

“He’s another one that, when you watch him play, looks like a veteran,” said Martin. “He looks like he’s been a part of the program for a while. That consistency and confidence is really what stands out about his play so far this season.”

The Little Giants won all three contests they played at Terry Park in Fort Myers, a designated National Historic Site that once played host to Major League legends Babe Ruth, Roberto Clemente and Ty Cobb.

Looking ahead to this weekend, the Little Giants will travel to Hanover for three games. Wabash has lost just twice to Hanover since the turn of the century, with their most recent loss coming in 2019. Reid and Patton shined against the Panthers in their matchups last season and will look to build on that success this weekend.

Volleyball lacks attacking mindset

Little Giants drop first two conference games

PRECIOUS AINABOR '26 | SPORTS WRITER • It was a tough conference-opening weekend for the Little Giants volleyball team on March 10 and 11. In Springfield, Ohio, Wabash dropped its first of two conference games, losing in straight sets to Wittenberg University. The following day, the team faced off against Mount St. Joseph University in Cincinnati, Ohio. Despite winning the first set, Wabash went on to lose by three sets to one, bringing Wabash to 0-2 in conference play.

The Little Giants struggled mightily in their opening MCVL game against Wittenberg. Despite taking 1-0 leads at the beginning of the first and third sets, Wabash couldn't make the advantage count. The team lost in three sets by scores of 25-15, 25-16 and 25-14.

"We certainly need that attacking mentality, because I feel like we freak out in those close-pulling situations."

- Jackson Leeper '25

Wabash improved the following day against Mount St. Joseph, but still fell to a 1-3 defeat. The Little Giants won the opening set by a score of 25-18, but lost the second set 15-25. The final two sets were immensely close, Wabash narrowly losing out 26-28 and 24-26 respectively.

"A lot of the time we get to a situation or a point in the game when it is really tight and a lot of us kind of just clam up and are not really sure what to do," said Pat-

rick Volk '26, who has contributed 19 kills, 8 digs and 2 blocks in the team's opening MCVL matches. "If we can start switching into an aggressive mindset, where we go on the attack and really earn those points, then I believe we could do some damage in those tight games that we have been struggling with thus far this year."

There has been no shortage among the Little Giants of strong individual performances. Most notably, Zachary Small '25 recorded a team-best 35 digs in the team's opening two conference games, earning him the MCVL Defensive Player of the Week award. But the struggle, players report, has been moving forward as a team.

"One thing we struggle with is exploring our weaknesses," said Ricky Sessions '24. "I feel we are too dependent on the coach to make those adaptations for us. We have to start trying to see them ourselves and find out the best adjustments to make."

Other players also report a lack of clinicality as a reason for the team's early conference shortcomings.

"We certainly need that attacking mentality, because I feel like we freak out in those close-pulling situations," said Jackson Leeper '25. "I think we just need to calm down, reset and be decisive to try and get points."

Despite the lackluster start, all hope is not lost for the Little Giants. The team still has six MCVL games left to compete for a spot in the conference tournament. And even though the Little Giants are currently eighth out of nine teams in the standings, the players have belief that, with the right mentality, they can succeed.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Jackson Leeper '25 prepares to spike the ball against St. Norbert College on February 17, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

"There are going to be some tough teams coming up," said Sessions. "We expect to capitalize where we can. We just have to keep our heads level, compete, play our game and not really get caught up in the nerves of the game."

On Saturday, March 18, Wabash hopes to make use of the home advantage in their game against Fontbonne University at Chadwick Court.

"It is a big advantage to play at Chadwick because, in volleyball, the players have to create their own energy a lot of the time," said Sessions. "When we play at Chadwick, the energy is created for us and we know that there are people excited to watch us play and support the team, even if we do not get the points that we desire."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Luke Davis '24 gives his teammates instructions against Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College on February 7, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

Spring struggles: Golf finishes toward bottom in Georgia tournament, looks forward to match play against DePauw

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • The Little Giants golf team traveled to Savannah, Georgia, over spring break to play in the Port City Invitational on March 6-7. Though the result was not quite what the team was hoping for, the team is shifting strategies to prepare for an upcoming match play tournament in a field that includes DePauw.

The Little Giants finished a total of 109 strokes over par on the tournament, tying for 13th out of 16 teams. Brayden Weiss '24 finished with the best score of the Little Giants squad, turning in a 23-over-par scorecard after three rounds. Weiss tied for 32nd in the overall individual standings for the tournament.

"The tournament was not really what we hoped," Weiss said. "Tough golf course. It's not really what we're used to playing, and just kind of got beat up by it."

Weiss referenced the disconnect between the spring break performance and the first match of the season, where the Little Giants brought home the golf program's first ever tournament win at the Forest Hills Invitational on September 17-18, 2022. Weiss connected some of the disappointment to the success of the earlier tournament.

"We played well in our first tournament this season, and I think we got a little cocky after that," said Weiss. "We thought we were going to come out really hot and play really well, and sometimes it just doesn't turn out that way."

The first day was particularly rough, but Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21 explained that the team battled back on the second day, finishing only three strokes behind the first-place team. For Kopp, that was a sign of optimism.

"We can do it and we can compete with the best teams in the country," Kopp said. "It's about finding that consistency. It's about battling back from the first day when we have to."

The post-tournament analysis has included discussions of the differences that make the Savannah course more difficult for a team coming out of winter-condition Indiana. Those conditions make all the difference in a tight tournament.

Weiss explained the two categories of differences that can make a course noticeably more difficult. One category is the layout of the course—the position of the bunkers, the slope of the greens and the pin placements.

"That can make a golf course harder, or at least different," Weiss explained. "And this course



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Brayden Weiss '24 (left) earned medalist honors at the Music City Shootout in Joelton, Tennessee, on February 25-26, 2023.

played a little bit longer than what we've played so far this season."

Coach Kopp outlined some of the other technical differences.

"Where we played was close to the ocean, so it was pretty breezy," Kopp said. "Instead of the hard clay and dirt we have in Indiana, it's more sandy and silty. So that makes it tougher to hit some shots, especially if you're not in the fairway. There were also a lot more bunkers."

Another category Weiss outlined was the course conditions. This can certainly include the grass quality or the maintenance, a frustration of many golfers in the spring portion of the season. But of course, the conditions can also include changing weather conditions. During the Savannah tournament, the wind became a major factor.

"The wind was blowing 15 miles an hour," Weiss said. "When you're throwing a ball 100 feet up in the air, the wind isn't your friend."

But the course also featured a different technical twist, one familiar to Southern golfers but a frustration for Northerners: Bermuda greens. Coach Kopp elaborated on the difference this grass can make.

"The Bermuda grass really affects you on the green, because the ball reacts differently," Kopp explained. "So if you're chipping up, you can't really land it before the green and run it up there. You can here [in Indiana], the grass just

catches the ball."

Another frustrating aspect of Bermuda grass is the surprising grains of the greens.

"If you ever play on Bermuda greens, you'll hear a lot about the grain of the green," said Kopp. "The grain is just the way the grass grows—where it points when it grows. And it's normally pretty intuitive. But [Bermuda grass] exaggerates the break of a putt. So if the grain is going right, and your putt looks like it's breaking left, it still might actually go right. It's tricky, and really the only way to get better at it is by practicing."

The opportunity to play on Bermuda grass was one of the main reasons the team chose to play in this tournament.

"Part of the reason that we took this trip down to Savannah is because we will be playing more golf down there," Weiss said. "We'll have another tournament in Georgia later this season, and that will also be on Bermuda greens."

Though the Bermuda grass certainly played a role in the Savannah performance, neither Weiss nor Kopp were willing to use course differences as an excuse.

"But at the end of the day, grass is grass," Weiss said. "We're athletes—we can play on whatever we face."

"Overall I don't think that was the real issue," Kopp agreed. "We just went in without a ton of prac-



COURTESY OF THE WABASH COLLEGE GOLF TEAM

The golf team visited the Haig Point Golf Course in South Carolina on March 11, 2023.

tice, partially due to the weather. And we had a couple guys who didn't have their best stuff at the same time, which made it hard."

In discussions of course disparities, it may be tempting to look to USGA's course rating scores, a numerical rating of how "difficult" a course is. After all, USGA rates the Savannah course at a higher difficulty than the local Crawfordsville practice course and the course where the team brought home first place in September. That may seem to explain the disparity in scores—but Kopp explained why those ratings don't tell the whole story.

"I don't look into course ratings too much," Kopp explained. "Sure, I'll take a peek at it when I get the scorecard—but outside of that, I don't look at it too much. Sometimes it can help explain why scores are higher. But I don't want to have anybody think that because a course rating is higher, that they can't go out there and shoot their best score, what they would deem a good score."

The golf team next faces seven other teams—including DePauw—at the Covered Bridge Golf Club in Sellersburg, Indiana, on March 27-28. The tournament format is slightly different: a match play, only adding to the rivalry tension.

In a match play format, golfers do not compete for the lowest number of strokes in a round. Instead, they compete head-to-head against another player from an opposing team. Whichever player has the lowest number of strokes on a given hole—regardless of that score—wins the hole. Weiss is eager to compete in such a format.

"Match play is incredibly rare in college until you get the national tour," Weiss said. "And match play is a more rare tournament setting

in general. I'm excited to play in a tournament setting to do that."

"It is pretty rare," said Kopp. "But it's a lot of fun. And if we were ever to make it to the national championship, there's a match play section. So it's important to practice, and it's also just a fun, different way to play golf."

Kopp explained how the team is shifting its practices in preparation for the match play format.

"Right now we're playing a lot of match play in practice," Kopp said. "We're doing a lot of things that drive our competitiveness, while also making sure that we're still focused and not reacting to our opponent or other conditions."

Part of that practice regimen, especially when the weather doesn't support traditional practice, is strategy discussion. Over powerpoints and team meetings, Kopp discusses differences in match play strategies with the team.

"We'll just go over different players' philosophies on matchplay—whether you should be aggressive in trying to make birdie every hole, or whether you should just try to make as many pars as you can and let the other person screw up," said Kopp, who explained that he has no perfect answer.

"There's different strategies with it. I don't have one I think everybody should stick to—I think it's a player-by-player case. But it's a good challenge for the players and for me as a coach."

Along with the team, Kopp is very much looking forward to the upcoming match play tournament.

"I'm hoping that we can do well and beat a couple teams," Kopp said. "And hopefully we'll get to match play against DePauw because I'm sure that'd be a lot of fun for everybody involved."



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett consoles Sam Comer '24 after the team's loss in the NCAA DIII Men's Basketball Tournament on March 3, 2023, at Case Western Reserve University.

Basketball rewind: How the Little Giants captured back-to-back conference titles

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | BASKETBALL WRITER • It may have taken a late fadeaway shot by Ahmoni Jones '24 and a tough defensive play to seal the victory, but Wabash emerged lifting the NCAC trophy on February 24, 2023, in Wooster, Ohio. And as the team stormed the court to celebrate, they finished the goal they had set out to achieve. They didn't do it the easy way, but the Wabash basketball team did what everybody said they couldn't: win a second consecutive basketball championship.

"I am very proud with the overall results of this season," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "We had a lot of question marks going into the season and how we would fill the shoes of Jack Davidson '22, Tyler Watson '22 and Kellen Schreiber '22. All had important roles on arguably the best team in Wabash history, or at least in the last 40 years. My staff and I were confident that we had built the program in the right way and that we would continue to be good, but we needed to prove it."

Winning the NCAC tournament was the goal for the team from the beginning. As far back as November, Brumett was confident the team could lift the trophy.

"A lot of guys doubted us coming into this year," said Jones, who led

the team in scoring. "But we were the type of team that was going to give it our all each and every day. At the end of the day, we made the most of every opportunity. And when it came down to it, we handled our business, especially in the NCAC tournament."

"We wanted a championship," added Jones. "In practice during the week of the championship, Coach [Brumett] brought in the ring that we won the year before to remind us what we were playing for. And that just made us more motivated and got our fire hotter. After losing to Wooster at the end of the regular season we were about bouncing back and proving we could win."

Early in the season, many expected Wabash to struggle offensively and rely on defense to win games. Instead, the team was second in the NCAC in scoring, averaging 77.5 ppg and leading the conference in field goal percentage.

"I think our offense was successful because we were able to score in many different ways," said Sam Comer '24. "We had a lot of different types of players who could exploit opponents' defenses in different ways. Teams struggled to scout us and take everything away due to the many different weapons that we had. We trusted and



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Edreece Redmond '24 puts the ball in easily off the glass against the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater in the NCAA DIII Men's Basketball Tournament on March 3, 2023, at Case Western Reserve University.

recognized one another's abilities which allowed us to share the ball so well."

"We trusted the coaches to run an offense that was going to be effective, and we were unselfish in the sense that we did not care who was taking the shots," added Comer. "Winning was always the priority with this group. Our ability to score in many ways combined with our unselfish group made for yet another year of powerful offense for Wabash basketball."

The team ended their season in the first round of the NCAA DIII tournament with a 90-83 loss to the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The team's record for the 2022-23 season was 21-8.

Next season, the team will return with its full roster, graduating no seniors this year. Other programs will graduate their best

players, but the Little Giants will look to repeat their success of these last two years.

"Next year we want to win the NCAC and host the conference tournament," Brumett said. "We want to be the first Wabash team since '81-'82 to go to three NCAA tournaments in a row."

Brumett also believes that Wabash has the chance to host a round of the national tournament next year, if the Little Giants get there.

"We really want to host the NCAA tournament," said Brumett. "The goals are lofty, but we think we have committed guys who can make those things happen. You either step forward, or you take steps back. There is no staying the same; 2023-24 will be exciting, but it will not be the same as the last two years. We need to work hard to make it better."

'Give me a W!'

John Horner '59 and the story behind basketball's most famous chant

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • Throughout Wabash basketball's amazing runs over the past couple of years, the team has constantly been aided by a raucous home crowd, amplified by the acoustics and student section that have come to be known as the "Chadwick Crazies." Crawfordsville is a notoriously difficult place for teams to visit—just look at Wabash's home record in 2022-23 for proof. But there is one tradition that uniquely defines Wabash basketball. And at the center of it is John Horner '59.

During media timeouts, several times a game, Horner—armed with a well-worn Sphinx Club pot and a giant Wabash jacket—rises from his seat, instantaneously silencing the student section, Wabash fans and the lively Pep Band. Facing the sea of Wabash faithful, he gracefully raises his arms and yells:

Give me a W,
Give me an A...
... echoed by a thunderous response from the students.

At the culmination of the chant, the old man shouts at the top of his lungs:

What does that spell?
To which the students roar back: **WABASH!!!**

This timeless tradition is symbolic of the greater prominence of tradition at Wabash and is attributed to Horner's innovation, dedication and Wabash spirit.

Born and raised in Crawfordsville, Horner was always destined to attend Wabash. For most of his childhood, Horner would attend Wabash football and basketball games, and has probably attended more of those games than anyone in the history of the college. Aged 86, John enrolled at Wabash in the 1950s and truly excelled in his four years at the college. In his time as a student, he was a proud member of Phi Delta Theta, which he continued to serve as an alumni advisor in the 1980s, joined the Sphinx Club in 1957 and earned four "W" letters for his work as the senior manager of the football team and record-breaking career as a Wabash wrestler.

Horner's success on the mat was unparalleled in his time, resulting in his selection as MVP of the Wabash wrestling team in 1957. Additionally, in an extraordinary feat, Horner held the record for the fastest pin—an astonishing seven seconds—for 66 years.

After graduating from Wabash, Horner has continued to remain active in the community, regularly attending football and basketball games, maintaining a relationship with Phi Delt and even serving two terms on the Wabash Alumni Board in the 1990s.

While many Wabash traditions—such as Chapel Sing or walking around the arch—seem timeless, they were invented at some point by a pioneering Wally. The "W" chant is no different. For Horner, the decision to create the Wabash yell was rather spontaneous, an instinct that originated around 30 years ago.

Although Wabash had seen a lot of success, including winning the Division III National Championship, the following seasons saw a slight decline in the enthusiasm at Chadwick. One game, Horner decided that the murmur of the crowd was unfitting for the magnitude of a basketball game and made a decision that would change the course of Wabash basketball chants forever.

"It was a time after the 1982 DIII championship, and there were no cheerleaders and not as many people attending the games," said Horner. "I was sitting at a [basketball] game and we were behind in the score; I felt that we needed someone to get up and lead a cheer. So, I got up and started doing the 'Give me a W, give me an A...' and it seemed to lift the spirit of everyone at the game as well as the team."

Ever since that game, Horner has crafted the Wabash yell into an enduring tradition, creating the integral atmosphere that we know today at Chadwick. It has become a mainstay of every basketball game, and, as a result, Horner has become something of a cult legend. However, the most rewarding part of the Wabash yell, Horner says,



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

John Horner '59 initiates his famous "Give me a W" chant against Hiram on February 21, 2023, at Chadwick Court.



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Rhynies respond to Horner's chant against Hiram on February 21, 2023, at Chadwick Court.

is not the attention he receives or even the responses from the crowd—which he is extremely proud of—but rather the genuine comments and conversations with parents and players who have expressed their gratitude for the "W" guy.

"I have had most of the player's parents come up to me and say that their kids love to have me do the yell," Horner said. "At 86 years

old, I don't know how much longer I'll be able to continue, but I will try to do it as long as I can."

With the basketball season now at an end, the Chadwick Crazies will have to wait until November to once again hear the cherished chant. But when the time comes, Horner is ready to quiet the crowd, rise out of his seat at the top of the bleachers and proudly proclaim: "Give me a W!"

Goodwin: Why Coach Brumett should have won NCAC Coach of the Year

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • After the NCAC Tournament ended a few short weeks ago, the NCAC announced its end-of-season awards. Vinny Buccilla '25 and Ahmoni Jones '24 were selected to the First Team All-NCAC team—both well-earned awards. But after all the awards came down, one Little Giant was conspicuously missing from the awards list: Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett.

After losing three Wabash all-timers in Jack Davidson '22, Kellen Schreiber '22 and Tyler Watson '22, NCAC coaches predicted Wabash to finish third in the conference and miss the NCAA tournament. So, after coming a few seconds short of winning the regular season title, winning the conference title and representing the NCAC in the NCAA tournament, it was a shock to see Wooster Head Coach Doug Cline named Coach of the Year.

Wooster had a great year, going 21-6 and winning the NCAC regular season title before losing to Wabash in the last seconds of the NCAC tournament, just missing the NCAA tournament. In most circumstances, Cline winning the award would make sense and not be a total snub. But these are not most circumstances.

Only one coach lost the best player in the country. And half his team's scoring. And all of the seniors on his roster. And still won his conference tournament.

If any coach exemplified the excellence it takes to be the best coach in a conference, Kyle Brumett did that. With such a different team, to beat the expectations and perform well is the hallmark of great coaching.

In the 2021-2022 season, Brumett's Little Giants scored nearly 90 points per game and averaged a margin of victory of 11, with Davidson and Watson scoring most of the points, especially from three. The proof of Brumett's excellence is in the vast difference between that team and the one he fielded this year, which scored just over 75 points per game and worked primarily through the paint and from the free throw line. The best coaches can win in a number of ways, and Brumett did just that.

In combination to what Brumett put on the court, Brumett put on a coaching masterclass off the court with how he runs his team, encouraging and facilitating opportunities for players to get out into the Crawfordsville community for reading days at local schools. He also cultivated a roster that acted more like a family than it did just a team, inviting his players into his own home for dinner.

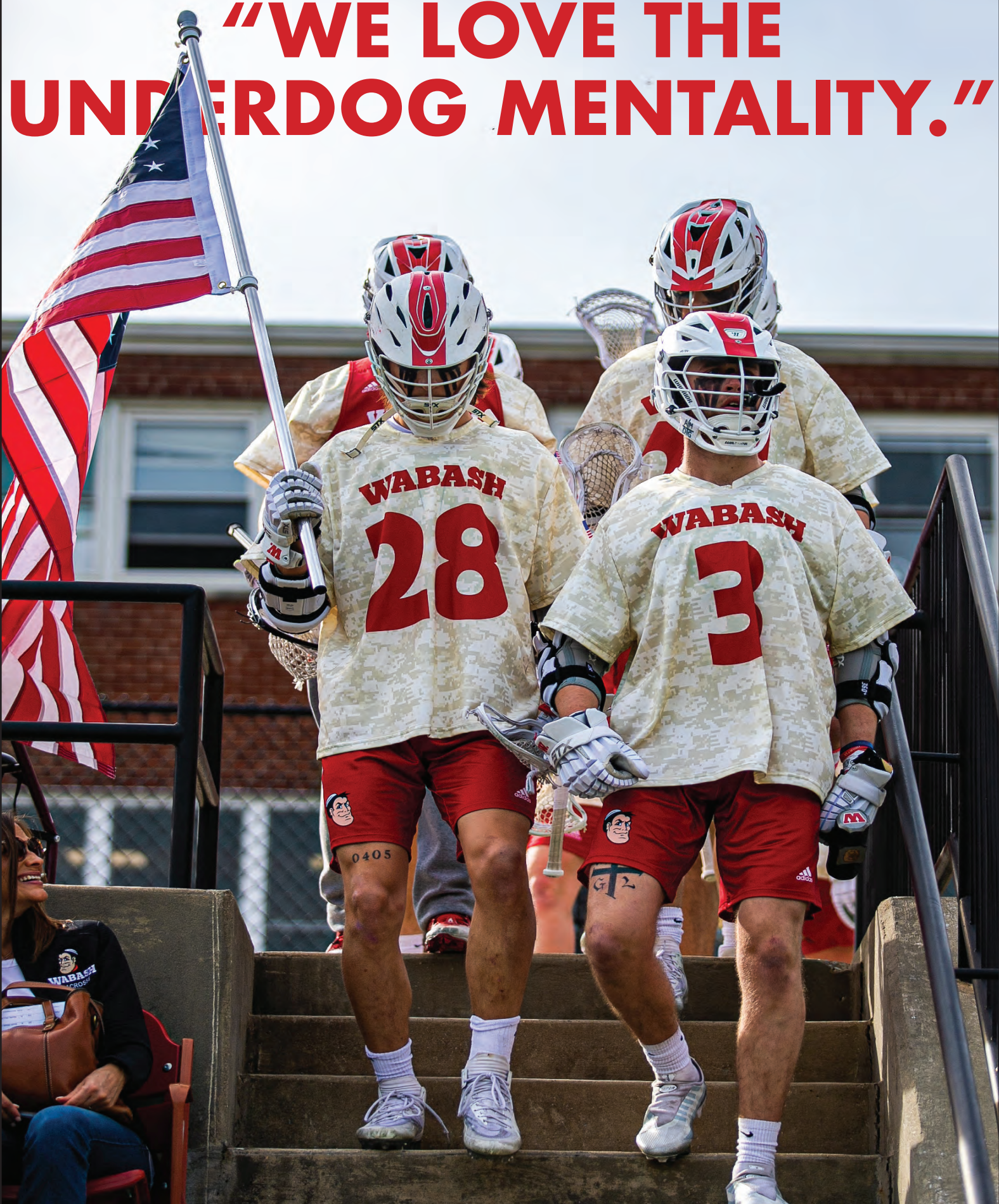
"Coach Brumett is good at what he does because he is truly invested our lives," said junior forward Jones. "[Both] the lives we have on the basketball court, and the lives we have off the court. Coach Brumett goes out his way to form genuine and personal relationships with everyone on his team. These relationships he forms with us offer a space to take constructive criticism and get better because of it. It gives us a space to talk about our lives and learn about what it takes to be a man and someday a father or husband."

"Only one coach lost the best player in the country. And half his team's scoring. And all of the seniors on his roster. And still won his conference tournament."

"I think the best way coach got us to beat the expectations was by allowing the players on our team to redefine who and what we wanted this program to represent," added Jones. "We continued to create a close knit family where we knew every day that we were going to play, fight, lose and win together."

Brumett is among the best that Wabash has to offer on the coaching front, and his performance this year should have earned him NCAC Coach of the Year honors—not just for being a great basketball coach, but for being a great role model and leader for his players.

"WE LOVE THE UNDERDOG MENTALITY."



Ethan Stonis '23 (left) and Quinn Fitzgerald '26 (right) enter the field carrying the Stars and Stripes ahead of the lacrosse team's Military Appreciation Game on March 1, 2023, at Fischer Field. Quote by Quinn Fitzgerald '26.

Greene: Lacrosse looks to make conference vision a reality

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST • Ladies and gentlemen, the Wabash lacrosse team has finally arrived, and arrived in a big way. After the team's recent spring break campaign in Virginia, the Little Giants emerge 5-2 on the season, having already surpassed their total wins (four) from last season. This young, talented squad will be looking to defeat its final non conference opponent, Hanover College, and then take the NCAC by storm, starting with their conference opener against Hiram on Saturday, March 25.

While most Wabash students were relaxing in the sun over the break, the Little Giants went toe-to-toe with some of the toughest competition they might see all year: Virginia Wesleyan University and Hampton University. Hampton is a Division I program likely to be one of the best—if not the best—team that Wabash plays all year.

"This was a great opportunity to play an HBCU at a Division I facility," said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. "That [game] was our chance to get our big-game experience out of the way."

Wabash performed admirably against Hampton, but the game resulted in an ugly 16-4 loss. And the Little Giants only won one of the three games over the period, coming against Randolph College.

But Burke is not dissuaded.

"I think losing a game 16-4 was a gut check," said Burke. "It was a good wake-up call for the guys."

Historically, Wabash lacrosse has been borderline unwatchable, posting just a 4-12 record in their 2022 season. The average goal difference? 8.69, and not in Wabash's favor. But with players' and coaches' rededication to changing the program's entire culture, this lacrosse team is starting to show glimpses of something special.

With a starting lineup mostly comprised of freshmen and captained by senior Ethan Stonis '23, freshman transfer Quinn Fitzgerald '26 and junior Artie Rogers '24, this Little Giants team is constantly rewriting its own story.

"There was a desperate need of a culture change," said Fitzgerald. "The culture wasn't there. Nobody wanted to put in the work in the

offseason."

While this young lineup has its own pitfalls, Fitzgerald believes it presents a unique opportunity.

"Having six or seven freshmen starting is pretty unheard of in college lacrosse," said Fitzgerald. "But it's a good opportunity for us to build [the program] how we want."

But what is the right way to build the program? The standard has to be raised, not just on the field, but everywhere. Attention to detail is crucial. There can be no days off. And it takes a group of men who are completely bought into this vision for the good of the team.

"We lost a lot of guys in the fall and early spring," said Burke. "And it sucked, but I believe that we have 19-20 guys who believe that this is the standard at which we play."

This standard is the gold standard of all coaches: winning. When building a program, there can be no shortcuts. An inordinate amount of work is needed, and it's a struggle to establish a culture of winning.

"Last year we learned a lot about how to win and lose games," said Burke. "This year we're doing it again. There's a certain way to win games and a certain way to lose games, and that can't change."

Winning games consistently requires incredible focus and an unwavering commitment to excellence, which are qualities that have to be developed. They aren't cultivated in a day, and they both play a major role in every successful sports team, not just lacrosse.

But the players that remain understand these challenges and embrace them. "This year, guys are more driven," said Rogers. "Guys are getting on each other, making sure they're doing the extra things, like lifting in the offseason."

The team understands that to achieve their vision, a different level of commitment is needed.

"If we want to succeed, we cannot do what this program has been doing in the past," said Fitzgerald. "We have to have the mindset that we have something to prove. We love the underdog mentality. A lot. But the end goal is to get away from that. We don't want to be the underdogs anymore."



Ethan Stonis '23 celebrates his goal with the classic WWE "you can't see me" against Earlham College on March 1, 2023, at Fischer Field.

And with these standards come goals. Not just outlandish goals, but goals that are both challenging and achievable. In a conference where the top three teams battle for national top-25 rankings, Wabash will need a few more years to consistently beat teams like Denison, Kenyon and Ohio Wesleyan. But that does not mean that Wabash can't start to chip away at the middle of the NCAC.

"We came here to beat the Wittenbergs, the DePauws and the Woosters," said Burke. "Then we start moving this [team] in an upward trend. And if we can do that, we're going to be in great shape, not just this year, but next year, and the year after that."

With its underdog mentality and unparalleled work ethic, Wabash will look to finally establish its presence in the NCAC as a lacrosse force, not to be an easy win on anyone's schedule. At worst, they will fight to the bitter end, in true Wabash fashion. At best? Start winning games they aren't supposed to win.

Tennis wins Gentleman's Cup, goes 3-1 in Florida

PETER LEITHAUSER '24 | TENNIS WRITER • The Wabash tennis team went 3-1 over spring break as they traveled to the USTA National Campus in Orlando, Florida. The Little Giants scored victories over St. Thomas University, Immaculata University and Hampden-Sydney College.

The only loss of the week came against Wheaton College on Monday, March 6, the opening day of competition. Wheaton, who ranked top 15 in the region last year, gave the Little Giants a close match. Liam Grennon '24, Cole Shifferly '26, Tharakesh Ashokar '26 and Augusto Ghidini '26 all won their singles matchups to give Wabash four points. However, none of the Little Giants' doubles teams pulled off a win, giving Wheaton a 5-4 team victory.

"Playing hard matches was a big part of the fun we had this week," said Shifferly. "I especially love the opportunities to perform at a high level, and many of the teams we played were meant to stretch the ability of our lineup."

The team was scheduled to play two matches on March 6. However, the night contest against Otterbein University was postponed due to rain.

After the disappointment of opening day, Wabash picked themselves up to claim two victories on Wednesday, March 8. In the first match against St. Thomas, the Little Giants coasted to a 4-1 victory. Then, in the evening match, Wabash swept aside Immaculata 8-1.

On the final day, Wabash faced off against Hampden-Sydney in the Gentleman's Cup. It was a close-fought affair, but it was the Little Giants that emerged victorious. Freshman Ghidini won the final singles match to clinch the victory, despite the team being down 1-2 after the doubles rounds.

"Winning the ninth match was very special," said Ghidini. "I started off the match a little tight, a little tired as well, but as the match kept going on I felt much better. I really felt the energy."

Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett was proud of how his team handled their Gentleman's Cup matchup.

"There is a lot of pressure in that match", said Bickett. "To cap off the trip with a win in the Gentleman's Cup was a great way to end."

Despite success in singles throughout the week, doubles have still been a source of trouble for the Wabash squad.

"Right now, our focus is on our doubles play," said Bickett. "We need to make sure we're putting ourselves in a strong position heading into the singles of each match."

With spring break over, the Little Giants are halfway through their season. And with conference play around the corner, Coach Bickett is gearing up for the back half of the year.

"Overall, I am pleased with how our team is coming together so far," said Bickett. "Our upperclassmen have been doing a phenomenal job of being steady positions in our lineup and the freshmen are beginning to come into their own."

The Little Giants play their next match on Saturday, March 18, against Hanover College at the Collett Tennis Center.

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

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