

Gilbert '98 named next head football coach

Former Westfield coach will lead Little Giants beginning in 2025

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

Beginning with the 2025 season, Jake Gilbert '98 will take the reins of the football program as the College's 34th head football coach. The Wabash Athletic Department made the announcement on Monday, March 11 that Gilbert would return to his alma mater in the position of associate head football coach and defensive coordinator.

In his role as defensive coordinator, Gilbert replaces Coach Mike Ridings who spent two years in the position. Ridings leaves Wabash to accept a position as safeties coach at Division I Campbell University.

In order to promote a smooth transition for the program, Gilbert will spend the 2024 season as associate head coach, while performing the duties of defensive coordinator, before assuming the head coaching position in 2025. Head Football Coach Don Morel will continue in the position until the transition is complete.

"I believe in the College, and I love the school and football programs alike."

- Jake Gilbert '98



COURTESY OF INDYSTAR

Jake Gilbert '98 celebrates a turnover on November 11, 2022 at Hamilton Southeastern High School during his tenure as the head football coach of Westfield High School's football team.

is a superb match for our athletics program. In a program with consistently high aspirations, Coach Morel sustained a winning tradition for eight years and contributed much to the life of the College. I look forward to partnering with both Morel and

Gilbert to support our scholar-athletes' pursuit of academic and athletic excellence."

Gilbert's extensive list of qualifications begins with his own career as a Little Giant.

"I look forward to partnering with both Morel and Gilbert to support our scholar-athletes."

- Matt Tanney '05

Gilbert was part of a historically-great defensive line that *The Bachelor* dubbed the "Fab Four." In his 1997 senior season, the Wabash defense held opponents to just 12.5 points per game. His career stats put him in the school's top-10 and top-20 across multiple all-time categories including: forced fumbles, sacks and yards gained from sacks.

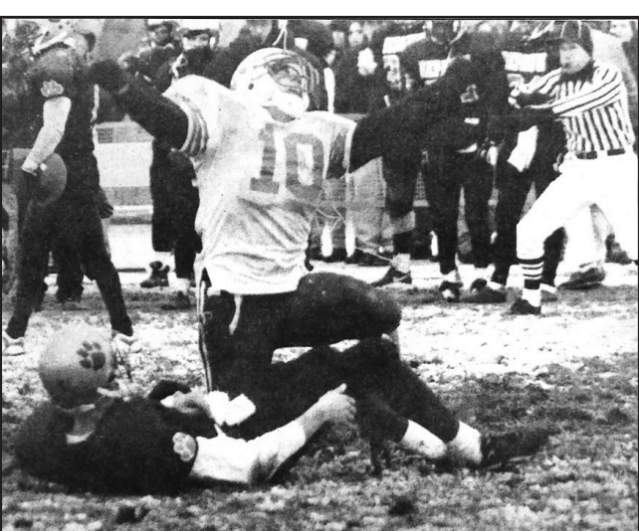


PHOTO BY BILL CHAMBERS '98

Jake Gilbert '98 celebrates a Monon Bell Classic victory in a photo that was featured in The Bachelor on November 16, 1995.

Six wrestlers punch their tickets for DIII National Championships

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

After nearly five months of competition, 180 men across the country earned a spot in the 2024 NCAA DIII Wrestling National Championships, and six of them will have white W's on their scarlet singlets. The six wrestlers each finished in the top three in their weight classes at the Central Region Tournament to punch their tickets to the national tournament.

"My goal is to win Nationals and to show what I'm fully capable of."

- James Day '26

The National Championships will be held from Friday, March 15 to Saturday, March 16 at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Michigan. The tournament will be divided into groups of 18 wrestlers spread across each of the 10 weight classes. Seeding for the tournament was released by the NCAA on Tuesday, March 12.

With different records and experiences behind them, the six



COURTESY OF LA CROSSE

Wrestlers compete during the 2017 NCAA DIII Men's Wrestling National Championships at the La Crosse Center in La Crosse, Michigan.

Wabash wrestlers will each enter nationals with their own goals. For some the goal is to take home the title. Others hope to earn their title as an All-American by finishing in the top eight. But all of them have ambitious visions for where their training and dedication can take them.

James Day '26 will return to nationals after finishing third at 125 pounds. The National Wrestling Coaches Association (NWCA) picked Day as the 14th-ranked athlete at his weight.

"I'm very excited to be returning to Nationals," said Day. "I think last year's experience has given me

a lot of motivation to come back and prove what I'm capable of. Last year, I just didn't perform at my best so I'm really looking forward to changing that this year."

Already having competed at nationals, Day is one of several of the wrestlers who will be taking experience onto the mat with

them. Determined to not let the big stage throw off their focus, these athletes will be ready to perform at their peak ability.

"I go into every match with full confidence that I'm better and work harder than whoever steps onto the mat with me."

- Tim Smith '26

"I was pretty nervous my first time at the tournament," said Day. "I was afraid of losing and falling short of my goals. Since that shortcoming though I have gained a lot of perspective and have realized that even if I don't get the results I want, life goes on and there's always something else to look forward to. I no longer fear failure like I used to. So I'm very excited to enter the tournament this year with a better mindset. My goal is to win Nationals and to show what I'm fully capable of."

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Delta Tau Delta defaced

Homophobic slurs spray painted on property

JAMES WALLACE '26
NEWS EDITOR

Warning: Story contains graphic language and imagery.

It's been just over a year since the basketball court at Delta Tau Delta was vandalized with homophobic slurs, and it's happened again. The brothers of the Beta Psi chapter woke up early on February 29 to find homophobic slurs and hateful messages spray painted on their property, sparking a response across campus.

"I did my route around the house, making sure everything was locked up around 1:30 a.m.," said President of Delta Tau Delta Will Beikes '25. "[The vandalism] was seen around 5 a.m."

The incident is the latest in the infrequent but seemingly constant stream of acts of homophobia across campus. On February 4, 2023, a similar incident occurred at the Delt house, with a slur spray painted on their basketball court outside of their house. Similarly, the pride flags that adorn the pathways across the Mall every October in celebration for LGBT History Month are frequently kicked over with ill-intention.

"What are we doing? Is this where we are now?"

- Will Beikes '25

Following the discovery of the hateful messages, Beikes sent out an email to the all student listserv, calling out the act as "deeply disturbing." The message received overwhelming support, with more than 100 students reacting positively directly to the email.

"In my email I was trying to call it how I see it," said Beikes. "I think I was a lot more upfront than administration has ever been about anything like this. I can't speak on the experiences of the LGBTQ+ community, but I can imagine that it can feel like administration isn't doing a whole lot."

Later in the afternoon, Dean Gregory Redding '88 sent out a similar message in response to the incident that happened early that morning.

"We wanted to make sure that students that might feel affected by this know where we as an administration stand," said Dean Redding.

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The state of our union

With the election set, U.S. politics continue to ramp up

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

"If I were smart, I'd go home now."

President Biden's first words as he began his final State of the Union address of his four-year term alluded to the tension of an election year rife with spiteful politics, some of which spilled over last Thursday.

The president's speech set the stage for a reboot of the 2020 election between Biden and former President Donald Trump, who stands to win the Republican ticket after weathering challenges from a wide field of GOP hopefuls.

"If I were smart, I'd go home now"

- President Joe Biden

A lot rode on Biden's performance for the White House. The president has drawn heavy criticism for his age, and widely-publicized gaffes have provided opponents plenty of ammunition to hurl at the democrat. He has caught flak on border security, the state of the economy and – from both sides of the aisle – his handling of the Israel and Hamas war. Biden's polling and approval numbers prior to his address were also subpar. According to a February 28 Reuters survey, Biden's approval rate was just 37% among Americans, and in a New York Times / Siena College poll of registered voters, Biden lagged behind Trump by 5%.

Biden began with the war in Ukraine calling it a threat to global democracy while criticizing Trump's inviting rhetoric to Putin to "Do whatever the hell he wants." The president hammered this pattern home—drawing attention to a key policy point and then lambasting Trump's ability to properly handle such a point for the rest of the evening.

Border security and the economy were two of Biden's weakest points coming into the address. He aimed to reverse the narrative that his administration was at fault for problems and unable to get meaningful work done in those areas.

The president framed the administration's economic work as a triumphant response to the Trump administration's inaction during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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Delta Tau Delta defaced



PHOTO BY WILLIAM BOAS '26

A hateful statement discovered early in the morning on February 28, 2024 on the Delt bench.

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“We value them and we love them, and we’re always going to stand with them against this ignorance. I’m comfortable with the message that we sent out.”

However, while the administration got a message out to the students in regards to the incident, many were frustrated with the content itself. The email never explicitly stated that an investigation was occurring or that consequences would be handed out to individuals, but instead focused on reaffirming that “Homophobia has no place at Wabash College.” Redding said that the administration investigating should “go without saying.”

“The administration [did] nothing,” said Beikes. “The email that was sent out had a weak statement.”

The controversial statement reflects many student’s attitude towards the overall response from administration, with many students feeling a lack-luster presence. “So many queer people on campus were terrified,” said ‘shOUT President Javion Montgomery ’27. “Many of them are scared to even walk alone at night now. So, honestly, anything coming from administration would be nice.”

The displeasure with administration by many individuals of the student body puts the administration in a difficult spot, as they have to abide by certain laws in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, which protects students’ privacy on college campuses.

“Because of FERPA laws, we would not be able to

advertise to students if we found the individual,” said Redding. “That’s really frustrating for everybody who’s involved.”

However, while these FERPA laws do protect individual students’ privacy, it doesn’t police what Wabash says about any general consequences to things such as this incident that violate the Gentleman’s Rule.

“There was nothing that could lead us to a perpetrator.”

- Dean Gregory Redding '88

“From an administration side, more definitely needs to be done,” said Beikes. “You can’t just say you are welcome here and allow stuff like that to keep happening.”

The lack of communication from administration about any consequences and what will be done in the future is at the forefront of many students’ concerns.

“The primary concern of ‘shOUT is that we hope the administration is working to prevent things like this from happening again,” said ‘shOUT Secretary Aidan Geleott ’25. “We also hope that if they discover who did it that they go ahead and follow through with some punishments.”

With students anticipating this act of hate to be a hot button topic of conversation, some were surprised to find a surprising number of members within the Wabash com-

munity who were not aware.

“I think it’s kind of ridiculous that most of the faculty doesn’t know what happened,” said Beikes. “Outside of the students and certain administration, people don’t know about it. I think that is a major issue.”

The commonality of the lack of communication between administration and Wabash as a whole also fuels a worry that the students themselves will be the ones handling the response.

“I feel like a lot of times in these cases it falls back onto the students to perform activism or something of that nature,” said Montgomery. “But I don’t think that should fall into our laps anymore.”

Unfortunately for the students who are looking to see consequences be put in place, it seems it is improbable that the perpetrator will ever be found. And even if the individual(s) were discovered, FERPA would prevent their names from being released.

“There was nothing that could lead us to a perpetrator,” said Redding. “In the absence of eye witnesses or cameras, we’ve reached a limit of what we can determine from that.”

The reality of Wabash having an absence of extensive resources to track incidents such as this is one that isn’t new, as similar events that have happened in the past have also come up short with the lack of hard evidence on individuals who are committing acts in violation of the Gentleman’s Rule. This has brought up the debate about the presence of cameras on campus, with many students divided over the idea of cameras being placed around campus.

“Without cameras, it could happen again,” said Geleott. “The installation of cameras would not take away from the things that make Wabash unique and special.”

Cameras have long been debated at the college, with many believing that their installation would demean the Gentleman’s Rule. Without any way to completely prevent acts of vandalism and hate, more and more individuals have begun to see cameras as a real possibility. However, cameras don’t seem to be some-

thing Wabash men should be expecting anytime soon, as administration is not ready to pull that trigger.

“If [cameras] would help us in some ways, even from a life safety point of view, it’s something we ought to consider,” said Redding. “But I don’t even know if we are that far along yet.”

While cameras aren’t a likely part of the future of Wabash, there will likely be more to come from this incident across campus.

“There’s no way to stop someone from going in the middle of the night to a house and spray painting,” said Beikes. “That’s just not a realistic expectation for us to stop that. But I think that as a student body we should have more conversations and try to educate others to be more understanding of others.”



PHOTO BY WILLIAM BOAS '26

Some of the vandalism that was spray painted on on February 29, 2024 on a window of the Delt house.

Continuing education across campus in relation to the LGBTQ+ community is an important endeavor that has improved campus culture towards the group, though not to a point where individuals can still feel safe across campus.

“I was a student here in the 80s. We are definitely better as a community at respecting the LGBTQ+ community,” said Redding. “But there’s still more work to be done.”

There are many efforts across campus that will help to create a safe environment for all Wabash men, starting with the Diversity and Inclusion (DNI) committee and expanding outwards.

“The DNI committee has crafted an anti-slur policy that they are trying to get every living unit to adopt, I think that is really, really positive,” said Redding. “I think especially in fraternities, which are all value-based organizations, they ought to be able to point to their teachings that speak against any kind of slur or intentional exclusion.”

A values based approach seems to be an elemental part of the solution, and it is up to the student body to foster an environment for all of their Wabash brothers.

“What are we doing?” asked Beikes. “Is this where we are now? There needs to be some kind of change on our campus where we move from such a hateful and toxic environment to being the brotherhood that we preach. It’s hard to feel like a brotherhood when stuff like this happens.”



COURTESY JAKE PAIGE '23

Pride flags adorn the pathways along the mall during the month of October, which is LGBT History Month.

Jake Gilbert '98 returns



COURTESY OF INDYSTAR

Jake Gilbert '98 celebrates a regional 6A victory on November 10, 2023 in Westfield, Indiana.

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After graduating from Wabash, Gilbert began coaching football almost immediately.

His first head coaching position came in 2000, when he led the staff of North Montgomery High School. From 2006-2010 he became an assistant coach for the Little Giants, where he served as the offensive line coach (2006-2007) before moving to defensive coordinator (2008-2010). He coached alongside two of the college’s winningest head coaches, Chris Creighton and Erik Raeburn, who he credits in large part for his development as a coach.

“I loved coaching at Wabash and I learned so much,” said Gilbert. “Chris Creighton and Erik Raeburn were excellent coaches. It was like going back to school to get a doctorate in football. I look forward to taking what I’ve learned and applying it this time. I’m a much better coach than I was 13 years ago, and I will help our guys realize their full potential on a higher level.”

“I give Wabash credit for my development and the skills that have helped me succeed.”

- Jake Gilbert '98

“Jake is an outstanding coach and I have complete confidence that he will be an excellent defensive coordinator next season,” said Morel. “He had a fantastic head coaching career at Westfield with a state championship to his credit, and he knows



COURTESY OF INDYSTAR

Jake Gilbert '98 coaches during the second half of a game on August 21, 2020 at Westfield High School.

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State of the Union



COURTESY OF REUTERS

President Joe Biden addresses Congress on March 7, 2024 in the House Chamber.

Continued from page 1

Biden cited historically low unemployment rates and record numbers of new jobs among other evidence to highlight the bright spots in the economy to voters. He pinned much of the blame for consumers' dissatisfaction with the market on corporations, using the decreased size of Snickers bars as a not-so-joking example of the corporate greed burdening American pocketbooks, and criticized members of Congress who hypocritically touted the money spent on infrastructure in their district but voted against the White House's bipartisan infrastructure law.

Immigration reform was a key tenet of Biden's platform in 2020, but he has been attacked since entering office on his inability to deliver a solution to the southern border crisis. The president sought to pivot on the issue and throw the political grenade back into Republican laps.

He touted the merits of a bipartisan immigration bill that was rejected by the Senate in February, and accused Trump of stirring up distaste for the bill among Congressional republicans to prevent Biden from chalking it up as a political win.

Senator James Lankford, a Republican from Oklahoma who was assigned to lead the

negotiations for the bipartisan deal, could be seen on TV cameras nodding and saying, "That's right" in response to Biden listing off the items the bill would accomplish. Apart from Lankford, however, Republicans could be heard shouting dissent as the president spoke about the bill and their unwillingness to pass it.

"I know I may not look like it, but I've been around a while."

- President Joe Biden

Biden chose to finish up by addressing the elephant in the room—his age—head on. Joking that "I know I may not look like it, but I've been around a while," the president went on to say that he had learned a lot about the American story, that he had lived it, and he had a clear vision for the future of America.

While others may have values like revenge, resentment, and retribution—clearly another shot at Trump—he valued the age-old values of honesty, decency, and equality. The thrust of this conclusion was aimed at convincing voters that Biden's age is an advantage in wisdom and what is important is he has

a vision for a better America unlike Trump, who wants the country to regress. It was a bold end to a strong address.

State of the Union addresses have increasingly pandered to partisan politics in the last two decades, and Thursday was a prime example of the president using his yearly opportunity to address Congress as a tool to energize his party allies and appeal to voters.

The hostility between the president and Republicans was obvious throughout. Mentions of policy successes and denouncements of former president Trump—who was not mentioned by name but was referred to as "my predecessor"—throughout—were met with standing ovations from Democrats. Chants of "Four more years!" sprang from the left on multiple occasions, and the president stayed behind shaking hands in the chamber for nearly an hour after his speech concluded.

What impact this address will have on the presidential election come November 4 is likely minimal to none, but it can provide some tips about how the race will begin to shape up strategy-wise as spring begins. To the White House's undoubted relief Biden delivered his remarks relatively fluidly and without error.

He spoke with passion and raised his voice throughout the address to emphasize key points. Given how many voters harbor concerns over Biden's age—he would be 86 by the time his second term would end—his campaign will want to use Thursday's address as a springboard to start reversing the narrative that the president is too old.

For Trump, the ball is somewhat in his court. Though he led narrowly in some polls in the weeks leading up to The State of the Union it is certainly early days in the general election season and leads do not mean much. Trump repeated his calls for a debate with Biden in the days follow-

ing the address, saying he was ready "anytime" for a faceoff with the sitting president.

Biden will almost certainly avoid a debate until later in the year to give himself time to prepare and avoid a possible bad start to what is likely to be a very competitive race with lots of indeterminate voters up for grabs.

The likely next step for Trump is to pick a running mate. He will likely pick a woman to run with him and try to make up ground with female voters, a demographic he does not do well in. He has no shortage of volunteers, and a spot on the ticket with Trump is even more of a rocket to the top of the GOP pile after the former president installed his own hand-picked pair to lead the Republican National Convention—Michael Whately, a North Carolinian who propagated false claims of voter fraud after the 2020 election and Lara Trump, his own daughter-in-law.

Even with the national party under his control to arguably the greatest extent in his political career to date, Trump's greatest weakness is his polarizing character that simply isolates a lot of voters. Biden, while the incumbent with a more unifying personality, is by no means popular and will continue to face doubts about his age and ability to govern for the whole election cycle. The 2024 presidential election may be decided less by who the voters like more and more by who can convince voters that their negative aspects are less significant than their opponents.



COURTESY OF PBS

Former President Donald Trump addresses a crowd.

News around the world

ELIJAH WETZEL '27
STAFF WRITER

United States

The House passed a bill on Wednesday that, should it pass in the Senate, would ban the popular social media platform TikTok in the US if its parent company ByteDance Ltd does not sell the app by September. The bill received widespread bipartisan support in the House and passed with a vote of 352-65. President Biden has said that he would sign the bill if it passes both chambers, though the Senate leadership have yet to signal whether they will vote yes. The worries from US lawmakers center around China's ruling Chinese Communist Party (CCP) power to seize information from Chinese-owned companies. That power puts at risk the data of more than 150 million American users on TikTok which presents a significant national security risk to the United States. TikTok argues that they are not beholden to the CCP in any way, and a ban of TikTok in the United States would negatively impact American businesses and companies who use TikTok to enhance their business operations. TikTok influencers also expressed their distaste with the bill's passage, arguing that TikTok was vital to many individuals' livelihood. The bill's passage through the House was opposed by Donald Trump but in a sharp break from their typical policy of aligning with the former president, GOP congressional members have advocated heavily for the bill to become a law. The timeline for a Senate vote is uncertain, but Senators on both sides of the aisle have expressed concern over the bill's hurried passage in the House, meaning it is unlikely the Senate will be quick to force a vote on the issue.



COURTESY OF HARVARD LAW SCHOOL

Congress is voting on a bill that has the potential to ban TikTok.

Japan

A Japanese company aiming to put the first private sector satellite into orbit with a space rocket suffered a major setback Wednesday morning when the rocket exploded just a few seconds after liftoff. Space One, the company in question, said that the rocket's automated safety system kicked in five seconds after "phase one," liftoff, of the launch and the problem that initiated the explosion was still undetermined. No injuries occurred and all debris from the craft landed within Space One's property, said officials. The goal of the mission was to place a satellite into orbit that could gather information, including information on North Korean missile developments. Space One, founded in 2018, is aiming to help Japan make up ground on the US and China in the competition for dominance in rocket launching capabilities. Despite the disappointing launch, Space One's President Masakazu Toyoda remained upbeat. "We are taking what happened in a positive way and remain prepared to take up the next challenge."



COURTESY OF NBC

The Japanese rocket exploded on March 12, 2024 in Kushimoto, Japan.

Haiti

Political parties in Haiti nixed a plan that would create a presidential council to select new leadership. Haiti has been rocked by gang violence in recent weeks, and the capital Port-Au-Prince has become an "open-air prison" in the words of the United Nations' independent expert on human rights in Haiti. Gangs have ravaged the country, freeing thousands of prisoners from jails, displacing tens of thousands of inhabitants from their homes, and killing hundreds of residents in raids and robberies. Countless schools and businesses remain closed due to the chaos. The proposed panel, put forward by a regional trade bloc of surrounding nations called Caricom, would work to appoint a new prime minister and leadership structure that would take control of the struggling Caribbean nation. The political leaders who shot the plan down claimed that the proposal was an attempt by foreign leaders to assert themselves into Haiti and reaffirmed their conviction that their self-made council should select the next leaders of Haiti.



COURTESY OF AP

Haitian citizens carry food away from a violent clash on March 6, 2024, in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Lebanon

A plan to rebuild the port in Beirut was announced by French and Lebanese officials on Wednesday nearly four years after an explosion at the port killed and wounded over 7,000 people and caused billions of dollars in damages. Rebuilding efforts have been slow and funded primarily by private investors as international funds have been slow to roll in due to political reforms that were required as prerequisites to funding have failed to materialize. A French shipping company won a contract in 2022 to run the shipping portion of the port, and the plans put forward by two French engineering companies Wednesday were funded by the French government. Lebanon will still need to come up with \$80 million to finance parts of the construction, but Lebanon's Prime Minister Najib Mikati expressed that France's support "represents the heart of the international community."



COURTESY OF PBS

The incident occurred on August 5, 2020 in Beireut, Lebanon.

This week at Wabash



Saturday, Mar. 16

12:00 p.m. | Baseball vs. Hanover College
2:00 p.m. | Lacrosse vs. Hanover College

Monday, Mar. 18

4:00 p.m. | Cotton Lecture @ Center 216

Tuesday, Mar. 19

12:00 p.m. | Discussion of 'Dune: Part Two' @ Center 216

Wednesday, Mar. 20

12:00 p.m. | Apartment hunting 101 @ Detchon 109

Thursday, Mar. 21

11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk

Friday, Mar. 22

8:00 p.m. | MXI Red Velvet Comedy Show @ Ball Theater

What to learn from self-immolation



Ethan Brown '24
Reply to this opinion at
ecbrown24@wabash.edu

On February 25, Aaron Bushnell, an active duty airman committed an act of self-immolation. I've seen the video, heard his voice. I then watched as many media organizations obfuscated the causes that led to this act of extreme protest. But you can hear him say, calmly, as he doused himself in gasoline, that he didn't want to be complicit in genocide, before setting himself ablaze, screaming "Free Palestine" until he no longer could. He is not the first person to take part in this form of protest in calling for the U.S. to call for an immediate ceasefire; the first was in December of last year, in Atlanta.

The thoughts I've had on this topic since October 7 became more clear after I saw the death tolls of Ukrainian soldiers announced recently. 30,000 Ukrainian troops have been killed since the beginning of the war in 2022. Now, the number of Palestinians who have been killed since October is around 31,000, most of whom are civilians and 25 of whom died of starvation. I will not go into whether I think Israel has a right to defend itself; no matter what nation says it can defend itself, there are non-proportional responses. The Israeli response in Gaza is horrific. And in order to still believe Israel is in the right is to dispel all evidence presented and to take their word to the end, unquestioningly. That is problematic to say the least.

I have seen the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) destroy United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) facilities that were trying to distribute medical and food aid to the people of Gaza. Israel said they were Hamas. They said the International Court of Justice (ICJ) was Hamas

after it ruled that the conditions in Gaza may constitute genocide.

Journalists have been Hamas, as has the United Nations. Not everything is Hamas. That is a ridiculous notion of course, but we are made to think that Hamas is somehow all powerful, flooding the airwaves with propaganda. It was Israel that paid for a Super Bowl commercial as they bombed the tents of refugees in Rafah. I haven't seen anything that I would say was Hamas propaganda. In fact, I haven't seen videos (even from the IDF) in which I can see them fighting combatants of any kind. I have seen them destroy businesses and pose with dead bodies, though, in videos posted freely by IDF troops on social media. And since the beginning of March, I have seen videos from the "Flour Massacre," where Israeli troops fired on Palestinian civilians trying to collect food aid, killing over 100. But I will say it is hard to get information out of Gaza, because, according to CBS, "Israel has barred journalists from independently entering the Gaza Strip."

I can't trust anything I've seen from the Israeli government after seeing how they have waged indiscriminate bombing campaigns on Gaza, or how they talk about getting back Israeli hostages but continually reject ceasefire agreements that would release them. What needs to be understood is that Israel is in the position of power in this situation, therefore the impetus for agreeing to a ceasefire lies with them, not Hamas. In his State of the Union Address, President Biden spoke of a temporary ceasefire. The ceasefire must be permanent and the structure for two-states must be established with pre-1967 borders as a minimum.

With all of this, it is clear to me that Israel is committing genocide: I remember from high school the story of IDF snipers killing a teenager that was protesting at the border wall. And killing children isn't new to the IDF clearly, it seems to be the norm. Like six-year-old Hind Rajab, who was trapped in a destroyed car with the remains of her family. She called authorities. As she was on the phone, the car

was shot by the IDF, and the ambulance sent to rescue her was destroyed also. Was she Hamas too?

Some images have found their way to us. For example, Dr. Irfan Galaria, a reconstructive surgeon from Virginia who volunteered in Gaza wrote, "What I witnessed during the next 10 days in Gaza was not war — it was annihilation.... I stopped keeping track of how many new orphans I had operated on. On one occasion, a handful of children, all about ages five to eight, were carried to the emergency room by their parents. All had single sniper shots to the head.... None of these children survived."

To see words like this escape is enlightening. These children were not "collateral damage," but rather shot intentionally by IDF snipers.

Those are just the images seen from military actions and not even broaching the rhetoric that has been used by the government of Israel: for instance, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu painting the actions of the IDF as a "struggle between the children of light and the children of darkness, between

humanity and the law of the jungle," on X (a comment the Prime Minister later deleted), or the systematic targeting of journalists. And at the root of it, that the attacks on October 7 are entirely unprovoked. To think that they were is to ignore 75 years of occupation and the power dynamics of the situation. The Israeli government knew of the attack more than a year in advance and chose to ignore it. And it must be asked why.

Western media is actively complicit in this narrative too. They do not ask questions; they appear entirely uncritical of Israel. In fact, when anybody pushes back, questions the actions of Israel, they are called anti-semitic. Many people have made anti-semitic statements, though to categorize all anti-zionists as anti-semitic is false. There are many Rabbis that have stood against the actions of Israel and stood with the people of Gaza.

These actions from Israel are nothing short of genocide, which is not to be said lightly. I am tired of pretending that what I see with my own eyes isn't what I see. I will always support the struggles of the Palestinian people and the call for a Palestinian state.

How my Wabash 'W' became my Scarlet Letter



Mara Kramer
Reply to this opinion at
kramerm@wabash.edu

When being exposed to a sociocultural construct such as an "all-men's" college, people outside the dominating norm experience a certain expectation that they are supposed to live up to. This expectation sets them up for failure since it is incompatible with their identity.

Personally, the realization hit once more during the Student Research Celebration. I had been attending the talk "Rediscovering Chapel Sing" which questioned the tradition of Wabash community members singing the Wabash fight song in order to earn a red spray-painted W on their white t-shirt. During the discussion, one student raised their hand to ask a question: "One of the female TAs got her W. What do you think about that?" First of all, there has been another TA who received his W in 2022 during Chapel Sing and nobody asked about him during the discussion, despite the fact that he was not a Wabash student either. Furthermore, if it was problem that faculty receives a W, there are also professors on campus who should not have been allowed to participate in Chapel Sing then. This has not been addressed either. Second of all, just because someone is presenting as female does not mean other people get to assume that someone is identifying as female. In that sense, the question should have been rephrased as follows: "The TA who identifies as non-binary received their W during Chapel Sing. What do you think about that?" Yet, just

the thought of making this tradition accessible to cis-men only is very delusional: There are women like Andrea James who graduated from Wabash and there are students who identify as non-binary. The idea of an "all-male" college is not working anymore and obviously has not been working out in the past either.

After a week of talks addressing men's issues and their struggles, I cannot help but wonder why the gender-segregated point of view is necessary in that very regard: Yes, we need to address the wage gap between men and women. Yet, white men do profit from that wage gap, even if they have received less education than women and female presenting people.

So, if you find yourself asking why men are falling behind when it comes to achievement within academia, maybe do keep in mind that women and other marginalized are used to walking the extra mile. At a certain point, it just becomes a habit: You get so used to putting in extra effort that you do not stop after a certain point. You experience that you can outrun others and finally make equity happen. Yes, it is exhausting, but there is no other chance if you find yourself within a marginalized or less privileged group. You always represent something that is not part of the norm and therefore people will judge your whole group based on your achievements. After all, boys and men were also brought up in a social environment that has been shaped by patriarchy. Meaning, we are all in this together and we all are suffering from the pressure of competing against each other all the time. What if we just locked arms with the people next to us and stopped competing for a second instead? Imagine more people wearing their W with pride on campus and creating a more connected and more diverse Wabash community. What is stopping us from doing so?

Wally's wall: Spring break recap

The Prompt:

What was your best or worst memory from spring break?

Hayden Kammer '24

Best: I participated in a air bull riding competition on national television in Texas!
Worst: Only getting second place in the air bull riding competition on national television in Texas!

Austin Stockton '24

Best: Seeing the Golden Gate Bridge. I was in the California immersion course, and we stayed in Asian American communities. I loved every second of the trip, but I've always wanted to see the bridge, and it was amazing to see in person.

Quinn Manford '25

Best: Playing soccer against great competition in France and winning both games.

Lewis Dellinger '25

Best: Meeting alumni and playing at some great golf courses in great weather.

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Rodney Rhyne

Weeks #3/#4: 'Wherever the breezes blow'



Comic by Preston Parker '26



FEATURES

Immersion courses trot the globe

Faculty and students spend spring break in Spain, Italy, California and more



COURTESY OF JIM AMIDON '85

Yoonseo Kim '27 points out a monument in ancient Herкуланум. Students from both Latin 302 and Greek 301 joined together to tour historically significant sites of the Roman Empire in Italy.



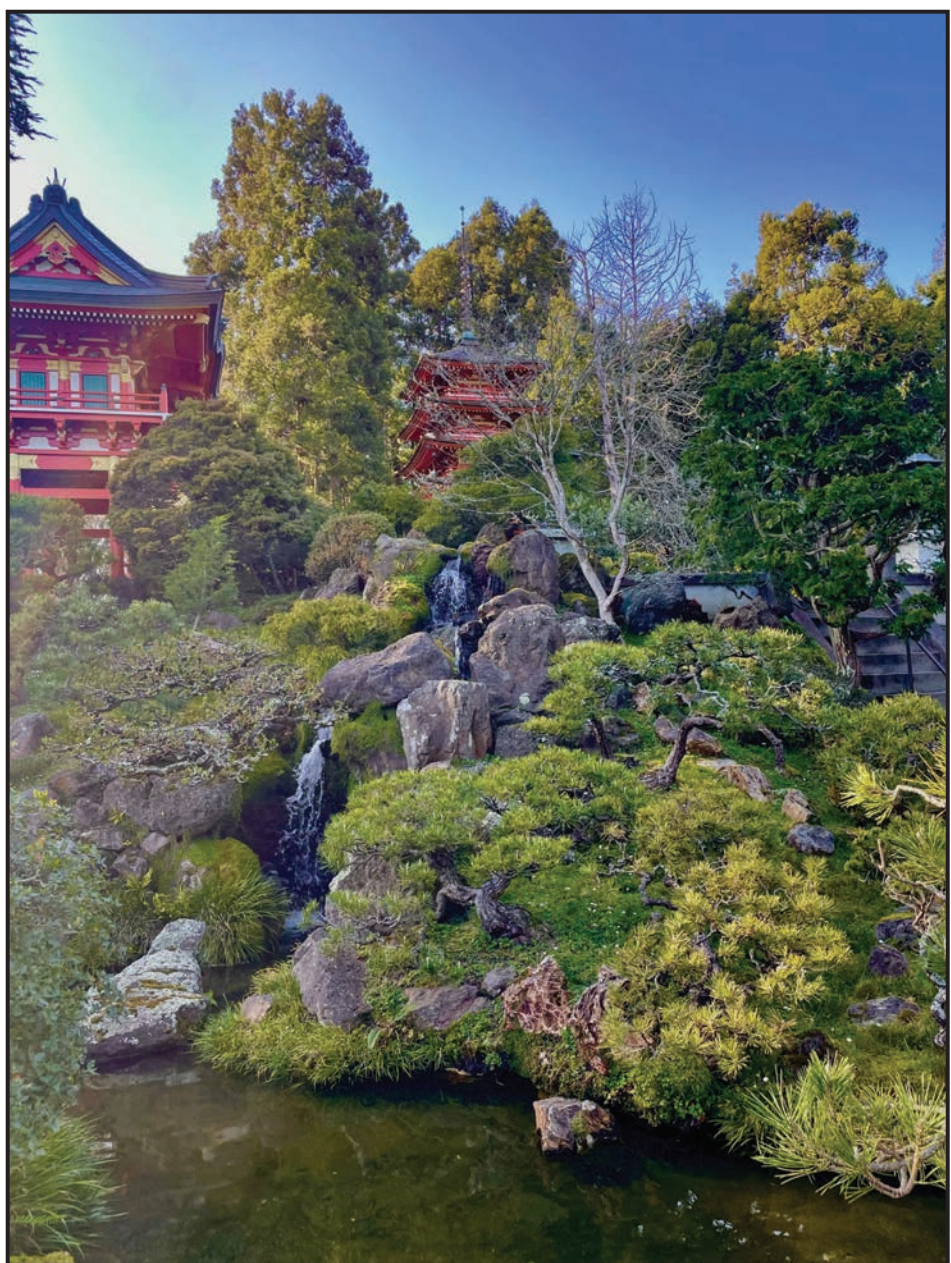
COURTESY OF BRETT DRISCOLL '24

Students in Professor Peter Mikek's Economics of the European Union class pose in the atrium of the Central Bank of Spain. Students were able to not only tour buildings, but also sit in on meetings and get hands on experience with international business.



COURTESY OF NATE JOVEN '26

Students have spent semesters studying ancient literature of the Greco-Roman world, but finally got the chance to explore the architecture of antiquity, such as this secret tunnel in Naples, Italy.



COURTESY OF JAMES SZALKIE '25

Students from Professor Healey's California's Asian American Communities class learned about Asian American culture and history, and spent spring break visiting landmarks such as Chinatown in Los Angeles and this tranquil garden in San Francisco Japanese Tea Garden.



COURTESY OF JIM AMIDON

Students and faculty fly the flag of Wabash over the Temple of Hera in Paestum. The Temple of Hera is the most well-preserved Greek temple in the world and offers a treasure trove of clues about the ancient past to curious travelers.



COURTESY OF BRETT DRISCOLL '24

After visiting Spain, students in Economics of the European Union trekked to Brussels, Belgium, but not before stopping in Waterloo to visit the site of Napoleon's famous defeat.

'Dune: Part Two': A generational epic



COURTESY OF GADGETMATE

SILAS MILLS
STAFF WRITER

Romance, war, duplicity, power. What more can we ask out of “Dune: Part Two”. The meticulously crafted film that MUST be viewed on the big screen has already surpassed viewers’ expectations. Overflowing with epic cinematography, an ethereal score and entrancing relationship dynamics, the film has taken the sci-fi genre to an entirely new level. Everyone expected “Dune: Part Two” to be a successful film, but nobody could have predicted that we would be presented with an absolute cinematic masterpiece. Working with too many noteworthy actors and actresses to count, director Denis Villeneuve, the mind behind “Blade Runner 2049,” “Arrival” and “Dune: Part One,” carefully cast each of these actors into an airtight ensemble. Villeneuve has seen success before in prior films, but not so much as this, with his newest film earning \$368,000,000 at the box office within 10 days of release. With many viewers calling the series our generation’s “Lord of the Rings,” lovers of film and book alike are brimming with nothing but praise for the film, myself included.

Hans Zimmer, composer of dozens of noteworthy film scores, prefaced each of the scenes in the film with a glorious symphony. To establish the film’s celestial ambiance, Zimmer utilized a plethora of sounds unheard of in film, creating a unique auditory experience for viewers. One of the main parts that film critics clearly cannot get enough of is Paul and Chani’s theme. Zimmer used rather subtle tones to establish an emotionally provoking vibe.

One way in which the film surpassed my expectations was the unpredictability of the plot. Sci-fi films tend to employ popular motifs that have grown stale and trite as the years have passed by. Personally, I have found it relatively easy in the past to predict the outcomes of films due to constant exposure to the same storyline. “Dune,” while still following a standard hero outline, keeps viewers on their toes at all points throughout the film.

Furthermore, films as long as this (with a runtime of almost three hours) can grow tiresome through prolonged, dross expository scenes. Although this was the primary critique of the first film, every single line of dialogue in the sequel engaged the audience and served a pivotal role in the film.

A primary cause of this phenomenal immersion was the cohesion among the actors throughout the movie. In a film overflowing with huge names such as Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Dave Bautista and Josh Brolin, it would be easy to assume that each would grasp for a main role. Although there are primary protagonists and antagonists, each of these huge-name actors fell relatively seamlessly into their designated roles, allowing for powerful and emotional scenes all throughout the film.

With the emergence of computer generated imagery in films, many directors have exhausted its possibilities, breaking the audience’s immersion and spawning some rather cringe moments. At no point in the film was CGI overused, establishing a unique futuristic ambiance while still maintaining relatively realistic visuals. This achievement is heightened by the unconventional color palette found in the film. “Dune: Part One” did a great job utilizing a color palette as symbolism to establish a tone. In the sequel, much of the film is isolated to Arrakis, the desert planet around which the main conflict revolves. With such a limited color palette, the visual contrast throughout the film accents many of the themes Villeneuve explores.

Even within days of the film's release, critics are raving about how it is reinventing the sci-fi genre, and I cannot help but concur with them. Through a glorious score and dreamy imagery, "Dune: Part Two" has thus far presented a new level of cinema. I can't help but give this film a perfect score. Bear in mind, maybe three films that I have seen can break the scale and be a perfect ten, but I believe this is a generational event for cinema. If you look at culturally significant franchise sequels, Generation X had “Empire Strikes Back,” Millennials had “Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers,” and now we have “Dune: Part Two.” I have been intoxicated with “Dune”, and I am thrilled for the finale to come eventually.

FINAL VERDICT:
5/5 WALLYS



'Luck 'O' the Irish'

Crossword by
Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3	4	5	6		7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14							15				16			
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53	54	55				56				57		58	59	60
61					62				63					
64					65				66					
67					68				69					

Across

- Extramarital relationship
- X, in antiquity
- Abode, in MTV parlance
- Stock exchange?
- Umpire's call
- Prepare to be sought
- Roger, Demi and Julianne
- Word that looks like it should mean "take the horse outside"
- Cain, vis-à-vis Abel
- Director Lee
- Sprays (down)
- What a green light or gunshot represents
- Fourth-yr. collegians
- 2, on a keypad
- Best Buy buy
- Cover letters?
- Settings for voters or diners
- "Um, actually..." statement
- Hullabaloo
- Little troublemaker
- "Top Gun" wingman
- Kind of sports match-up
- Pulls up, in basketball lingo
- White's opposite
- Score at the half?
- "Well, ___-di-dah"
- Auction action
- Game where Kirby can fight Bowser, familiarly
- March neighbor
- Cab alternative
- Jenga structure
- Big name in tires
- "O ___" (national anthem)
- Crux of a church
- "Chances ___..."
- *March symbol of luck hidden visually four times throughout this puzzle
- Part of IRA
- Hi-___ graphics
- Quiet and restful

Down

- Barrel contents
- "___ in the Rain" (Led Zeppelin song)
- Something to chew on
- Buenos ___
- Not going anywhere
- Some linemen: Abbr.
- Retaliatory tactics
- Like Christmas decorations and some juries
- Part of TGIF
- The beginning of creation, to the Greeks
- Barbecue order
- Sit in traffic
- Queens, e.g.
- Via
- Decorator's purchase
- Keister
- Jazz club owner, in "La La Land"
- From the Latin for "shudder away from"
- Frontier pioneer Daniel
- Acted lovey-dovey
- Sen.'s colleague
- Bar fixture
- Trattoria treat
- Crayola color renamed Peach
- However, in text speech
- Conveniently
- "Toto, ___?": Dorothy
- Ltd. relative
- Reference book: Abbr.
- Caspian, e.g.
- What a player might slide into
- Busybody
- Like old potato chips
- Put on a pedestal
- India tourist mecca
- Meager
- Part of a Clue accusation
- In one's birthday suit
- Motion of the ocean
- "Genesis" setting
- Steakhouse order
- Corn unit
- Loops in, as in email



Scan for solution!

Businger: Five tips to nail your bracket

Part two of a three-part series

GAGE BUSINGER '25
STAFF WRITER

We will have a bracket for the 2024 NCAA Tournament by the end of this weekend. Millions of brackets will be filled out in the days leading up to the opening round of the tournament and today I will provide five helpful tips to remember when making your bracket picks.

Tip #1: Be bold.

This year's college basketball season has given us enough to know that parity will be the name of the game this March. It would be a mistake to have your Sweet 16 filled with higher seeds (1-4 seeds), as there is not much separation from top to bottom this season. Another note-worthy fact is that not a single one-seeded team made the Elite 8 last year. My advice, pick some lower seeds to make a deep tournament run. Besides, the odds of picking a perfect bracket are 1 in 120 billion so have fun.

Tip #2: Choose your favorite “Cinderella” team.

In the last three NCAA Tournaments, there has been at least one 15-seed to make the Sweet 16. It might be easy to automatically dismiss the mid-major schools that make up the bottom seeds and pick the clear favorite, but, as recent history has proven, there is bound to be a 15-seed over 2-seed upset. This is not to say 15-seeds should be the only upset picks on your radar. Who could forget 16-seed Fairleigh Dickinson’s shocking win over Purdue, or 14-seeded Abilene Christian’s success in 2021?

Tip #3: Avoid picking the defending national champion to repeat.

UConn took home the title last year and has a really good squad again this season, but do not get too comfortable in picking them to go far. Over the past four tournaments, the defending champion has not advanced past the round of 32. The Huskies will no doubt carry a target on their back all tournament long.

Tip #4: Pay attention to a team’s KenPom ranking.

From 2002 to 2023, all but two national champions were inside the top 20 in both KenPom adjusted offensive and defensive metrics. The five teams that fit in this category as of February 28 include Houston, Tennessee, Auburn, Arizona and Uconn.

Tip #5: Always pick a 12 over 5 upset.

12-seed teams are typically the premier mid-major teams from the regular season. These teams might not get a ton of credit for their successful seasons, but make no mistake: 12-seeds are on par with the talent and skill of 5 seeds. Since 1985, 12-seeds have been victorious over 5 seeds 34.87% of the time.

Senior spotlight: Cody Bevelhimer and the sound of Wabash



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Cody Bevelhimer '24 plays upright bass, his instrument of choice, in a Chamber Orchestra rehearsal on November 28, 2023.
ZACH GELEOTT '27
STAFF WRITER

Music is a part of everyone's life, but for some, it plays a much bigger role than simply listening to it in their free time. One of those individuals is Cody Bevelhimer '24. The music major and film and digital media minor from Zionsville, Indiana has put music at the forefront of his Wabash career.

Truth be told, Bevelhimer was not originally planning on coming to Wabash. Heading into his senior year of high school and realizing that he wanted to be a part of a music program, he was dead set on attending another college with one of the nation's best music schools. But to amuse his dad, who graduated from Wabash in 1986, he decided to come on a visit during the fall of his senior year. After the visit, Bevelhimer didn't know what to do.

"I was like 'Wow; this is a tough decision,'" said Bevelhimer. "Then COVID-19 hit, and I lost my senior lacrosse season, and I wasn't ready to give up lacrosse. Plus, I always kind of wanted to be in a fraternity, and the other school didn't have Greek life. With everything I had already seen, plus these two things that I'm wanting being very prevalent at Wabash, it became a pretty easy decision."

Even before stepping foot on campus,

Bevelhimer began to foster a relationship with Professor Michael Abbott '85, the Music Department Chair.

"He probably is my biggest mentor," said Bevelhimer. "I talked with him for an hour and a half on my visit before I even came here, trying to figure out what I could do here because Wabash didn't have anything audio-based. Now, I see him as not only my professor and advisor, but as my friend. I go to him for anything related to my field, but also if something is going on around campus, he is going to be one of the guys I'm going to."

Bevelhimer has taken several of Abbott's classes, and the two have frequently met to discuss Bevelhimer's experiences at the college.

"I've watched him grow and mature as a musician and as a student, but most importantly as a man in the world," said Abbott. "Cody cares deeply about Wabash and the experience we offer our students here. As an alum, I appreciate his willingness to think critically about Wabash and call out when we fail to live up to our own standards. Loving Wabash means always trying to make us better, and Cody has devoted himself to that mission in his time here."

Bevelhimer is a brother at Phi Gamma Delta, where he served as new member educator for three years. On campus, he is a member of the Wabash College Chamber Orchestra, a member of the Mariachi Club, a three-year New Student Orientation Mentor and a member of the Sphinx Club, where he was most recently Vice President.

After he graduates with distinction in May, Bevelhimer will begin working at The Center for the Performing Arts: a three-venue, world-class performing arts center located in Carmel, Indiana. He will be a production technician in all three of their venues.

"Audio has always been my thing," explained Bevelhimer. "But I'm also just excited to expand my arsenal of things I can do."

When looking to the future, Bevelhimer urges the next generation of Little Giants to simply put themselves out there and take advantage of their four years on campus.

"I think a lot of the things that I've cemented in myself are things I learned at Wabash," said Bevelhimer. "I think there are a lot of really good experiences and opportunities that await students, you just have to go out and find them."

Netflix improves its adaptations in 'Avatar: The Last Airbender'

HAYDEN KAMMER '24
STAFF WRITER

When Netflix announced that they would create a live-action adaptation of "Avatar: The Last Airbender," I, like many other people, were extremely hesitant. The last time "Avatar" was adapted into live action it went extremely poorly, and anytime Netflix adapts animation into live action it's... subpar at best. So when I heard that in 2020 the original creators of "Avatar: The Last Airbender" left the show due to creative differences, I knew that this would be a flop.

When the show officially released on Netflix in February, it received massive blowback. One review even said, "I almost wished it was the M. Night Shyamalan film because that ended much quicker." So, as I settled in to watch the first episode of Netflix's "Avatar: The Last Airbender," my expectations were low, but hopeful.

And Netflix completely blew those expectations out of the water. From the beginning of the first five minutes till the end of the episode, I was hooked! Soon after, I watched episode two, then decided to binge the entire first season over spring break. I was amazed by some of the CGI, attention to detail and costumes. It wasn't perfect, though. The writing felt a bit forced and flat, some of the actors felt like they were miscast and the green-screened backgrounds were sometimes distracting. Otherwise, this was a phenomenal show.

When watching the show completely separate from the originally animated cartoon, it tells an amazing story and holds up very well. If you choose to compare it to the original series, you'll start to see some cracks and faults. Some character arcs are revised and skipped out on, plot lines are merged together and some things are just fully changed. This isn't necessarily a bad thing, and it was something that I enjoyed. I didn't have to expect an exact, one-to-one live-action retelling of the cartoon, so I was kept on the edge of my seat trying to guess where the show was going.

One of my favorite changes to the show has to be the changes to Azula and Zuko. In the cartoon, Azula was portrayed as an unredeemable monster — evil for evil's sake. However, in the live-action adaptation, they paint the Fire Lord Ozai as more of the villain — manipulating Azula and Zuko into doing his bidding. We actually feel some sympathy for Azula because of how hard she is trying to gain her father's favor, but all he does is just play games and toy with her.

Zuko, on the other hand, goes through a massive character shift. He is no longer a one-dimensional character who is evil because he wants to capture the Avatar to restore his honor, but we learn that he wants to restore his honor to prove to his father that he is actually strong.

Zuko is strong in both terms of power but also character. One nice change they make to the story is the reasoning of how Zuko became banished, and its consequences. Zuko calls out his father's plans to sacrifice a group



COURTESY OF IMDB

of new Fire Nation soldiers, saying that life is valuable and not to be wasted. When Ozai eventually banishes Zuko for claiming his military tactics as inferior, he 'gifts' Zuko with that same legion he saved, saying that they are also banished alongside him and must serve him to find the Avatar. This change humanizes Zuko even more and highlights the inner conflict he is going through — he is a good person, he just lives in an environment where "good" is equated with "weak". This will then make his later shift into a protagonist feel more natural.

When talking about characters, I would be remiss to exclude Ian Ousley's performance as Sokka. I have never seen a more perfect casting choice in my entire life, as Ousley perfectly embodies what it means to be Sokka. His sassy, witty remarks feel natural and unforced, which is integral to Sokka's character. Netflix also added an interesting change to Sokka.

Sokka's entire character arc and growth revolved around him growing out of his sexist beliefs and realizing the value that everyone provides to the team — which is what makes him such an amazing leader. The show changed Sokka to feel an overburdened sense of responsibility not because of sexist expectations, but because of the expectations of his own father. Sokka overhears a conversation from his father expressing doubts about Sokka's qualities as a future leader, which causes Sokka to feel burdened and unworthy. As a result, he overcompensates and always tries to act like he has things together, even when he clearly could use some help.

Ousley's performance as Sokka clearly demonstrates his unique talent as an actor to convey difficult topics to an audience in an easy to understand way that doesn't water down the issue.

For anyone who has not yet seen Netflix's "Avatar the Last Airbender," I highly recommend it. The show is not only a love letter to the original cartoon, but a great piece of TV media. Netflix has a long way to go with live-action adaptations, but this is a step in the right direction.

FINAL VERDICT:
4/5 WALLYS



Cousin Rick's picks Champ Week: Dress rehearsal for the Dance

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST

No lines available at time of publication. Please gamble responsibly.

Just behind the excitement of March Madness every year is Division I basketball's slew of conference tournaments, often dubbed 'Champ Week'. While it's impossible to predict exact matchups and odds at the time of writing, certain things should be watched out for in not only determining who makes the cut on Selection Sunday, but also where money can be won.

Purdue stands hefty favorite to repeat in Big Ten, but pesky foes shouldn't be ignored



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Conference play in 2023-2024 left little doubt that Purdue University is head-and-shoulders above most Big Ten competition, but those teams that were able to give the Boilermakers trouble this year find themselves awfully close to Purdue in the bracket. While Purdue doesn't play until Friday, their first matchup will be against the winner of the tournament's 9/8 matchup, Minnesota and Michigan State. Both teams could admittedly pose a threat as spoiler, with Minnesota standing out as one of the few teams that almost knocked off Purdue at Mackey and MSU as a talented team capable of playing with anyone on the right day. Surviving this matchup, Purdue will likely be met with Northwestern, who has best fit the role of David to the Big Ten's Goliath. Nevertheless, Purdue has a short road to the Big Ten crown and easily the best odds to repeat. If Vegas provides plus odds, the Boilermakers are likely a bet worth making.

With work left to be done for many ACC teams, consider what's at stake in your betting



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

The end of the ACC regular season did little to clarify which teams will be seeing postseason play. At this time, really only three teams (Duke, North Carolina and Clemson) find themselves as locks. Virginia, Pitt, Wake Forest and maybe even Syracuse all could greatly use strong tournament wins, or better yet, an ACC tournament championship to feel better about their chances come Sunday. By time of publication, much more will be made clear, but these things should be made aware of in your wagers. If any Power Five tournament is going to provide an automatic bid for a Cinderella pick, it'll likely be the ACC. Don't be afraid to bet some underdogs come the semifinal round.

Don't sleep on Ivy Madness for some mid-major fun, scouting



COURTESY OF WIKIPEDIA

Relatively new to Champ Week is Ivy Madness, the Ivy League's four team tournament taking place between Saturday and Sunday. While I have little opportunity to discuss mid-majors, the Ivy League provides one particularly strong candidate for Cinderella in Princeton, but each team in the tournament provides a strong opportunity to play spoiler before that can even happen. Both Cornell and Yale have shared some time in the national spotlight this season as bracketologist's darling from the Ivy League and have similarly provided stiff competition for the Tigers. Even lowly Brown, sitting at 12-17 on the year, managed to finish off the season with six straight wins, including road victories over the tournament's 2- and 3-seeds. While the Ivy League championship doesn't stand to be Sunday's main event, don't sleep on it being an integral part of the frenzy to come. And hey, maybe if you're feeling crazy, throw a dollar or two on the Brown Bears to go dancing.

Six wrestlers punch their tickets to DIII National Championships



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Jesse Herrera '26 celebrates a win in the Little Giants' victory over Albion College on November 9, 2023, at Chadwick Court. Herrera will be one of the six Little Giants to appear at nationals.

Continued from page 1

Evan Burge '24 competed at 141 pounds and was able to finish second in the region. His only loss came to the nation's number-one ranked wrestler at his weight. in a 6-1 decision. Heading into the championships NWCA ranked Burge 15th at 141 pounds.

"I'm very confident in my ability to perform at nationals," said Burge. "I don't get nervous by big stage events and I believe in my abilities to compete with anyone. I'm excited and ready. My goal is always to have fun and dictate the direction of matches. Obviously, like everyone else I want to win a national title, but this is only going to happen if I wrestle my match."

Daniel Uribe '24 earned his third trip to nationals with a third-place finish at 149 pounds. This was his second-straight year finishing third at 149, after he jumped up from the 141 weight class where he competed during his sophomore season. Uribe was ranked 10th at 149 pounds by the NWCA.

"I'm really excited about making it back to nationals," said Uribe. "I love this time of year, it's what I wait for every season. In previous years I was skeptical of myself but now I have a lot of confidence that I can compete with anyone in the country. My goal has always been to All-American. Ultimately, I want to be tenacious and compete as hard as possible."

Fourth-seeded at 157 pounds, Tim Smith '26 knocked off both the first and second seeds in his bracket for a stunning first-place finish.

"I don't pay attention to the rankings," said Smith. "I go into

every match with full confidence that I'm better and work harder than whoever steps onto the mat with me. It felt great to win the matches and take a step in the direction of winning nationals."

With the regional title under his belt, Smith has taken his first major step towards securing his own national title. No one has proven they can beat Smith yet, and he plans to keep it that way.

"I believe there is only ever one goal and that's to win against every person I wrestle and win nationals," said Smith. "I'm locked in on the opportunity to go compete and I know my teammates are as well."

"I believe there is only ever one goal and that's to win against every person I wrestle and win nationals."

- Tim Smith '26

Jesse Herrera '26, weighing 165, secured his first trip to nationals by finishing second in his bracket.

"Going into nationals for the first time, I feel super confident compared to the other guys in my weight class," said Herrera. "Having no expectations or a chip on my shoulder makes it that much easier. My goal is to All-American, of course. But hopefully at least I can do my best and display my talent on the national stage."

Chase Baczek '26 is nothing short of a championship contender after being crowned champion at 184 pounds in the regional meet

for the second-straight year.

The NWCA ranked Baczek second in the nation at his weight class. The All-American wrestler will return to the National Championships for the third-straight season, after he finished sixth at his weight in 2022 and seventh in 2023.

"My goal is to win nationals," said Baczek. "I've been thinking about and getting myself ready for that national finals match since I finished my season last year. And I'm incredibly excited to go compete for it."

"My experience competing on the big stage will be really helpful," said Baczek. "It's super nerve-racking—going out for your matches at nationals—but I've been there twice now so I know what to expect plus I'll have a big Wabash crowd cheering me on."

Baczek also falls amongst the frontrunners for the 2024 Most Dominant Wrestler award. In standings released by the NCAA on February 28, Baczek was the tenth-most dominant wrestler in Division III with 4.82 average points per match.

Team scoring in the National Tournament will be based on the collective number of wins each teams' wrestlers get in their individual brackets. This means teams with wrestlers in multiple weight classes are heavily favored. In the final NWCA coaches' poll the Little Giants were selected to finish 14th in the nation. With wrestlers in only six of the weight classes, they'll be a long-shot for a podium finish but with deep individual runs could secure a strong spot just outside or even within the top 10.

Will Neubauer '25 earns USTFCCCA honors

AYDEN SALPIETRA '27
STAFF WRITER

Despite no team meets taking place over the break, Wabash track & field had a lot to look forward to. On March 2, Wabash's Will Neubauer '25 traveled to Mount Union to participate in the Mount Union Final Qualifier meet.

There was no team scoring, and Neubauer was the only Little Giant in attendance. But the meet came with steep stakes. The purpose of the meet was to give athletes one last chance to record a time good enough to get them into the NCAA DIII Indoor Championships.

Neubauer has been on a roll this season, consistently recording top-three efforts in the 800 during NCAC meets. With a vision of placing top-20 nationally and competing in indoor nationals, Neubauer was set to compete in the 800-meter. Neubauer crossed the finish line with a time of 1.53.51, a personal best, winning the event. Despite the career-best effort, Neubauer just missed the national meet, finishing with the 28th-best time in the nation.

In the meet, Neubauer posted the third fastest 800-meter time this season among all Division III athletes in the Great Lakes Region. This scored in the top-five fastest times in the region, earning Neubauer U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) All-Region honors.

"My family, coaches and teammates have helped me earn All-Region status. Without their continuous support and belief in me, I would not be where I am today."

With the indoor portion of the season behind them, the Little Giants will now focus on the later, outdoor portion of the season. Expectations are high for the team in

the back half of the season.

"My expectations for this team are to utilize the talent and hard work on this team to propel us to a higher conference finish at outdoor conference in May," said Neubauer. "I expect more of my teammates to be racing at conference and to realize how good our team actually is."

"My family, coaches and teammates have helped me earn All-Region status. Without their continuous support and belief in me, I would not be where I am today."

-Will Neubauer '25

After finishing second in the indoor conference meet, the team will be one of the top contenders for the outdoor season with plenty of opportunities to capture first place.

"We brought under 30 guys to the indoor conference meet to compete, and with 17 men scoring, we scored 114 points, scoring second at the championship," said Neubauer. "This is not easy to do, and if we bring a larger team outdoors, a higher team finish is imminent."

The Little Giants will look to start the outdoor season strong on Saturday, March 16 at the Early Bird Meet at Rose-Hulman.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Will Neubauer '25 competes in Huntsman Family Invite on April 8, 2023 at Huntsman Outdoor Track.

Golf tees off spring season in Savannah, Georgia

NICK WANGLER '27
STAFF WRITER

The links were in great shape over spring break as the Little Giants started off their spring season with a powerful performance. The golf team was in full swing in Savannah, Georgia where they competed in the Port City Classic Golf Tournament along with 16 other teams. The Little Giants held their own and finished up the two-day competition tied for second with Roanoke College.

The competition consisted of three rounds, the first 36 holes on Monday, March 4 and finishing with 18 holes on Tuesday, March 5. Coming into the tournament, Wabash was ranked 96th in the country but pulled ahead of the stronger teams to make a mark. Finishing ahead of Denison and Wittenburg is also a promising sign as the season begins.

The scores consisted of 294 in round one, 297 in round two, and the final round was the lowest score of the trip at 293. In total, the Little Giants shot a low 884 on a challenging course in Savannah. Driving the success was the fact that they had three top-20 finishes from Brayden Weiss '24, Miles Patterson '24 and Sean Bledsoe '26. Weiss '24 finished third overall, shooting even-par in his final round, totaling 217 strokes in 54 holes.

All five golfers contributed solid rounds to the team's total score in the end. Aside from a couple of shaky rounds, the golfers were near even par for the majority of the tournament.



COURTESY OF SEAN BLEDSOE '26

From left to right: Mark Poole '24, Brayden Weiss '24, Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21, Miles Patterson '24, Lewis Dellinger '25 and Sean Bledsoe '26 at Savannah Country Club in Savannah, Georgia, where Little Giants spent their spring break competing in the Port City Invitational.

Mark Poole '24 tied for 27th posting a score of 226, including his second round where he finished just one over par. This put four Little Giant golfers in the top half of all golfers at the tournament. Lewis Dellinger tied for 72nd as he finished strong with his two best rounds in the latter half of the competition. With that being said, this is a tremendous start to the season with NCAC title hopes in the near future.

With the season ahead, strong

team chemistry is crucial to success on the golf course. Although golf is not a traditional "team" sport, all five scores from each golfer is accumulated into a team score, which is then compared to the other teams in the tournament. Having a connection with your team will always boost morale when the course gives you trouble.

"In this year's tournament, our top five players all played in the same group. Instead of us keeping to ourselves and fo-

cusing on our own rounds, we had good vibes going through every player in the group, which helped everyone stay positive", said Bledsoe.

Playing in different conditions affects the play in many ways in the game of golf. Different areas have more wind and other areas have flatter greens. Preparing for these differences is key when heading into a region you are unfamiliar with. Golfers do this by attempting to create similar conditions to what they have at

their course. Unfortunately, the north and south differ in what types of grass are used on the greens. In Savannah, Georgia, the greens are Bermuda grass which contains grain. Grain is the direction the grass tips are pointing, and this can be different on each hole.

"I think the one thing that we struggled with was putting", said Bledsoe. "We are used to putting on bent grass greens, but Savannah Country Club had Bermuda grass greens. I feel like all of us missed putts because of the grain, and we feel like we should have made some of those putts."

The team is riding their strong start going into the Rose-Hulman Great Lakes Invitational starting Saturday, March 16. The early spark from the golfers should set the expectation for the remainder of the spring season.

"Heading into the Rose-Hulman Great Lakes Invitational this weekend, we are very excited because it's an opportunity for us to back up our success," said Bledsoe. "In the game of golf, however, it's easy to exaggerate your high and low moments, and we are trying to make sure that we keep on an even keel and stay focused on the task at hand. We are not changing how we are preparing, we're using Decade, and we're being smart about the decisions that we make on the golf course. If we do that, we know we can be a dangerous team and a tough one to beat."

Resilience and adaptability save volleyball spring break trip



Patrick Volk '26 serves in the Wabash game against Trinity College on February 13, 2024 at Chadwick Court.

PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

NATE JOVEN '26
STAFF WRITER

With a limited travel roster, the volleyball team played through adversity as they traveled to Kentucky and Virginia over the break, where they pulled off some incredible wins despite their unique and unexpected circumstances. Prior to the trip, the Little Giants opened the 2024 season's conference play at home on Sunday, March 3 with matches against Wittenberg and Mount St. Joseph. After a 0-3 loss to Wittenberg, Wabash rallied to beat Mount St. Joseph 3-2.

"I feel as though we came out on top because our team learned the most," said Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker. "Losing to a top competitor and then coming back for the reverse sweep is evidence that our volleyball athletes have an elite mentality. It is early in conference play but we are fighting for top four in the conference to make the tournament."

"Against Mount St. Joseph, we ended up pulling off a reverse sweep which is just the best feeling ever," added Will Beikes '25. "The Witt game hurt because we just beat them, but the MSJ game was a good bounce back to get us

going into conference."

The team began their trip with a game in Kentucky against Midway University on March 6. After defeating the Midway Eagles 3-1, the Little Giants quickly departed toward Virginia for their match against Bluefield University on the same day. After the first set against Bluefield, Wabash was forced to forfeit the match due to an injury sustained by Jackson Leeper '25 in the first set. Because of Leeper's injury and the Little Giants' limited travel roster, it

"It is early in conference play but we are fighting for top four in the conference to make the tournament."

-Coach Ashaun Baker

would not have been viable to continue the match.

"I could tell that his bell got rung a little bit," said Beikes. "After the first set, Leeper got checked out. The trainer came back and

told us he was concussed. We talked as a team, we hadn't gone over what we would do in this situation. We didn't really have an option. It honestly would have been a waste of time and a safety risk to continue playing without blockers in the front row."

Traveling with just eight players, the loss of even one of those players could severely affect the team. Normally, teams will have a middle blocker since their central location allows the player to be heavily involved in blocking the ball wherever it is set. With an incomplete lineup, Wabash could have easily withdrawn from their two remaining games in Virginia and reasonably cut the trip short. But so far from home, they chose to make the most of their journey. Without any players capable of filling the position in Leeper's absence, Coach Baker had to find the most efficient lineup for his limited roster.

The Little Giants completely altered their system by moving Beikes, their setter, from the right side to the middle where he set when he was in the front row. Libero Chris Board '27 filled the role of right side hitter and Bran-

don Ruder '27 moved into the libero position.

"It was a tough situation," said Beikes. "But we were mentally tough and stayed relaxed when things weren't going our way. I was the only upperclassman on the court. It was really cool to see the freshmen step up and take control of the court."

"It was a tough situation. But we were mentally tough and stayed relaxed when things weren't going our way."

-Will Beikes '25

This unorthodox setup is rarely, if ever, seen at the collegiate level but was nonetheless the best possible solution given the dire situation. Continuing their Virginia tour on March 9 at Averett University, Wabash implemented their newly developed lineup. The Little Giants dominated, sweeping both the host Averett University Cougars and the Warren Wilson Col-

lege Owls three sets to none. With 22 kills against Warren Wilson, Bawibawi Thang '27 furthered his own Wabash record for kills in a three-set match.

"It was cool to see the team figure it out," said Beikes. "I think it shows that even when we're not at our best we can still compete."

With the rest of the hitters back from break, the team will return to a more usual lineup. In Leeper's stead, right side hitter Patrick Volk '26 will move to the middle.

"It's definitely a weird situation," said Volk. "But due to the circumstances, it's necessary that I fill in."

Before coming to Wabash, Volk had played as a middle blocker in high school. When he arrived at Wabash he transitioned into a right side hitter to which he is better suited.

"Since I've played the position before, I can call on my previous experience when it comes to technique, positioning and pacing," said Volk.

After the break, volleyball stands at 13-6, which is the best record the program has ever seen by a wide margin. The team is just a couple of wins away from securing the program's first .500 or better season. But they have a tough conference field ahead and they will need to keep up the dedication and innovation that has gotten them this far.

The team will honor its seniors in its next match which takes place on Friday, March 15 against Calvin University on Chadwick Court. A second conference match will follow on Saturday, March 16th against Trine University. This is the final home game and the last chance for the Wallies to rally together to support one of Wabash's fastest developing sports programs.

"The team plays at its best when we have the support of our Wabash Community, and the athletes love to showcase their skills to fellow peers," said Baker. "We need opponents to quickly miss as many serves as possible and to pass poorly. To accomplish these goals, we need the Students/Sphinx club to fuel up on burgers and have a great time in the Chadwick stands."

Spring break schedule challenges tennis

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
SPORTS WRITER

Twenty hours south of Crawfordsville, the Wabash Tennis team was granted the opportunity to compete in Orlando, Florida over spring break. The Little Giants would play three doubleheaders over a week span, showing other schools across the country the fight and perseverance our small college presents.

Regardless of the results, the team was sure to learn from competing against excellent opponents and to build their momentum going into the back half of the spring season.

The team opened their competition on Monday, March 4, falling to Carthage College 8-1. Carthage was certainly a worthy opponent, as they are ranked third in Region VI. The lone victory from the Little Giants against Carthage came from Rafael Rin '27 and Tharakesh Ashokar '26 with an 8-5 victory at 3-doubles.

Despite the slow start, the team responded by sweeping Wentworth Institute of Technology 9-0 later that afternoon.

"The guys did a great job taking a 3-0 lead in doubles, but for a while there it was looking tight in singles," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "That was one of the grittiest 9-0 matches I've ever seen. Without a true 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality that could have easily been a 4-5 loss."

The team had another doubleheader scheduled against Wheaton College and Trine University on March 6. The Little Giants couldn't keep up with the quick start Wheaton carried on the doubles side and ultimately lost the match 6-3. Unfortunately, sloppy weather conditions prevented the game against Trine from finishing and the match was declared incomplete.

With a quick turnaround the next day coming off of unforeseen adversity, the Little Giants captured two victories on March 7 in their last doubleheader of the week. The team bested Spring Arbor University 5-2, then ended their six-game slate in convincing fashion with a dominant 8-1 victory over St John Fisher University. The tennis team



COURTESY OF ELI ARNOLD '26 AND ERIC TIEN '27

Wabash tennis spent spring break in Orlando, Florida where they competed at the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Campus.

used their hardships to create a positive energy and outlook to finish strong.

"Against Trine, we were focused on putting together a better fight on the court than we showed against Wheaton," said Team Captain Cole Borden '24, who won two matches across the week. "We took that mindset and put it towards our two matches the next day. I was really pleased with our effort post-Trine."

"That was one of the grittiest 9-0 matches I've ever seen. Without a true 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality that could have easily been a 4-5 loss."

- Coach Daniel Bickett

"I was impressed with the team's ability to keep their composure dealing with the Trine match," said Coach Bickett. "The guys were sore and tired, but you'd never know it

watching them compete out there. I was impressed by the resolve, resilience and grit we showed that day."

Blake Discher II '26 earned NCAC Men's Tennis Athlete of the Week after winning five of his six matches over the break. Through all the highs and lows, the Little Giants finished 3-2 in Orlando and are sure to build on their experience.

"A big focus for us moving forward is our doubles," said Borden. "We need to focus on being aggressive and not letting our mental game suffer when we lose points. I also want to see us improve our self-belief, as we have a lot of talent."

"As far as our biggest takeaway, it's the belief that we've put in the work to put ourselves in a great position against any team we play," said Coach Bickett. "We showed that against Spring Arbor."

The tennis team will return to the courts when they host the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater on Saturday, March 16. Wisconsin-Whitewater is an excellent team ranked second in Region VII and will demand an outstanding performance from the Little Giants.

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Rugby kicks off their road back to nationals

Spring season opener promises chance at securing an automatic bid to national tournament

ETHAN WALLACE '25
SPORTS EDITOR

After a successful, keg-winning fall schedule, Rugby is set to open its spring campaign to return to nationals at the Midwest-East Small College Qualifier. This will be the teams first chance to secure a bid to nationals and a chance to test themselves against some of the best teams in the region.

The tournament will be held at the Fortress Obetz sports facility in Obetz, Ohio on March 16. The qualifier will consist of nine teams from across the Midwest and North East. The other eight teams will be Franciscan University, Hillsdale College, University of Southern Indiana, Baldwin Wallace University, Christendom College, Taylor University, John Carroll University and Xavier University.

“These teams are the best of the best from our region, and it is super exciting to be fighting for a return to the championship,” said Tanner Quackenbush '26.

The rugby squad is guaranteed two matches against Franciscan and Baldwin Wallace. After that, they will have a chance to advance into the tournament, depending on the outcome of the first two games.

With the recent success of their program, the Rugby squad expects to show out to the tournament and do what they always do—win.

“As a team, we have always used the phrase ‘play our game’ as a standard for high-level play,” said Team Captain Matthew Brooks '24. “This is because every game is different in terms of weather conditions, our

lineup on the pitch and how we strategize gameplay for different teams, among several other factors. However, regardless of game circumstances, we as a team hold ourselves to the same level of gameplay. So you ask what our team will need to win this weekend’s tournament, we need to play our game and nothing short of it.”

Wabash students will have the unique opportunity to watch the game at a special live-streaming event. The stream will only feature the main stadium of the complex, so the earlier games may not be shown. However, if Wabash advances far enough they will eventually appear on the stream.

The winner of the tournament will secure a bid to the Collegiate Rugby Championship which will be held in Maryland just outside of Washington, DC from April 26-27.

The Small College Division, which includes Wabash, will have slots for 16 teams at nationals. For teams in the Small College Division, there are three pathways to the 2024 nationals. Ten tournaments held throughout the year, including the Midwest-East Small College Qualifier come with bids for the winning team. Five of the conferences in the division will receive automatic bids for the winning team. Wabash is a member of the Allegheny Rugby Union, which means they can secure a bid later on by winning the conference tournament. Lastly, one team will be selected for an at-large bid to nationals.

While this will not be the only chance the squad has to secure a bid this season, securing a spot



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

The rugby squad prepares for their game against Denison in the Allegheny Rugby Union Conference Championships on November 4, 2023 at Little Giant Stadium.

early on will let the team focus on developing younger players throughout the year rather than relying solely on their veterans to get back into the national tournament.

“We have a very strong freshman and sophomore class on the team that not only brings athleticism and a solid rugby IQ (understanding of the game and reading the pitch conditions) but also an exciting passion for the game,” said Brooks. “So do expect a strong showing of all class years and experience this upcoming weekend and tournaments going forward in the semester.”



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Nate Powell '27 tries to avoid a tackle in the Little Giants' game against Denison in the Allegheny Rugby Union Conference Championships on November 4, 2023 at Little Giant Stadium.

LAX claims major win in spring break upset

Little Giants pull off “biggest win in program history”



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER '27

Quinn Fitzgerald '25 goes on the attack in the Little Giants' contest against Earlham College on February 14 at Fischer Field.

MALACHI MCROBERTS '27
SPORTS WRITER

Wabash’s lacrosse program had more to be happy about than just a trip to the beach during their 2024 spring break road trip to Virginia Beach. They took down Hussan University in a 21-8 victory as well achieving an 11-8 win over Virginia Wesleyan University, while being considerable underdogs. The pair of wins propelled the Little Giants to a 5-1 record while adding to a four-game win streak.

The victory over Hussan was the second game where Wabash has reached the 20 goal mark this season, with 21 goals. Alternate Captain Quinn Fitzgerald '25 led the way once again with seven goals in 16 shot attempts and one assist. Fitzgerald scored four goals in the first half, which set Wabash with a comfortable 10-3 lead going into the second half. While Fitzgerald put his fair share in the net, freshman attackman Christian Dybedock '27 had himself a day

feeding to his teammates. Dybedock tallied six assists and contributed two goals to boost his already incredible freshman campaign, where he is tied for most points on the team with 12 goals and 12 assists in 6 games.

Although both Fitzgerald’s and Dybedock’s performances were extremely impressive, the man of the day for Wabash had to be close defender Quinn Shefferly '27. Shefferly caused eight of Wabash’s 14 forced turnovers versus Hussan, while also scooping up three ground balls. Shefferly is seventh in the country in caused turnovers per game with 4.17 a game. Game after game, Shefferly has been placed on the offenses’ first option and has been hounding the opposing offenses for this vastly improved Little Giant defense.

This predominantly young defense has been thriving so far this season as they are sixth in the country in goals allowed with only 5.33 a game and they cause a staggering 13.5 turnovers a game tying for 21st in the country. Although the influx of young talent has been a huge factor this season, the acquisition of Assistant Lacrosse Coach Nate Webber has helped drive this young defense. Webber had spent the last two seasons as an assistant coach at the School-Down-South, where he led the Tigers’ defense to a 22nd nationally ranked defense in caused turnovers as well as 26 nationally in

scoring defense.

“We like to slide and make the other team move the ball a lot more. Some defenses and players see getting slid to after getting beat as a bad thing, I think of it as a good thing,” said Webber. “Especially in college, offensive players are good, so you are going to have to help. I want to slide all the time to force their offense to make decisions, and that creates more chances for them to make a mistake.”

On Friday, March 8 the Little Giants toughed out a victory over the heavy favorite Virginia Wesleyan Marlins. Wabash was the underdog going into their final game of their road trip, after losing to the Marlins in a high scoring 22-17 loss.

“I think it’s probably the biggest win in program history up to this point,” said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke “We were the underdogs. I think we’re going to be underdogs for a while, and that’s fine. This program really needed a statement win. This was a

game we can hold our hat on.”

The Marlins have been a high-pace team that likes to run and gun in transition, but Wabash was able to slow the game down and control the pace of the game.

“This program really needed a statement win. This was a game we can hold our hat on.”

—Coach Chris Burke

A key to controlling the tempo was winning the face-offs, and Luka DiFilippo '25 did just that. DiFilippo dominated Virginia Wesleyan winning 17 out of 22 face-offs and scooped up 10 of those ground balls himself. Although the opposing side had a quicker clamp than DiFilippo, he decided to play for the ground ball instead. With the help of his wing players, his strategy paid off big-time for the Little Giants. DiFilli-

po is currently boasting an astounding 72.6% faceoff win percentage on the season which places him 13th in the nation.

Both offensively and defensively the game was a total team effort. On offense seven different players put the ball into the back of the net. The Marlins’ defense focused their efforts on neutralizing Fitzgerald on offense, but their over eagerness to slide out to Fitzgerald allowed other players to get good looks. On defense Bryce Poling '26 played a big part in Wabash’s success as he caused four turnovers and picked up six ground balls. Overall, the defense had strong contributions across the board, and were able to limit fastbreak opportunities.

Wabash will look to continue their winning streak at home in an in-state contest against Hanover College Saturday, March 16.



COURTESY OF BRYCE POLING-PINEDA '26

Wabash lacrosse faces off against Hussan University on March 5 in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

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This week in sports

Spring break and the first week back, catch up on two weeks for the price of one

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26
SPORTS WRITER

This week in sports, follow teams across the country as they embark on spring break trips to sunnier destinations, read up on Will Neubauer '25, the runner with the third-best 800-meter race time in the Great Lakes Region and meet the six Wallies who are taking their skills to the DIII National Wrestling Championships for a chance at glory.

Baseball: Batters tally 64 runs in six games

The Wabash baseball team spent their spring break in Port Charlotte, Florida with a six-game stretch of competition from the midwest. The Little Giants began their week on March 3 with a high-powered offensive masterclass against Otterbein University, winning 22-8.

On March 4, the team challenged nationally-ranked Marietta College but fell just short 7-6 in a slower-paced game.

However, the team got back on their feet on March 5 and proved their resilience with a convincing victory over nationally-ranked Misericordia University, 14-6.

The team found themselves in a tight battle against Heidelberg University on March 8 but suffered the loss 9-7 in 10 innings.

With a quick turnaround on March 9, Misericordia took advantage of their second opportunity against Wabash, defeating the Little Giants 8-1.

Craving revenge, the baseball team pounced on Heidelberg with a monster eight-run sixth inning to claim the victory 14-6 in their spring break finale.

Wabash finished 3-3 in Port Charlotte, putting their season record at 4-4. The team will be back at Goodrich Ballpark hosting Hanover College on March 16-17.

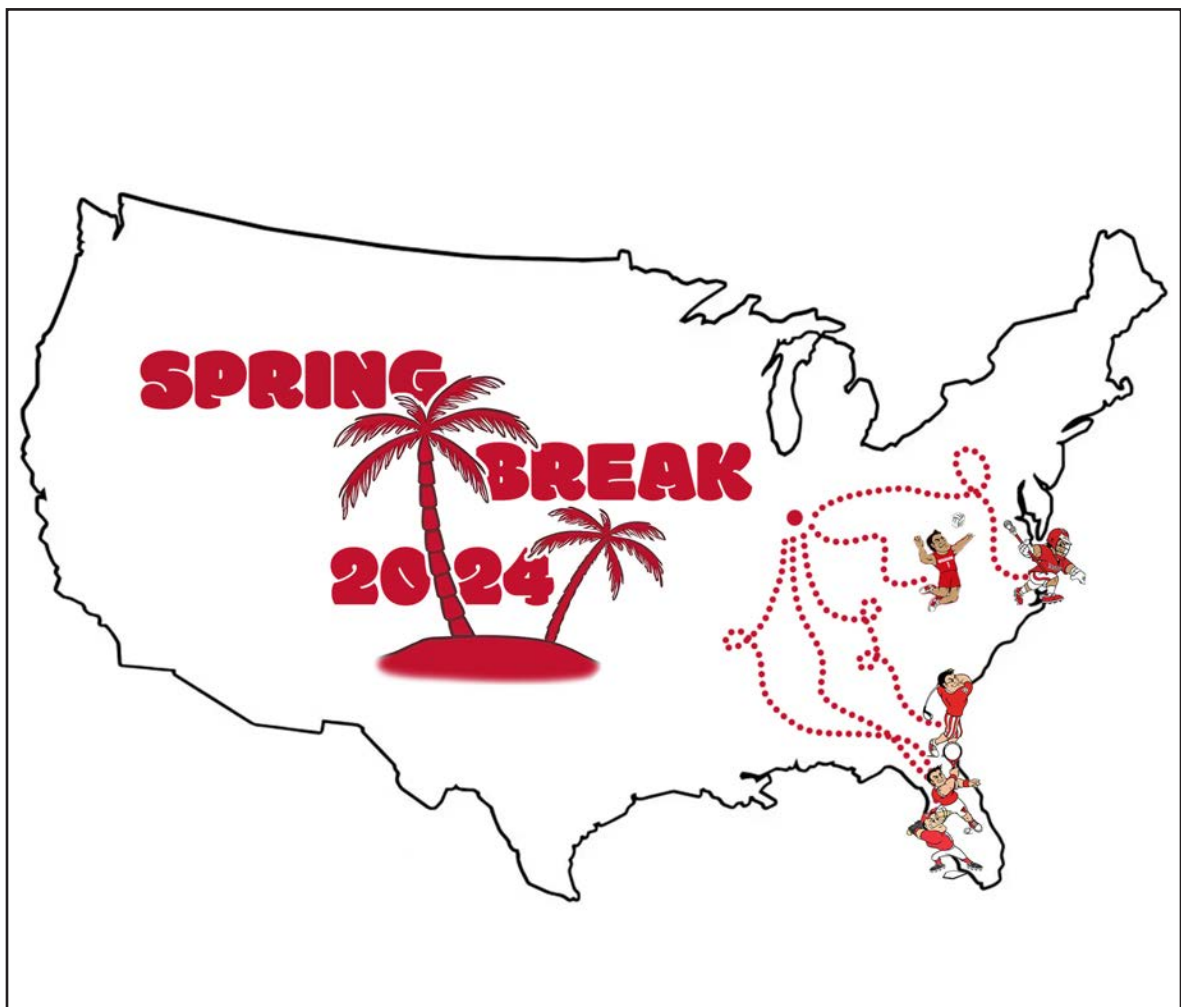
[See page 12 for more](#)

Tennis: A little bit of magic in Orlando

The Wabash tennis team traveled to Orlando, Florida for a six-match slate over spring break.

The Little Giants opened with a doubleheader on March 4, falling to Carthage College 8-1 in the morning session, but responding in the evening session with a 9-0 sweep against Wentworth Institute of Technology.

The team had another doubleheader scheduled for March 6, but the competition was cut



GRAPHIC BY LOGAN WEILBAKER '25

short due to weather conditions preventing their evening match against Trine University from being completed. Nonetheless, the Little Giants still had their shot at Wheaton College in the morning match but fell short, losing 6-3.

After multiple facets of adversity in the first few days of competition, the team captured two victories in their doubleheader on March 7. The Little Giants triumphed over Spring Arbor University 5-2, then ended their spring break trip with a dominant 8-1 victory over St. John Fisher University.

The tennis team will be back in action on Saturday, March 16 when they host the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater.

[See page 10 for more](#)

Track & Field: Chasing a trip to Nationals

The Wabash Track & Field team sent 800-meter specialist Will Neubauer '25 to the Mount Union Final Qualifier meet for a shot to make the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships. Neubauer dropped the field to cross the line victorious in an effort of 1:53.51. Despite an indoor career-best, Neubauer couldn't

crack the top-20 fastest marks in the nation finishing 28th, just missing the national meet.

The Little Giants seek to send more qualifiers to the NCAA Division III Outdoor Championships later in May. The road for this goal starts on March 16 when the team competes at the Rose-Hulman Early Bird Meet for their outdoor season opener.

[See page 9 for more](#)

Lacrosse: Beach trip returns two wins

The Wabash lacrosse team spent their spring break in Virginia Beach, Virginia for two pivotal matchups.

For their first matchup on March 5, the Little Giants put their offensive firepower on display, defeating Husson University 21-8. Quinn Fitzgerald '25 took command of the game scoring seven goals, while Christian Dybedock '27 led the team with six assists. Wabash won 25 of the 32 faceoffs throughout the match.

After a promising win, the lacrosse team would face a tougher challenge at Virginia Wesleyan University on March 8. Despite a back-and-forth affair and a tie game towards the end of regulation, the Little Giants exploded

for three straight goals in the final six minutes to top Virginia Wesleyan 11-8. The team accomplished a perfect 2-0 record in their spring break stretch, improving their season record to an impressive 5-1.

The lacrosse team seeks to build their momentum on Saturday, March 16 when they return to Fischer Field against Hanover College.

[See page 11 for more](#)

Golf: Teeing off the spring season

The Wabash golf team traveled to Savannah, Georgia to compete in the Port City Classic hosted by Berry College on March 4-5. The Little Giants scored under 300 strokes in all three rounds to tie for second out of 17 teams, finishing with 884 strokes across the two days. Maryville won the competition with a total of 869 strokes.

Brayden Weiss '24 led the way with 217 strokes to finish third out of 94 golfers individually.

The golf team will be back on the green grass at the Rose-Hulman Great Lakes Invitational on March 16-17.

[See page 9 for more](#)

Volleyball: The show must go on

The Wabash volleyball team went home and away for their competition over spring break. The Little Giants kicked off their week hosting a doubleheader on March 3, defeated by Wittenberg in the first match 0-3, but bouncing back in the evening session, prevailing in a 3-2 victory over Mount St. Joseph University.

On March 6, the team began their day in Kentucky, routing Midway 3-1. The Little Giants traveled to Bluefield, Virginia immediately after for their evening session, but the team had to forfeit due to injuries resulting in a limited travel roster for the match against Bluefield University.

Don't think their trip was for nothing, as on March 9, the Little Giants swept both Averett University and Warren Wilson College 3-0 to finish their stretch on a high note.

The volleyball team is back in Chadwick when they host MCVL Conference foe Calvin University on Friday, March 15.

[See page 10 for more](#)

Wrestling: It's the most wonderful time of the year

The Wabash wrestling team will send six individuals to the NCAA Division III National Championship Tournament after finishing second out of 19 teams in the Central Region Tournament on March 1-2. Tim Smith '26 and Chase Baczek '25 claimed individual titles in the 157-pound and 184-pound weight classes respectively. Athletes joining the champions to LaCrosse, Wisconsin are James Day '26 in the 125-pound weight class, Evan Burge '24 at 141 pounds, Daniel Uribe '24 at 149 pounds and Jesse Herrera '26 at 165 pounds.

The National Championship tournament will kick off the morning of March 15 and will last until the evening of March 16.

[See page 1 for more](#)

Baseball is rounding bases uncontrollably

HUTCH NORRIS '27
SPORTS WRITER

Following a solid 1-1 start against tough opponents in a doubleheader in Westfield, Indiana, Wabash kept their bats hot in Florida over the break. Overall the team might have traveled farther in their trips around the bases than they did en route to Florida, as they racked up no less than 64 runs in just six games.

They kicked off on Sunday, March 3rd with a commanding 22-8 win over the Otterbein University Cardinals. Wabash banged out 22 runs on 19 hits and just 1 error. Benjamin Henke '26 led the charge with five hits, bringing in two runs and four RBIs.

"Hitting was going to come and go," said Henke. "I guess it was just my time of the week to get in there and get some good swings off of some good pitches."

"I guess it was just my time of the week to get in there and get some good swings off of some good pitches"

-Benjamin Henke '26

Next up, Wabash faced off against 20th-ranked Marietta College Pioneers and came up short in a tight 7-6 loss. They struggled to bring runners home, leaving 11 on base. Along with this, the pitching staff struggled throughout the week to sit batters down, ranking 370th in Strikeouts per Inning in all of Division III baseball so far that season with 5.1 KO/9 compared to the Median of 8.1KO/9. This came with Wabash averaging 5.4 BB/9, averaging .95 SO/BB.

"We were not as much concerned



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Camden Scheidt '25 knocks a shot towards center in Wabash's game against Anderson University on April 11, 2023 at Goodrich Ballpark.

with the Strikeouts per 9 [innings] as much as we were about the walks per 9," said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03. "Our focus was to limit the free bases and make the other teams earn their hits and their runs."

In spite of those struggles, Wabash split their Tuesday/Friday series with 13th-ranked Misericordia Cougars, benefiting from Misericordia's nine errors in the Little Giants' victory.

"We tried to put a lot of pressure on them which forced a lot of those errors," said Coach Martin. "We played a lot of small ball, put a lot of runners in motion. We had some bunts, some bunt[s] for hits, some stolen bases, some hit and runs that kept them on their heels."

However, they could not come out again on Friday and reproduce the same results, recording a single run from an RBI single by Camden Scheidt '25 with the bases loaded.

The final two games of the break came against Heidelberg University on March 7 and March 9. The team came up just short in the first game, losing 7-9 after a tenth inning rally allowed Heidelberg to break the tie and end the long game. Responding with ferocity, the Little Giants took the Saturday, March 9 rematch 14-6 to end the break on a win.

Next, the 4-4 Little Giants are looking to clinch their home opening series at Goodrich Park where

they take on Hanover College in a DH double header this Saturday, March 16 and concluding with a third game on Sunday, the 17. Wabash will be facing a Panthers team who are on a hot start to the season at 7-3, while averaging 3.52 BB/9 and 2.71 K/BB from their bullpen.

It will be a tough challenge. But if Wabash keeps hitting the way they have been, they'll a god shot of coming out on top.