



Class Agents Letter

Class of 1981

Class Agents

Peter Wright

Mike Robak

Alumni & Affinity Group Engagement Office

301 W. Wabash Ave.

Crawfordsville, IN 47933

765-361-6360

alumni@wabash.edu

wabash.edu

December 2025

I hope you had an enjoyable Thanksgiving and are looking forward to the upcoming holidays.

As we approach the new year, we are now just over six months away from our **45th Reunion**. As you wrap up 2025 and begin planning for 2026, please be sure to **mark your calendars for June 5–7, 2026 — Big Bash Weekend**. In the coming months, you can expect to hear much more from Mike and me, as well as from the classmates in your living units who have volunteered to help us communicate and coordinate plans for our 45th.

After attending this year's Monon Bell game, I think I have some sense of what it must feel like to be a DePauw fan. As you know, we scored the first touchdown, but things turned quickly after a turnover on the next series, followed by a lopsided second quarter dominated by DPU's offense. I've seen Wabash lose to DePauw before—but not often—and I had never experienced Wabash fans having **less** spirit than DePauw fans or leaving before the final whistle. Some coaching on the meaning of **Wabash Always Fights** may be in order. On the bright side, the weather was unusually pleasant for a Monon Bell game—though, of course, I would have preferred rain, sleet, snow, and a better result.

DPU's Blackstock Stadium is scheduled to be torn down (finally!) in August 2026 and replaced with a new stadium made possible by an anonymous **\$80 million** gift. DePauw will not play any games on campus in 2026 or 2027, and their assistant AD told the *Indianapolis Star* that "We are in the planning process and are exploring venues that are available to host the game on Nov. 14, 2026."

We were fortunate to attend Wabash during a remarkable era for the football program. The highlight came early: during our freshman year, Wabash played in the **Stagg Bowl**, the Division III national championship, in Phenix City, Alabama. Some of you played in that incredible game; others of us made the 800-mile road trip armed with a AAA map, a highlighted route, and a fraternity brother who threw up in the car 50 miles into the journey. The **1977** team, Coach Frank Navarro's final squad, finished **11–2** and won the Monon Bell.

Coach Stan Parrish took over in our sophomore year. Under Coach Parrish, Wabash went **8–1** in both our sophomore and junior seasons, as well as the year after we graduated (although the Bell was lost in 1981). Our senior year saw a slight improvement: an **8–0–1** undefeated season, with only the Bell game ending in a tie. In **1982**, Parrish's final year, Wabash went **10–0**.



Coach Greg Carlson, who was on Parrish's staff, succeeded him. Coach Carlson, who recently passed away, was honored at a memorial on campus with players from every era he coached. From 1983 to 2000, he compiled a career record of **112–57–2**, with winning seasons in all but two years. Coaches Chris Creighton (2001–2007, **63–15**) and Erik Raeburn (2008–2015, **78–13**) built on that legacy with considerable success in Monon Bell games and frequent returns to the Division III playoffs—eight playoff appearances between them. Coach Don Morel, who was on Coach Raeburn's staff, followed Raeburn and had an overall winning record, but a mixed record in Bell games. (2016–2024, **32–9**) before Coach Jake Gilbert took over this season.

Coach Gilbert's first team did not win the Bell, but they gave conference newcomer and champion **John Carroll** a very tough game. The season ended on a high note with a victory in the **ForeverLawn Bowl** over Ohio Northern—scoring a touchdown with two seconds left in regulation and converting a two-point attempt to win by one. We can hope this dramatic finish foreshadows future success.

We do have sad news to share. Our classmate **John Carl Muesing**, 67, of Mooresville, North Carolina, passed away peacefully at home on November 21, 2025, surrounded by his wife and daughter. John was a retired airline pilot. Our condolences go out to his FIJI brothers and all his Wabash friends.

For those who make their annual gift to Wabash College at the end of the calendar year, you can give online at wabash.edu/give.

Mike Robak and I wish you and your families a very happy holiday season!