

Sigma Chi wins Chapel Sing

Homecoming 2030

What Homecoming could look like in a world without pledgeship

AN OPEN LETTER FROM THE EDITORIAL STAFF • As we celebrate our Wabash community this Homecoming week, it seems that our customs may not be quite as etched in stone as we believe. Many of our returning alumni remind us just how different – and often gentler – our current traditions are. All Wabash traditions change and have changed, and our evolving standards constitute somewhat of their own tradition. Perhaps the very act of revisiting Wabash traditions has become a Wabash tradition itself.

For greek life, change is clearly in the air. As we documented last week, FIJI national has moved away from pledgeship, though the Wabash chapter may pursue a four-day abbreviated pledgeship. But FIJI is not alone; nationally, Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Zeta Beta Tau have both formally ended pledgeship in recent years. With rush numbers on the decline nationwide, and with greek life abuses and tragedies in major headlines, we seem to be in the midst of a national reckoning and redesign of what fraternities can offer.

While some of the most egregious examples of the need for change have occurred in fraternities far from our campus, overreach and misconduct are not strangers to Wabash living units. We all know the stories. This year alone, we have seen far too much physical violence and harm over the Senior Bench and certain ballcaps.

When fights break out on the Mall, it appears that our Homecoming traditions are dividing us far more than they are uniting us. How, in the name of tradition and brotherhood, can the current Homecoming dynamics stay the same?

Regardless of our feelings on the merits of pledgeship or current Homecoming customs, it seems that changes are coming. If freshmen cannot be required to participate in activities that upperclassmen are not involved in, how exactly can fraternities require new brothers to spend each night chanting the Fight Song endlessly? As we look to the future, as we try to anticipate the coming tide before it reaches Crawfordsville, we find it critical to discuss competing visions for how Homecoming might adapt.

One option, of course, could be a system of winks and nods, where we all refer to Homecoming events as voluntary, but we still expect all freshmen to participate. This is the vision of minimal change. Freshmen would still spend each night together—yes, bonding as a class, but also losing an incredibly-busy week to Homecoming events. We could facially satisfy greek life changes while adapting only our rhetoric.

Is another vision possible? Could a hypothetical pledge-less Homecoming strengthen ties between fraternity classes, and not just within a single class? In such a Homecoming, each living unit could field a team of brothers from all class years, brothers working together to build floats, recite chants, and battle over the Fight Song in a shared celebration of what it means to be a Wabash man.

As an Editorial Staff, we are by no means advocating for any specific changes. Rather, we hope to spark a campus-wide conversation in the continued evolution of our sacred traditions. And now is certainly the time for this conversation. As the era of pledgeship changes, students and administration need to imagine our shared horizon together.

It's up to the entire Wabash community to decide the future vision we want—and which traditions best embody the Wabash ethos.



COURTESY OF JAKE PAIGE '23



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25

Sigma Chi wins Chapel Sing for the third time in four years on September 22, 2022 in front of Pioneer Chapel.



COURTESY OF BENJAMN HIGH '24



COURTESY OF BENJAMIN HIGH '24

NAWM honors 2022 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Board of Directors of the National Association of Wabash Men (NAWM) will induct nine new members to the Wabash College Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, September 23. The new members, who represent five different sports, are set to be inducted in a special ceremony given as part of this year's Homecoming festivities.

Established 40 years ago, the Hall of Fame honors those who have made special and lasting contributions to sports at Wabash and beyond. Membership in the Hall of Fame is highly exclusive and only awarded to the Little Giants' top scholar-athletes. Chosen by directors of the NAWM, new members are inducted every two years.

This year's athletes come from a wide range of backgrounds. Here's everything you need to know about the 2022 inductees.

The Lefever brothers, wrestling

Reece '16, Conner '16 and Riley '17 Lefever are arguably three of Wabash's greatest wrestlers of all time. Riley, who majored in English, won four consecutive national championships and was twice honored as the NCAA Division III most dominant wrestler. After graduation, he began a coaching career and, in 2021, was appointed as assistant wrestling coach at Indiana University.

Conner and Reece had equally impressive wrestling careers at Wabash. Reece was the first Little Giant wrestler to earn All-American honors in three consecutive years and finished national runner-up in 2015. Conner qualified for nationals two times and finished his career with 85 wins.

2014-15 wrestling team

All three of the Lefever brothers partook in the wrestling team's 2014-15 season. That year, the team finished third overall nationally, a record only beaten in 2022. Led by Head Wrestling Coach Brian Anderson, the 2014-15 squad is the only entire team to be inducted this year.



The 2022 inductees will be added to the Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday, September 23. Left, Riley Lefever '17 wins the national championship, 2017. Right, Mason Zurek '16 carries the football.

Nate Boulais '03, football

Two-year co-captain and four-year letterman for the Little Giants football team, Boulais was a class above the rest on defense. In 2002, he was part of the Wabash side that won the North Coach Athletic Conference championship and, one year later, won the NCAC Defensive Player of the Year award. He amassed 364 total career tackles. He now works as a medical device specialist in Indianapolis.

Mason Zurek '16, football

All-time leading rusher and record-holder for most rushing yards in a single game (326), Zurek was a beast on offense. Across his 35 games for the Little Giants, Zurek scored 42 touchdowns and ran for a total of 3,379 yards. He graduated Magna Cum Laude and now works for Kirkland & Ellis LLM.

John Holm '12, baseball

A baseball player and a footballer, Holm is being inducted for his remarkable efforts at the ballpark. He holds a slew of records,



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE ATHLETICS

including most home runs (41), most total bases (360) and best slugging percentage (.641). In 2011, he was named D3baseball.com's Honorable Mention All-American. He graduated from Wabash with a degree in economics and now works as an operational director in Chicago.

Chris Davis '93, swimming

A diver on Gail Pebworth's team of the early 1990s, Davis was a four-year letterman and one of only two Wabash divers to earn All-American honors. He finished 15th at the 1992 NCAA championships.

Joe Desjean '03, basketball

Desjean led the Little Giants basketball team in scoring, rebounding and shot blocking for three consecutive seasons, finishing his career with 1,506 points and three First Team All-NCAC selections. He still holds the all-time record for blocked shots (194) and demonstrated an unparalleled level of performance and consistency throughout his time at Wabash.

FEATURES

New student judicial branch Spells Historic Change

Homecoming preview

Jacob Goodwin '23 | MANAGING EDITOR

Wabash College is known by its traditions, but perhaps no set of traditions is more important to Wabash than homecoming festivities. Between homecoming chants and the procession of Homecoming Queens, Homecoming 2022 is set to be great.

Beginning with Homecoming Chants, Wabash freshman kicked off a week full of cheer with “creative and innovative” chants according to Sphinx Club President Adam El-Khalili '23. Best among these groups was the group of freshmen at Delta Tau Delta, who took the Chants competition over second and third place Theta Delt and Beta.

On Wednesday evening, every fraternity house and independent living unit hung a massive banner for the entire campus to see. Some feature Wally with bulging muscles hunting a red bird or stomping on a can of Big Red soda. Every house puts together a valiant effort but one will rise above the rest.

However, yesterday brought the crown jewel of Homecoming activities. As more than 160 fraternity freshmen and more than 30 independent freshmen took to the Mall in front of the Chapel, Sphinx Club members prepared to scream in their face and attempt to interrupt a seemingly-never-ending-loop of Wabash’s fight song, Old Wabash. Surrounded by their peers and brothers, the class of 2026 will belt Old Wabash to prove their allegiance to the brotherhood.

Tonight, upperclassmen from each house and a group of independent men will come together for a dodgeball tournament that will settle which group has the best upperclassmen and what house needs to wait for their freshmen to grow up a little.

Capping off the Homecoming weekend on Saturday are two events. First, at the ripe hour of 8 A.M., the Sphinx Club will judge the floats that freshmen have put a week’s effort into. And at halftime of Saturday’s football game, Wabash students, alumni and parents will be entertained by the only halftime show Wabash offers, each house’s Homecoming Queen.

Wabash’s Homecoming ceremonies have changed over the years, from changing what the red “W” on freshmen’s shirts means to eliminating the brawl between students at the greased pole, but Homecoming has always meant that alumni come back to meet and mingle with their classmates and the next generation of Wabash men to celebrate what makes this place so special.

Sam Benedict '25 | FEATURES EDITOR

The recently formed Student Supreme Court is set to preside over significant changes to the Student Senate. Students and senators are questioning the new constitution.

In the spring of 2022, Wabash students voted to approve a new constitution for the student body. In this proposal, the Constitution, Bylaws, and Policy Review Committee transitioned into a third segment of the government and became the judicial branch. While portrayed by proponents as a relatively straightforward, innocuous change, those against the proposal argued that the new Court would weaken the separation of powers within the government, is 80 percent appointed by the Student Body President and Chairman and may make decisions that the legislative branch should be entitled to make.

This semester, the Student Senate has run into issues that the judicial branch will be tasked with solving. Recent discussions surrounding the ability for the Senate to fund alcohol purchases for clubs as well as funding for clubs to paint the bench have created a gray area that senators look to the judicial branch to clarify.

“A lot of what we say and recommend is still going to be up to the discretion of the Senate, unless they are completely breaking the Constitution or any bylaws that we deem,” said Chief Justice Thomas Joven '24. “Some of my goals as a court will be to read over all the documents that do govern the Wabash student body and revamp the Audit and Finance Committee bylaws in addition to the Wabash business office policy for P-cards.”

Chairman of the Student Senate, Will Trapp '24, wrote a large portion of the new constitution and guided the Senate in discussions over what these changes would entail.

“I hoped to establish an entity detached from the Senate and Executive branch to provide oversight and keep our student government accountable,” said Trapp. “That being said, I cannot take credit for the idea. From what I gathered, the initiative dates back to Summer 2020 and former president Chuck Esterline. He and his team saw that other student governments have a judicial body and believed it would be best for Wabash to have one too.”

Concerns from students have mostly echoed the sentiment asking for clarity on what the judicial branch will be doing.

“The judicial branch has 3 main functions, following



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREEN '25

Student Senate members deliberate during contentious Supreme Court meeting

the Constitution,” said Trapp. “They may pass injunctions to halt an action/decision that goes against the Constitution, review questions about what is permissible and draft legislation in appropriate language at the request of the Senate or executive branch. For example, they will be assisting the Audit and Finance Committee in updating our financial policy.”

The recent election for Chief Justice saw two competing ideologies come into play as Joven and William Grennon '24 entered the ballot. Grennon believes that the Court could become an entity with more power than students originally anticipated.

“I think the court should tread carefully when dealing with issues not explicitly outlined in the Constitution,” said Grennon. “Their actions will set a precedent that courts will look to in the future and surely shape the role of the Judiciary branch for years to come. I think so long as they are cautious with how their decisions might be interpreted moving forward, it’s an opportunity to solidify the court’s place in Wabash’s future.”

“The Court will be a good resource for the Senate and executive branch to ensure we are abiding by the Student Body Constitution and Senate Bylaws,” said Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23 in response to these fears. “I expect them to be impartial and make recommendations based on the legality of Senate actions, rather than political or policy directives, which will remain the Senate’s responsibility.”

The decisions that the court makes this year will have important ramifications for clubs and other student body organizations, but also establish precedent that will guide the Senate for decades to come. Because of the weight of being

an inaugural governing body, the court will need to be thoughtful and meticulous in their reasoning.

“Another thing that we want to do is compile a list of any major things the Senate has done in the past few years with the activity fees and any major funding spent on unique things that may set some sort of precedent to lean on,” said Joven. “I think a big one that got brought up last year was funding different clubs who are going on trips. I think there should be more regulation for that.” Joven also believes that the judicial branch needs to be a part of the disciplinary hearings the college has to deal with student issues.

“I do think, especially here where we’re a student-led campus, that students being able to - not have a final say - but have some involvement in the disciplinary actions of peers, could be valuable,” said Joven.

The judicial branch is going to play an important role in the character of Wabash College, more than most students anticipated when they cast their vote last year, but the Senate is confident that they have put the right people on the court.

“The members of the Court are stand-up guys,” said McCullough. Thomas, Seth [Kirkpatrick '24], Jackson [Grabill '24], Garson [Matney '24], and Drew [Hollingsworth '23] all have experience drafting briefs and opinions in Constitutional Law and have legal internship experience. I am very impressed with our first slate of justices. I am confident that they will serve the student body well.

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Seeking vulnerability

Featured Essay by William Grennon '24

William Grennon '24 | ONLINE EDITOR

Vulnerability is a weird thing to strive for. It's something most people are hesitant to approach because of how scary it can be to put yourself out there. But I think we put ourselves in vulnerable positions more than we might realize and give ourselves credit for. Asking a question, telling people what to do, and asking someone out; all involve times when someone could feasibly laugh in your face, ignore you, or make a judgment about you, and suddenly you start questioning how you see yourself. But I've found that the most transformative moments in my life have happened when I push myself to take the right chance on being vulnerable, especially with the right people.

What that kind of vulnerability looks like is different for everyone. I have always found playing tennis to be especially vulnerable. It's just you out there, and it can be hard to separate the result from how you see yourself in the heat of a match. Any time you compete, apply for a position you want or even open your art gallery, if that thing is essential or central to you and how you think of yourself – chances are we want other people to see us, positively, in relation to that thing.

For me, it was when I came out to my fraternity that I remember feeling pretty darn vulnerable. Growing up, I would tell myself that being gay wouldn't be who I was just so long as I didn't tell anyone. It seemed simple enough.

That would be me, to the extent that we are who others recognize us to be. I saw myself in a mirror of heteronormativity. More plainly, I grew up reading about the hero getting the girl, the man marrying his wife and their cheerful biological family, and so that's how I always saw myself growing up.

When I first realized that I didn't find what I was "supposed" to see in girls, the friction between the life I saw for myself and the life I knew felt right clashed and seeped into other parts of my life. It was not a great feeling. Even before telling my house, I was sick to my stomach thinking about coming out might affect how my Brothers thought of me. How it might undermine the relationships I had already built. But I embraced the vulnerability and took the step and told my pledge brothers and then the rest of the house, and got an answer to a question which ate at me for so long.

If you had told middle school Liam that he would be telling his fraternity brothers he was gay, he would have rolled his eyes. Middle school Liam was an experience, but I think it would have been pretty great to know how I felt after being met with nothing but love from his Fraternity Brothers.

But you won't know until you take the chance and choose to be vulnerable with the right people. That underlying friction or inconsistency in our perceptions of ourselves can easily seep into other parts of our lives. Before I came out, I had some pretty severe anger issues on the court.



William Grennon, Chris Zimmerman '25 and Jett Brownlee '24 coach Cole Shifferly '25 as the Wabash tennis team faces Indiana Wesleyan University.

I will be the first to admit that it substantially hindered my success in matches. After coming out to the tennis team, I ended last season with the most wins on the team and a much calmer demeanor on court, most of the time! I think a lot of that frustration which spilled on court was rooted in this deep seeded contradiction.

Now, all of this isn't to say you need to share your deepest, darkest secrets with everyone. Rather, sometimes it's important to take the step into vulnerability. Seeking out discomfort with enthusiasm is sometimes what it takes to prove something to yourself. I was fortunate to be met largely

with support when I came out, but even in just taking the chance – you can learn a lot about what you're made of. I've found even when people don't react well, it's how we respond and choose to react. In my life I generally operate under the notion that you're never wrong to do the right thing, and lead by example. However, you decide to respond; even that can help us show ourselves who we are when things aren't easy, and I think in those experiences can provide some of the most important information we can learn about ourselves. Because you never know – you might just surprise yourself.

'Old Wabash'

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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61					62						63			
64					65						66			
67							68				69			

- Down
- 1. Voting group
 - 2. I in Athens
 - 3. Stick close behind
 - 4. Choir or orchestra
 - 5. Kind of clock
 - 6. Posh
 - 7. Raised high
 - 8. Objective for a vendor
 - 9. November birthstone
 - 10. Popeye, for one
 - 11. Bring into harmony
 - 12. Sang like Jay-Z
 - 15. Slithering snake sound
 - 21. Snake worn around the neck?
 - 24. Ish
 - 25. BW3 wall coverings
 - 26. Strike
 - 27. Piercing place
 - 28. Piercing place
 - 29. "And ____ thy classic halls..."
 - 34. Celtic language
 - 35. Casual top
 - 36. D.C. VIP
 - 38. Covered with blemishes, as skin
 - 39. On the ____
 - 40. 6th sense
 - 41. Summits, e.g.
 - 43. Place for catching seafood
 - 45. Flooring option
 - 46. Singer Grande
 - 47. Archeological find
 - 49. Poppy drug
 - 50. Washed soap out of
 - 51. 160, to Nero
 - 53. Indiana is the 19th one
 - 56. Banana Boat rating
 - 57. Trudge
 - 58. Construction company?
 - 59. Desire
 - 60. Glee Club section

- 61. They shoot for the stars
- 62. Courtroom statements
- 63. Sister-wife of Zeus
- 64. Foot or meter
- 65. Musical dynamic
- 66. Farmer's gathering
- 67. The Knight and the Miller both have one
- 68. Changed the color of
- 69. Stags' mates

- Across
- 1 Mouthful
 - 5. Pub orders
 - 9. Russian ruler named after a Roman ruler
 - 13. Spot
 - 14. "No new ____ "
 - 16. Promise made in court
 - 17. Elevator company
 - 18. Elliptical shapes
 - 19. Feel bad for
 - 20. *Man who rang in the first class of Wabash students on December 3, 1833
 - 22. Homecoming returnee
 - 23. A little damp, as a towelette
 - 24. O3
 - 25. *Student publication whose first issue was published on April 9, 1908
 - 30. Scarlet
 - 31. Bloody lab equipment?
 - 32. Kicks the bucket
 - 33. Lines on a city map
 - 37. 1 of 99 for Jay-Z
 - 42. Snorkeling site
 - 44. Omega
 - 45. Exhortative acronym often used as a hashtag
 - 48. *Final hurdle first administered on May 2, 1932
 - 52. Got up
 - 54. Like some proverbial milk
 - 55. What Santa checks twice
 - 56. *Campus group whose first twenty members were initiated on December 15, 1921

Special thanks to The Archives for providing valuable information for this weeks crossword

Bodies, the Iliad and the pursuit of justice

A Q&A with Dr. Bronwen Wickkiser, Classics professor and 42nd Annual LaFollette Lecturer



Bronwen Wickkiser is a specialist in ancient Greek history and culture, especially in the areas of medicine and religion.

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | STAFF WRITER
If you could talk to someone from Ancient Greece, who would it be?

I may be taking the easy route here, but I would love to talk to an ancient physician, Galen of Pergamon, someone I will also refer to in my talk tomorrow. And although we have a lot of his writings, I'd like to sit down and have a conversation with him about his own life. He had a very interesting life: he worked for the Emperor of Rome and treated the Roman army and even the enslaved

people. He's just a fascinating guy.

What is an idea that interests and inspires you? How will this incorporate in tomorrow's lecture?

Bodies. The bodies of people, the bodies of worshipers, and the embodied experience of religion and antiquity. So, there's going to be a theme of bodies that runs throughout it. Particularly, my talk will focus on health care. Healthcare is clearly about bodies. And I will also talk about the work of this physician Galen, talk about a particular text tomorrow and the light it sheds on healthcare for



Wickkiser reads from the Book of Luke at the Christmas Festival Concert in December 2021.

us. It's also about my own body and what it's like to be in the field of classics. Classics is still a very male-dominated discipline. Being a female in it is, I think, interesting to think about too. So, bodies in very different ways. Oh, I should also say, I'm thinking about the bodies of data that I draw.

Since your talk is about Bodies, and also the intersection of Medicine and Culture, what is your take on the current legislature on Abortion Laws?

I'll touch on this too in my talk too. I would just say it's just very striking to me. I'll make this very point that in Greek and Roman antiquity, there were no laws against abortion, certainly not through the time period that I'll be talking about in my lecture, which is the second century AD. And to me, it's really sobering to think that women in Greek and Roman antiquity had more legal autonomy over their reproductive health today than we do in parts of the United States today. That to me is so stark and sobering and troubling.

If you were trapped on an island with one book, which book would it be?

A funny coincidence is that I am going to talk a little bit about islands tomorrow! If I were stuck with one book, it would be either the Iliad or the Odyssey. I teach both a lot, the Iliad and the Odyssey. And every time I read them, I see new things every single time. They're long enough that you get a lot out of them. They touch on many aspects of the human condition that I just think are so essential to human life, they touch on humanity, and what it really means to be human. And the

idea of struggle is so important to the Greek, so if I were stuck on an island, and wanted a little solace, to think about people who have also faced adversity, those texts you can't do better. In a way, I would be just like Odysseus, stuck on an island!

What is the greatest lesson that Greek Classics and Literature had taught you?

In Greek Classics, there's a sense of the importance of humility. The word humility and the word humanity come from the same root. It is a thing in Greek culture that you don't want to become too comfortable, especially in the moments when the cycle of fortune is in your favor. Another thing, and I'll make a point of this in my lecture, is that bodies are a locus of justice and injustice. And I think that's important. To remember in our modern world, especially in the United States, as we are facing a moment of lots of division in our democracy. Lots of gun violence, ridiculous rates in which prisons are growing, the legacy of racism, slavery and all of that. To me, an important lesson from antiquity is thus that bodies are a place where justice and injustice play out.

We talked about Galen before. What would you ask him if you could actually time travel?

Well, and again, I will talk about this tomorrow, one of the challenges of studying the ancient world, especially Greek and Roman antiquity is that we only have a small subset of all the data. So, we're making pretty large assumptions based on not much data. So, I'd ask, are we even close?

This Week at Wabash



FRI 23rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TGIF 4:30 PMAthletic Hall of Fame Dinner 6:45 PM
SAT 24th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Football Game vs Denison 2:00 PM
SUN 25th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Catholic Mass at Newman Center 5:00 PM
MON 26th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Student Senate 7:00 PM
TUE 27th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Freshmen Mental Health Dialogue 11:00 AMPhilosophy Colloquium 11:45 AMPhysics Colloquium 12:00 PMChairs Meeting 4:15 PMOff-campus Study Fair 7:00 PM
WED 28th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Open Course Materials Workshop 8:30 AMPre-law Society Guest Speaker: Josh Minkler '85 12:10 PMWally's Wallet Lunch Session 12:15 PM
THUR 29th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Coffee & Careers 9:00 AMChapel Sing 11:15 AMAfter the Bell with Dr. Adriel Trott 7:30 PM
FRI 30th	<ul style="list-style-type: none">TGIF 4:30 PM

IAWM

The Indianapolis Association of Wabash Men

Welcome Home!



Cheers to Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees Nate Boulais '03, Chris Davis '93, Joe DesJean '03, John Holm '12, Riley Lefever '17, Conner Lefever '16, Reece Lefever '16, Mason Zurek '16, and the 2015 Wrestling Team

Congratulations to NAWM Honorees Greg Estell '85, Jake German '11, Jake Koeneman '06, Josh Owens '07, Sherry Ross H'04, Rick Sasso '82, Beth Swift H'06, and Jim Williams '88

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ALUMNI GLEE CLUB REUNION CXXX

HOMECOMING



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DIRECTOR

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The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body’s interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas. Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. The *Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 500 words.

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FEATURES

Ramsay Archive from 1927

Caveman Will Suit Alumni Desires in Homecoming Effort

The homecoming edition of *The Cavemen*, especially planned to be of interest to the alumni, will contain new picture cuts and drawings, in addition to an article by Professor Jasper A. Cragwall and a short story by Ray Ehrensperger.

In consideration of the fact that much of the success of the homecoming program centers around the annual football game with DePauw, the staff have decided to run special cuts of Coach Robert "Pete" Vaughan, Athletic Director, Harry M. Schuller, and individual cuts of each member of the team. A group picture of the team will also be included.

A novel cover design has been planned and drawn by Franklin Beaven, but as yet nothing much can be said about it except that it will be a four color drawing with a scarlet background.

Perry Loer, captain of the Wabash football team, will be especially honored in this issue. A full page, half-tone drawing has already been made of Perry and will be inserted in this edition of the *Caveman*. Beaven is responsible for this art work. Two other full page drawings will also be in this number.

No one, alumni or students, can afford to miss the two feature articles which will appear.

The merit of Ehrensperger's work is well known. The article by Professor Cragwall will be more than welcomed by readers of the college humor magazine, for "Craggie" always has something of interest to say to Wabash men, and he always says it in a manner that is most enjoyable.

A great many alumni are expected back for the Homecoming game, and the staff have spared no efforts in order to make this issue of *The Caveman* of especial interest to the returned grads. Copies will be sold at the game, and it is hoped that the alumni will purchase them and keep them as reminders of a gala event. This is the first time anything like this has been attempted on the Scarlet campus, and hopes are high for its success.

Delta Tau Delta celebrates 150th anniversary



COURTESY OF THE 1967 WABASH COLLEGE YEARBOOK

The Delta Tau Delta Class of 1967 poses for a house photo 55 years ago on the 95th anniversary of the chapter.

COLE BERGMAN '24 | STAFF WRITER •

The Wabash chapter of Delta Tau Delta will celebrate its 150th anniversary on Saturday, September 24, when current brothers and alumni will celebrate the chapter’s historic landmark.

“We plan on having around 250-300 guests that consist of current students and Delt alumni, along with any guests that people decide to invite,” said Chapter President Jordan Reel ’23. “To celebrate 150 years of any organization is in and of itself a milestone that few can say they’ve reached. So to be part of something this special is something I’ve been very grateful for these past few weeks.”

Reel reflected on the impact Delta Tau Delta has had both on campus and on the larger Wabash community.

“Not only have we helped grow conversations on campus about mental health awareness and promoting atmospheres where can be truly vulnerable, we have also had the opportunity to help establish solid rush classes across campus, build relationships with outside organizations, and help shape the future for what it means to be in a fraternity,” Reel said.

This event isn’t just important for the current students. The anniversary also gives a chance for alumni, such

as Nick Prihoda ’99, current Chapter Advisor for the Wabash Chapter, a chance to reflect on the fraternity’s impact.

“Being active and involved inside and outside of the fraternity has always been a priority of the chapter,” said Prihoda. “I think much of the impact Dels have made on the campus comes through everyday participation and leadership in trying to make the Wabash experience better, whether that’s in the classroom, clubs, athletics, the community or in the lives of individual Wabash men. This commitment leads to our members being in leadership positions like Adam El-Kahlili ’23, the Sphinx Club President, or Ben Sampsell ’24, the Student Body Vice President. It also translates to the Wabash Delt alumni who have served on the Board of Trustees, IAWM, Career Service advising and the six Wabash Dels who currently work for the College.”

Prihoda also has high hopes for the future of Delta Tau Delta.

“I hope we are able to continue to offer a productive and meaningful fraternity experience for young men at Wabash. In doing so, I’m positive we’ll continue to make an impact on young men, the Wabash community and the communities our members and alumni live in,” Prihoda said.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

TIME TO EAT COLT

Hi-Five to Carson Wentz for throwing for the second-most passing yards in the first two weeks. We still hate you, but we now recognize the skill it takes to beat the Jaguars’ secondary.

THAT’S AN E-O FOR APPLE

Lo-Five to MLB and Apple for putting Aaron Judge on Apple TV tonight while on his home run chase. Everyone should get to see someone punch Zack Hamble if he catches Judge’s 62nd HR.

MARCH OF THE DEATH BRIGADE

Hi-Five to Wooster’s marching band for playing bagpipes as their football team entered the field. Sounds like a pregame funeral procession.

I’VE GOT THE MOVES LIKE ADAM

Lo-Five to Adam Levine for cheating on his wife, then asking her to name their child after his mistress. Turns out, She Will (Not) Be Loved.

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

Lo-Five to the corroding pipes in Baxter Hall for causing us all to gag while sitting in class. Economics classes are usually enough to make us vomit, so this was overkill.

Meet the New Career Services Crew



COURTESY OF CAREER SERVICES

The Career Service department welcomes multiple new faces to round out their team.

Hall will be an Administrative and Recruiting Assistant.

“Karlie is a recent graduate of the University of Indianapolis,” said Hagan. “She will sort of be the face of the office for anybody that’s not sure who they need to talk to.”

“Jake was a swimmer, three time letterman, inaugural writing fellow, a Career Services intern, and a peer career advisor. So we’re very thankful to have someone coming back to the team that already knows a lot about what we do in the office and has been able to just jump in seamlessly and get going.”

“And then the third new staff member is Brian, who will be our new CIBE Program Manager, which is actually a new position replacing the CIBE Fellow position that we’ve had previously. So we’re bringing someone in who has pretty wide scope of business experience to be a little bit more of an adviser to the CIBE consultants on their engagement projects.”

The CIBE will undergo major changes for the 2026 class. Starting this year, no freshmen will work on consulting projects with a client. Instead, freshmen will focus on learning the business and consulting skills needed to excel on future engagements.

“I realized, through sitting in on some of our calls with our clients last year, that a lot of the students in the 2025 class were trying really hard to do a good job, but they were having a hard time figuring out if they were hitting the mark,” said Hagan. “So it made a lot of sense to me that we would not throw them immediately into the engagement projects and instead give them a whole year worth of training.”

This decision is one of many that are being made to make the Career Services department more efficient, effective, and valuable for students. However, it will be up to future classes to take advantage of the opportunities afforded to them.

This week in sports

Strong displays for Wabash Athletics ahead of Homecoming

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION EDITOR • Football trounces The College of Wooster, soccer wins crucial match against Hanover College and golf performs spectacularly at the Forest Hills Invitational. All coming up this week in sports.

Football: A convincing road victory
After a reality check against perennial favorites North Central, the Wabash College football team opened the conference portion of its season on the road against Wooster with an emphatic 48-14 win.

With a point to prove, the Little Giants dominated the first half of the game, scoring early in the first quarter to establish a lead. Wabash would never trail against Wooster.

Liam Thompson '24 once again led the Wabash offense, amassing 435 passing yards and four touchdowns through the air. He also rushed for 23 yards and another touchdown. Thompson's dazzling five touchdown display earned him his second NCAC football athlete of the week award. Donovan Snyder '24 supplemented the attack with 68 rushing yards and two touchdowns. Wabash finished the game with a whopping 627 total yards of offense, almost 300 more than the Wooster side.

Defensively, Wabash was much improved from the North Central game, only allowing 14 points in the entire contest. While the defense was out on the field for over half the game, the pass coverage specifically excelled and held Wooster to only 136 yards passing.

This week, Wabash returns home to host Denison College on Saturday, September 24th. Looking to continue building on the quality performance



COURTESY OF ELIJAH GREENE '25
Wabash defeated Fontbonne in the first leg of the Robbie Dreher Classic on Saturday, September 10. Pictured, goal scorer Austin Hughes '23 embraces Jose Escalante '26.

against Wooster and put on a show for Homecoming, this will be another step towards solidifying Wabash's status as a prominent contender for the NCAC regular season title.

Soccer: A gritty game against Hanover

Following on from their 5-1 victory against Anderson College on Wednesday, September 14, the Little Giants soccer team extended their winning streak to three games with victories over Adrian University and Hanover College.

Wabash strengthened their non-conference resume with a convincing 4-1 win at Adrian on Saturday, September 17. Wabash cruised to victory through a strong attacking performance highlighted by goals from Jose Escalante '26, Hugo Garcia '24, and Austin Hughes '23.

Then, on Monday, September 19, Wabash triumphed 1-0 over Hanover, one of the most formidable teams in the region. The deciding moment of the physical, hard-fought game was a penalty kick calmly taken by winger Caleb Castaño '26 in the 77th minute.

Wabash remained resolute and held off Hanover to secure the victory.

Soccer travels to Oberlin, Ohio to begin the conference portion of its schedule on Saturday, September 24 against Oberlin College.

Golf: Triumphant start to the Kopp era

The Wabash College golf team captured the team title at the Forest Hills Golf Invitational on Sunday, September 18. A strong team performance led by Sean Bledsoe '26 and Brayden Weiss '24, together with their teammates, saw the Little Giants edge out Indiana University East in the team competition.

Bledsoe and Weiss produced first and second place finishes individually. As a result, Bledsoe claimed the NCAC Men's golf athlete of the week for his exceptional performance.

Golf hosts the Wabash Fall Golf Invitational on October 10-11 at the Broadmoor Country Club. The team has one more tournament before then, traveling to Cincinnati for the Stateline Shootout at Mount St. Joseph University.

Castaño leads the offensive charge

Everything you need to know as soccer begins conference action

PRECIOUS AINABOR '26 | SOCCER REPORTER • With the 2022 North Coast Athletic Conference portion of their season fast approaching, the Wabash College soccer team can feel a sense of hope for their upcoming campaign.

They've shown resilience during the preseason and currently hold a 7-2 record. The team has a total of 28 goals scored on the season so far, and winger Caleb Castaño '26 leads the Wabash offense with four goals and three assists.

The Little Giants opened the non-conference portion of their season with dominant wins over Franklin College, Olivet College and Mount St Joseph University. Their first defeat came against Rose-Hulman, but the team came back stronger in their next matchup against Fontbonne University to win 4-1.

The game against Fontbonne was the first of the 2022 Robbie Dreher Classic. Unfortunately for Wabash, the Little Giants' next opponents, Webster University, dashed their hopes of taking the trophy by beating them by two goals to Wabash's zero.

This loss, however, did not affect the team's momentum as they set off on a three-game winning streak. The Little Giants defeated Anderson University, Adrian College and Hanover University, all in convincing style. In their most recent win over Hanover, Castaño put the ball past the Hanover goalkeeper from the penalty spot in the 77th minute to secure a 1-0 victory.

"Hanover was coming off a Sweet 16 run in the NCAA tournament, so they're a pretty good side," said Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller. "I think we had a few chances in the final third where we could have iced the game, scored a couple. But it was a gritty performance, and nice to have a shutout."

The Little Giants will conclude their preseason run against Illinois Wesleyan University on September 27, but not before opening their conference portion of the season at Oberlin College on September 24.

Looking back at the non-conference games, fans of the Little Giant have been most impressed by the involvement of new recruits, all of whom have shown great promise. Arguably the most impressive of the lot has been Castaño. He is quickly establishing himself as a regular starter owing to his quick feet and desire to cause chaos in the opposition's penalty box. He often starts wide and drifts centrally, using his pace to beat defenders and play crosses into the middle.

"There's definitely a few aspects I can improve," Castaño said after the Hanover game. "I'd like to open up to get the ball a little more. But overall, I think the entire team did well to get the win. I'm trying to get as many goals as I can and help the team."

Several other players have caught the attention of Wabash fans. Here are some key people to watch out for heading into the NCAC regular season.

Austin Hughes '23: Hughes is one of Coach Keller's key players. He finished strong last season with a total of four goals and four assists. Hughes was an integral part of the 2021 team and, in September 2021, was recognized as soccer athlete of the week by the NCAC.

Hugo Garcia '24: Admired for his ability to dispossess opposition attacks, versatility and strength in opposition box, Garcia already has two goals on the season. He'll be looking to add more.

Alexis Delgado '23: Delgado is a major contributor to the team's goals. He was the second leading goal scorer for the Little Giants last season behind Johnson and is already showcasing that quality. So far, he has scored five goals and set up a further two.

Quinn Leous '23: Leous is known as an energetic fullback – a player that always looks to complement both the attack and the backline. With his versatility, he can be deployed to different field positions.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Caleb Castaño '26 currently leads the Wabash offense with four goals and three assists.



COURTESY OF JAKE PAIGE '23

Jakob Faber '23 chases the ball in Wabash's 1-0 victory over Hanover College on Monday, September 19.

Coledon Johnson '23: The Little Giants' highest goal scorer in 2021 has been completely ruled out of Wabash's preseason games due to an ankle injury. He has played just 35 minutes since the start of the season. He is a scorer of great goals and the team is looking forward to his return.

The team is currently on an excellent run of form. Fans are curious to see how far the Little Giants can go in this year's conference – maybe the team can even reach the national championships. Over to Coach Keller.

Tennis excels in singles

PETER LEITHAUSER '24 | TENNIS REPORTER • The Wabash tennis team hosted their first home Invitational of the season on the weekend of September 17-18. Over the two days, the Little Giants competed with Illinois Wesleyan, Earlham College and Rose-Hulman, picking up 24 total wins across 35 matches.

Three Wabash players completed the weekend undefeated in singles. Ethan Wallace '25, Adam Altobella '26 and Bennett Strain '26 all scored perfect 3-0 singles records. What's more, Altobella won all three of his matches in straight sets.

In an interview for The Bachelor earlier this year, Bickett explained that doubles were the team's strong suit last season with singles needing the most work. But so far this year, the opposite has been true.

"I think the tournament went pretty well – we had a lot of competitive matches across the board," said Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett. "We are still learning our way in doubles, but it's getting better. Singles so far have been good."

On the singles front, Coach Bickett has spoken most highly about Augusto Ghidini '26. Ghidini, who is from Brazil, has made a smooth transition to college tennis and has been one of the team's standout players so far.

"He's been awesome," said Bickett. "He had a great weekend at Transylvania and then stepped up to play first in singles and doubles this weekend. He has been doing a phenomenal job."

Ghidini won his first singles match of the weekend in straight sets against Rose Hulman's Owen Reynolds. He took his other singles match against IU West's Ian Turnbull to three sets, but lost the decider 8-10.

"I am glad I fought hard and tried to be as competitive as I could," said Ghidini. "Playing collegiate tennis has been a great experience so far. The atmosphere on the court is amazing and there are always people bringing some energy to one another."

Another player Coach Bickett has highly praised is Ethan Wallace '25. Despite having a tough freshman year, Wallace has seemingly turned a corner.

"He had a lot of struggles last season," said Coach Bickett. "This weekend, he went 3-0."

Wallace's turnaround in form bodes well for the team. He won two of his three singles matches in straight sets. And despite a slight slip up in the second set against Rose Hulman's Ryan Burch, he won the deciding set 10-5.

The Little Giants finish up their fall schedule with a visit to Washington University in St. Louis where they will compete in the ITA Central Region tournament. This is an extremely tough competition, but Wabash will be looking to challenge some of the best teams from across the region.

Results summary

Football
Saturday, September 17, 2022
Wabash College – 48
College of Wooster – 14
At John P. Papp Stadium, Wooster, Ohio

Soccer
Saturday, September 17, 2022
Wabash College – 1
Adrian College – 4
At Docking Stadium, Adrian, Mich.

Monday, September 19, 2022
Hanover College – 0
Wabash College – 1
At Fischer Field, Crawfordsville

Golf
September 17-18, 2022
Forest Hills Fall Invitational
In Richmond, Ind.
1st / nine teams

Upcoming schedule

Football
Saturday, September 24, 2022
Denison College, at Wabash College
At Little Giant Stadium, Crawfordsville

Soccer
Saturday, September 24, 2022
Wabash College, at Oberlin College
At Fred Shults Field, Oberlin

Wednesday, September 27, 2022
Wabash College, at Illinois Wesleyan University
At Neis Field, Bloomington, IL



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash football ran out 48-14 winners on September 17 away at The College of Wooster. Left, Jacob Riddle '24 runs with the football. Middle, Liam Thompson '24 looks down the line. Right, Penn Stoller '24 carries the ball up the field.

Settling into their rhythm

Ridings confident his defense is prepared for the visit of the Big Red

DAVID GELMAN '26 | FOOTBALL WRITER • It's the busiest time on campus, and what better way to celebrate Homecoming week than with Wabash football. The Little Giants (2-1, 1-0 NCAC) take on the undefeated Denison Big Red (3-0, 1-0 NCAC) on Saturday, September 24 in this year's Homecoming clash. Wabash seemed to overcome its defensive growing pains last week as they kept Wooster to only 14 points, but we shall see if that defensive momentum will continue.

Offensive prowess will be of utmost importance this week. Wabash will continue to rely on their elite and experienced quarterback Liam Thompson '24, just as they have all season long.

Thompson has been amazing to say the least, completing a strong 69% of his passes for 988 yards and nine touchdowns. The season may still be young, but Thompson looks set to continue his good form against the Denison team.

When it comes to true competition, Wabash has clearly chosen the tougher route of these two teams. Through the first three weeks of the season, the Little Giants opponents have a combined record of 5-3, and Wabash even challenged the now first-ranked team in the nation.

On the other hand, Denison's opponents have been much less fierce. In fact, of the three teams the Big Red has played so far this season, none of them have sported a victory.

"I think our program and Wabash football knows how good Denison is. I know their coaches and how good they are," said Defensive Coordinator Mike



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash team captains enter the field ahead of their away clash on Saturday, September 17 at The College of Wooster.

Ridings. "What you can expect is that it is going to be a much better football game. You really have to see what they are doing in tight games, what types of plays they are running and who their playmakers are. That's what we have been trying to figure out because it is going to be a much better football game than what they have had. They have had some weaker opponents, but they are still a good team."

Despite largely shutting out Wooster, the Little Giants defense still has work to do – the team dropped three potential interceptions in that game. Fixing these three major miscues would

have led to major turnovers and the possibility of further increasing the already large score gap.

In order to beat Denison, these mistakes cannot happen. The Wabash defense will have their hands full enough with a run heavy and explosive Denison offense.

"That is the one thing we talked about," said Ridings. "If we caught the ones they threw to us, we would be leading the country in interceptions. Instead, we dropped three. So, we worked hard on ball drills to emphasize takeaways, continuing to get better and we will see improvements there."

The Big Red offense has put up an average of 54 points per game through the first three weeks. With that in mind, the Little Giants will want to build on the momentum of their mostly excellent defensive performance against Wooster.

"If we caught the ones they threw to us, we would be leading the country in interceptions. Instead, we dropped three."
- Coach Mike Ridings

"It really starts with just continuing to harp on the little things and not being satisfied," Ridings said. "That was the biggest thing that we have talked about. Knowing that there were plenty of things we could have done better even on Saturday. So, that is what we have to do – keep working on the little things. That is going to get us where we want to go."

All-in-all, the Wabash defense is going to be challenged this week. Given that Wabash will be their toughest opponent to date, stats for Denison can be misconceiving. Nonetheless, the defense will continue to get better and feed off the strong performance against Wooster last week.

On the offensive side of the ball, Denison looks to stop the dangerous Thompson, who has seemed nearly invincible through the first three weeks of the season. The question we should all be asking is not "how will this play out," but instead "will the Wabash defense continue their good play, or will the growing pains continue?"

LIAM THOMPSON '24



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

2022 STATISTICS

TDS: 9 YDS TOTAL: 988
INT: 1 CMP%: 69%
YDS/G: 329 QBR: 182.34

Total yards 2022:



Wabash Little Giants

1,547 YARDS



Denison Big Red

1,311 YARDS

DREW DAWKINS



COURTESY OF DENISON ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

2022 STATISTICS

TDS: 8 YDS TOTAL: 623
INT: 0 CMP%: 69%
YDS/G: 207.67 QBR: 197.92

Football spreading the ball around

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR • In the 2021 football season, the Little Giants offense seemed to run solely through Liam Thompson '24 and three other skilled players. But this year, the Little Giants have spread the ball around, ensuring that everyone gets touches. Despite the 2-1 record the Little Giants carry into Homecoming week, this offensive scheme could make the Wabash offense even more dangerous than it was last year.

Wabash's rushing attack last season was headlined by Donovan Snyder '24 who racked up 1,034 rushing yards. That was nearly two times as much as the next leading rusher, Thompson, who carried for 553 yards. Cade Campbell '24 was a great second option to Snyder in the rushing attack, but his production was not enough to turn the backfield into a true two-headed monster.

What was a two headed monster, though, was the passing attack. Cooper Sullivan '24 and Derek Allen '24 carried the receivers room last year with 850 and 77 yards respectively, making up more than half of the receiving yards last season. While Jackson Clayborne '22 was an invaluable redzone threat, his 325 yards paled in comparison to Sullivan and Allen.

This year, however, the ball is getting spread around more and is making the offense far more lethal. In the first three games last year, five players carried for 652 yards. Compare that to this year where seven running backs have come

just short of that against much stiffer competition.

"I just really like having as much depth as we have," said Allen. "That way we can move the ball around a lot and it's not just going to one guy or two guys, it's going to everybody."

What's more, the share of those yards is much more even. While Thompson leads the Little Giants in rushing, three backs have carried for at least 100 yards and another back, Xavier Tyler '26, joins Thompson, Snyder and Campbell on the list of backs getting plenty of carries.

According to some leaders on the team, Tyler is set to be the future of Wabash's running back room.

"I just feel like he totes the rock differently," said Allen.

And Tyler isn't the only newcomer who has exploded onto the scene. Allen and Sullivan lead the receiving corps, but Penn Stoller '24 has burst out of the shadow of Clayborne, the player who has led the tight ends for the past few years. Sullivan heaped praise on Stoller and makes clear that this performance is not surprising.

"Penn played scout team and we literally heard from the entire starting defense: 'Why is Penn not playing on varsity?'" said Sullivan. "He literally terrorizes our first team defense."

Heisman Skeens '24, Jacob Riddle '24 and Connor Thompson '25 have also played major roles in this offense. Allen and Sullivan praised the depth the offense has and expect this depth to help out the team on a whole.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Running back Donovan Snyder '24 receives the ball against The College of Wooster on September 17. He scored two touchdowns in the Little Giants' 48-14 victory.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

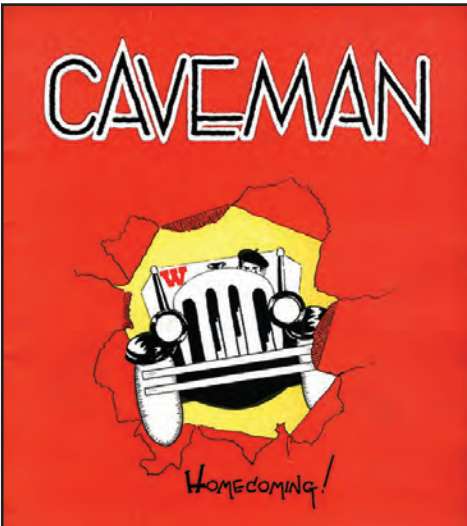
Gavin Patrick '23 (right) blocks for Xavier Tyler '26 (left). Tyler ran for 67 yards against The College of Wooster.

"It's great having a bunch of depth," said Sullivan. "Not only because it wins us games, obviously, but it's more fun to get to celebrate with your teammates."

With a more even offensive outlook, the

Wabash football program looks undeniably stronger. Head Football Coach Don Morel will be hoping this good spell continues into the Homecoming game against Denison on September 24.

From the Ramsay Archives: Homecoming over the years



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER

Front page of Caveman's special Homecoming issue, 1927.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER

Members of the Sphinx Club pregame the 1986 Homecoming contest.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER

Festivities well underway at the Homecoming game, 1981.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The Little Giants beat Allegheny College 36-28 in last year's Homecoming contest. Pictured, Cade Campbell '24 who rushed for 40 yards and scored a touchdown that day.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER

Queens line up ready to be judged at the 1960 Homecoming game.



COURTESY OF RAMSAY ARCHIVAL CENTER

The Delta Tau Delta house decorated for the visit of DePauw, Homecoming 1961.

Harkening back to tradition Rugby begins season with three wins, looks to solidify position on campus

BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • Rugby football has had something of a resurgence in the United States over recent years. Here at Wabash College in particular, the rugby football club has enjoyed a period of immense support with excellent results to back it up. But this latest iteration of the team, by bringing such a fast-paced, physical game to the attention of contemporary Little Giants fans, is carrying on a sporting tradition that is almost as old as Wabash athletics itself.

The rugby team traveled to Tiffin University on Saturday, September 17 to compete in their first tournament of the year. The Little Giants won all three of their games, beating out Tiffin, Bowling Green State University and a joint team fielded by Ohio Wesleyan University/Ohio Northern University.

"I am really happy with how our guys performed this past weekend," said Head Rugby Coach Nolan Fischer '24. "We had a lot of new guys rotate in and start for us, which really helped get them the experience they need. It feels like we barely skipped a beat. For having only three hour and a half practices every week, our gameplay drastically outpaced that of our opponents."

According to a 1911 article in The Bachelor, the history of rugby at Wabash dates back to the early 1880s. In fact,

in 1886, the College's varsity football team played under rugby rules, picking up victories over Franklin College and Hanover College. It was not until the late 1880s that the gridiron game came into prominence. Since then, rugby has sadly enjoyed only sporadic support among Wabash students.

"In 1885 no other school had the team or the nerve to play our kickers after several challenges from them. The next year (1886) the new game of "Rugby" was put in the lime light and several of the colleges organized teams. None could cope with Wabash, however, for after defeating Hanover, who defeated Butler and I. U., Franklin, the other contender, was taken in tow and the third championship was clinched."
- The Bachelor, November 1911

"Our main goal is to grow the game and to get people more familiar with it," said Rugby Club President Brayden Goodnight '23. "The more people that we get to join, the more we spread the game and the more that we can raise the level. Since I've been here, I've seen the club get a lot more respect. We're just hoping that continues."

Before the pandemic, the rugby team won consecutive Great Lakes Conference championships and in 2018 finished

runners-up in the Oak Leaf Cup. But this year, the team has its eyes set firmly on a run in the national championships.

"Our expectation, not just for this semester but for the whole year, is to win the conference and then go to nationals," said Fischer. "We got really close last year – our single loss was in the semi-finals of our conference championship, and if we would have won that we could have gone all the way."

As a student-led organization, the rugby team is unique among Wabash sports. With no full-time head coach, the members are themselves responsible for training, tournament organization and day-to-day running of the club. But for these men, organizing themselves is all part of the rugby brotherhood.

"The bond we have – it was a very natural thing," said Club Treasurer Matthew Brooks '24. "When you're on the field, you need to have so much faith to be able to trust the guys to your left and to your right. You learn their strengths and weaknesses in different ways. But outside of practice, too, that's where you make your connections."

Like last year, Wabash fans will have to wait until spring for a home competition. The rugby team hits the road again on Saturday, October 1 for the second tournament of their fall season when they visit Ohio Wesleyan.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The rugby team plays a home tournament every spring. Pictured, Wabash's spring 2022 contest. Left, Lucas Budler '24 runs the ball toward the try zone. Right, Brayden Goodnight '23 and Andrew Hollingsworth '23 prepare to receive a lineout.

NCAC football power rankings

THE BACHELOR SPORTS STAFF

1. Wabash Little Giants (2-1, 1-0 NCAC)
Despite losing to North Central, the Little Giants have shown that they can compete against quality opponents. With Liam Thompson '24 leading the offense, you can never count Wabash out.

2. DePauw Tigers (3-0, 1-0 NCAC)
The undefeated Tigers are ranked 22nd nationally, but their weak schedule lands them second on this list. They shut out both Anderson University and Hiram College. You can never count out a team with such strong veteran leadership, albeit from super seniors.

3. Denison Big Red (3-0, 1-0 NCAC)
While Denison is another undefeated team, they also fall because of an easy schedule. Led by fifth year senior Drew Dawkins, the Big Red have all the pieces to win an NCAC championship. However, Wabash will be their first real test of the season.

4. Wooster Fighting Scots (2-1, 1-1 NCAC)
The Fighting Scots started hot at Geneva and Hiram, but ran into a brick wall against Wabash. They take on another tough opponent this week against DePauw in Greencastle. If they can bounce back against the Tigers, they'll stay on track to compete for the conference championship.

5. Wittenberg Tigers (1-1, 1-0 NCAC)
After a rough start at SUNY Cortland, the Tigers rebounded to beat Kenyon by three scores in their opening conference game. They play at Hiram on Saturday, September 24, before facing a tough October schedule headlined by games against Wabash, DePauw and Denison.

6. Kenyon Owls (1-2, 0-1 NCAC)
It has been a rough beginning of the year for Kenyon. After a win against Bluffton University, the Owls have lost two straight against Kalamazoo College and Wittenberg.

7. Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops (0-2, 0-0 NCAC)
After an 8-2 year last season, the 0-2 start has been bitterly disappointing. However, they may be able to turn it around at Kenyon this weekend and Wooster the week after.

8. Oberlin Yeomen (0-3, 0-1 NCAC)
The Yeomen had a 1-9 year last season, and nothing from their first three games suggests they will do any better this time around. On the bright side, they do face Hiram this week – arguably the only team worse than themselves.

9. Hiram Terriers (0-3, 0-2 NCAC)
It's not looking good for the Terriers. They didn't get a conference win last year, and they probably won't this year either. But maybe they'll beat Hilbert, a program still in its first year.

Freshman earns NCAC player of the week

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER • It was his first collegiate golf tournament, but Sean Bledsoe '26 made the most of the occasion. The Wabash golf team competed in the Forest Hills Golf Invitational on the weekend of September 17-18. Bledsoe won the tournament with considerable style, enough to earn him North Coast Athletic Conference golf player of the week.

Bledsoe led the competition decisively from the first day. By the end of the tournament, he led the runner up by four strokes and his performance was incredibly consistent over the entire tournament. He shot a one-over par 72 on the first day and an even 71 on the second, a performance worthy enough to attract the attention of the NCAC.

"I knew that if I just instilled the guys with confidence, and if they were confident over every shot, and if they believed that we were the team to beat, that we could win," said Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp. "And I think the first day they started to believe and saw that they are capable of winning, especially Sean in his first ever tournament. There were about 60 players and he was beating 59 of them."

Bledsoe's efforts helped the Little Giants to win the tournament, leading the next team by five strokes. The outstanding play by the Little Giants screams of future success this season.

"I think the main reason that I had so much success this weekend was because Coach Kopp did a really good job of keeping me calm," said Bledsoe. "I would credit the majority of the putts that I made this weekend to Coach. But I couldn't care less about getting the NCAC athlete of the week. For me, the team getting the win was more important."

With this victory behind them, the golf team's confidence will be where it needs to be to get to the top of the conference.

"This was just a testament to what we can do this year," said golfer Mark Poole '24. "It was a confidence booster to start the year."