



Sam Comer '24 helps Ahmoni Jones '24 off the floor in the first half of Wednesday night's basketball game against DePauw in Chadwick Court on February 1, 2022.

## 'shOUT and D&I bring sensitivity training to campus

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | STAFF WRITER • This week, 'shOUT and the D&I Committee brought a series of sensitivity trainings to campus. The sessions covered conflict de-escalation, implicit bias and bystander intervention.

Each event served a different group on campus. Conflict de-escalation and bystander intervention training drew in fraternity and living unit leadership, as well as a strong presence from Student Senate, which canceled its scheduled Monday night meeting to attend. All of campus was invited to attend the implicit bias session, along with faculty, staff and Crawfordsville leadership. The events received healthy attendance, with the latter drawing a sum of 170 into Salter Hall.

The training offered tools for Wabash men to confront conflict and specifically targeted harassment. Right to Be, the company facilitating these sessions, offers these services to colleges and companies across the nation. Heidi Lersch, the trainer that led the talks, explained some of the nuances between the talks.

"Bystander intervention is focused on the person who is being harmed, and conflict de-escalation is focused on the person who is escalating and causing harm," said Lersch.

'shOUT President and Secretary of the D&I Committee Luis Rivera '25 shed light on the purpose of the implicit bias training.

"What this training is doing is starting the process of getting you aware of and starting to undo those implicit biases," said Rivera. "But then after you leave the training, you have to take the strategies and do the work."

Several sources of funding allowed for Right to Be to come to campus. The \$10,000 price tag was in part covered by a \$4,000 contribution from Student Senate, as well as a number of grants that college administration helped Rivera to access.

"I was really appreciative of Dr. Jill Lamberton

## Chadwick Crazies chase DePauw out of conference contention

WABASH 89 — DEPAUW 79

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | BASKETBALL WRITER • One of the oldest rivalries in college sports is always going to turn out an exciting game. But the rematch between the Wabash and DePauw basketball teams at Chadwick Court on Wednesday, February 1 was a step above. Every seat in the building was filled—except, of course, for the area designated for

the Dannies student section. The crowd was into the game from the tip-off, giving the Little Giants all the momentum they needed as they cruised to an 89-79 victory.

Coming into this game, it was absolutely necessary for Wabash to win. The loss to the Tigers earlier in the season put the Little Giants at risk of falling out of the regular season con-

ference race. The importance of the matchup was lost on nobody, and the atmosphere produced by the Wabash loyal reflected their will for the home team to win.

The contest got off to a terrifying start when the Tigers picked up a quick 9-2 lead. But then, the Little Giants went to work. They say great offense

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Luis Rivera '25 presents his research on avoidance coping and conspiracy theories. FEATURE PHOTOS FROM CELEBRATION OF STUDENT RESEARCH, SEE PG 5

## 'Anti-woke' education reform bills sweep the nation

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT • From the banning of Critical Race Theory (CRT) to the passing of bills prohibiting the instruction of LGBTQ+ themes in classrooms, educational reform bills have been sweeping the nation.

In March 2022, Florida passed the influential Florida Parental Rights in Education Bill, more commonly known as the "Don't Say Gay" bill. This bill, which has served as a blueprint for similar bills across the nation, includes language which inhibits instruction on sexual orientation to gender identity.

Specifically, a portion of the bill says: "Classroom instruction by school personnel or third parties on sexual orientation or gender identity may not occur in kindergarten through grade 3 or in a manner

that is not age appropriate or developmentally appropriate for students in accordance with state standards."

Though vague, the language of the bill opens the door to possible lawsuits brought against school boards effectively limiting what teachers can say in classrooms.

Supporters of the bill view it as a protective measure for children.

DeSantis' spokesperson, Christina Pushaw tweeted her support for the bill:



In the wake of Florida's "Don't Say Gay" bill, more than 150 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced at state levels. These include a Georgia bill that similarly restricts discussions of LGBTQ topics, a Tennessee ban on public school textbooks or instructional materials on "LGBTQ issues or lifestyle" and an Oklahoma bill to ban public school libraries from having books related to "the study of sex, sexual preferences, sexual activity... that a reasonable parent or

## What is happening with the Student Senate budget?

### Tightened budget amidst National Act and 'pizza money'

COOPER E. SMITH '23 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • Just three weeks into the spring semester, the Student Senate is grappling with a budget crisis. Currently, the Senate has only \$30,000 remaining in unallocated funds, a figure that represents under 10% of the annual budget. As a result, the Senate will face tough decisions ahead to balance its books.

**"Student Senate is effectively a business that can't modify its revenue stream... What we did was increase costs without increasing revenue. And sooner or later, that was going to catch up to us."**

-Vic Lindsay

At the first Senate meeting of the semester, over 20 student clubs requested their budgets for the entire semester. Many of them received full funding. However, several did not. More alarmingly, with only \$30,000 remaining in unallocated funds, many student clubs are just now submitting budget requests, exacerbating fears of a budget shortage.

"At the end of the day, it's a good problem to have," said Student Body President Bryce McCullough '23. "People and clubs want to do things again. What we've seen is that a lot of organizations are requesting more money than they did last year, and even last semester. So we're having to make decisions on where to put that money, which is putting us in a tough position." Other members of McCullough's cabinet seemed to agree.

"There is no problem," said Student Body Secretary Sarvik Chaudhary '25. "What's new is we have a lot more people requesting budgets than we usually do, which is a great thing. We have more clubs, being active,

more clubs requesting more money, but the thing is, they're doing a lot more events now, and they're asking for a little more money."

One of the factors that may be distorting the somewhat-shocking remaining unallocated funds is the number of clubs that requested their full semester budgets at the beginning of the semester. This was one of the McCullough Administration's goals, and it may have led to a higher portion of remaining funds allocated in the initial Senate meeting.

"Last semester, we actually saved a good portion of money," said Student Body Treasurer Ian Rollins '23. "We had a lot of roll over to the semester and because of that, Bryce [McCullough] and I both were encouraging clubs to be proactive and send in their budgets as soon as possible to cover their entire semester. So the reason why it's so tight at this point is because, two weeks ago, we had upwards of 20 clubs get most of their budgets approved or at least recognized in Senate." Student Chief Justice Thomas Joven '24 agreed.

"What Bryce and Ian [envisioned] was to more fully utilize the funds than had been done in the past so not to have so much leftover at the end," said Joven. "And so they really encouraged club leadership to get their budgets in at the beginning of the semester. When people heard this, they requested so many things in the beginning [of the semester.] So that's why we'll see some lower numbers."

But with a post-pandemic rebirth of student clubs, and many requesting ever-increasing budgets, the Student Senate faces some form of a budget crisis.

"Student Senate is effectively a business that can't modify its revenue stream," said Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay. "What we did was increase costs without increasing revenue. And

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COURTESY OF TWITTER



# What is happening with the Student Senate budget?

Continued from front page

sooner or later, that was going to catch up to us.”

Student Senate’s \$325,000 budget comes exclusively from student activity fees—though the Senate does not receive the entirety of those fees, which also go to other student services on campus. The College’s 2020-21 enrollment was 868 students, creating a total student activity fund of just over \$412,000. With a budget of \$325,000, the Student Senate receives around 80% of student activity fees. Without increasing the annual student activity fee, Student Senate cannot increase its budget.

“Last week, 20 clubs showed up with budgets,” explained Lindsay. “That was great, but they asked for more money than even existed at that point. And we have another group of clubs that have submitted budgets this week, which probably exceeds the amount of money that is still leftover. I think we have to figure out how to allocate the rest of the money that’s left and make sure that we can protect the most important functions of clubs. But I think there also has to be a longer-term conversation about the purpose and the value of students’ money.”

In the short term, the Senate currently has just under \$30,000 remaining in unallocated funds. Given this relatively low figure, the McCullough Administration will need to be choosier going forward this spring.

“That [\$30,000] obviously is going to limit things a little bit for the rest of the clubs that didn’t get their budgets in early,” Rollins said. “So I guess the whole problem kind of stemmed from certain clubs getting entire budgets in on time and early so that we can at least allocate them.”

McCullough outlined what his Administration would prioritize in funding the remaining clubs.

“The first thing that I think we’re going to have to do is make sure that we limit the allocations to on-campus activities,” said McCullough. He explained further that the Senate’s priority should be campus-based student events, not student events occurring off campus.”

“Our plan as an exec is to be relatively conservative with what we’re approving and what we’re recommending,” said Rollins. “That doesn’t mean that clubs are going to be completely shut out of a budget. But at the same time, we really want to scrutinize over what exactly we’re funding for each of these clubs. All these clubs have a lot of events and interests that they’re trying to uphold. But at the same time, the budget is limited, and I have that interest to keep in mind as well.”

“But that means diverting money away from pizza and chicken wings, and it means asking clubs to be intentional about what they’re spending”

-Vic Lindsay

“We’re trying to cut down how much ‘pizza money’ we give up,” said Chaudhary. “Last year we found out that we gave a lot of money to clubs, a lot of money that was spent just on pizza and food so that people would come. We’re trying to limit that and target events and clubs that focus on the majority of the campus. That’s what we’re trying to do. Have fun activities and clubs that involve more and more people in, not just give \$50 for a club where five people will show up just for the pizza.” Lindsay, among others, echoed the “pizza money” sentiment.

“We spend a disproportionate amount of the Student Senate budget on food, and most of that is probably food for the sake of food,” said Lindsay. Lindsay explained how students are looking for and requesting more opportunities for events on and off campus—events that would undoubtedly take up more of the Senate budget.

“But that means diverting money away from pizza and chicken wings, and it means asking clubs to be intentional about what they’re spending,” Lindsay said.

But is there a bigger drain on the budget than “pizza money”? The most expensive Student Senate budget item—by far—is National Act, the annual big-budget concert that the Senate organizes. This year, the Senate has allocated \$60,000 for the one-night event—roughly one-fifth of the Senate budget. But the weight of the National Act budget may go further.

“I think the campus over the past couple of years has been pretty split on National Act, whether it’s really worth whatever amount that we’re spending.”

-Ian Rollins ’23

The Student Senate split its \$325,000 budget over the two semesters, meaning each semester had roughly \$162,500 to work with. Yet, though National Act is an annually recurring event, the Senate allocated National Act’s \$60,000 budget exclusively from the spring budget, with nothing from the fall. Sure, National Act takes around one fifth of the annual budget. But because this year’s National Act budget came exclusively from the spring budget, National Act may cost up to 37% of this semester’s budget.

“It’s one of the most anticipated events that the Senate does,” said Chaudhary. But other members of McCullough’s cabinet seemed less attached to the event.

“I think the campus over the past couple of years has been pretty split on National Act, whether it’s really worth whatever amount that we’re spending,” Rollins said. “I think last year there was mixed feedback. I think it was unclear whether people were really on board with spending upwards of that amount versus getting a different experience. I don’t know if there is a right way to do it.”

“Personally, I don’t think [National Act is worth it],” said Rollins. “But it’s not because of the amount. I think it’s more based off of the way that the students typically react when there is a large amount. There’s no way to please everybody, especially when it comes time to pick a musical artist. In my opinion, I think that maybe we should be focusing those funds on something that maybe appeals to more people.” McCullough mentioned similar concerns.

“I have mixed feelings about National Act, and I’ve raised questions about it in the past,” said McCullough. “But at the end of the day, people expect it to happen, and people are always going to judge who the artist is without realizing how much this costs. So we may look at some things there.” McCullough noted that no artist has been signed for National Act at this time.

Outside of student government, other campus leaders have expressed similar



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Student Body President Bryce McCullough ’23 (pictured in blue) weighs options during a Student Senate meeting in September 2022.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Former Chairman of the Senate Will Trapp ’24 leads a Student Senate meeting.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Mac Miller performs at the 2012 National Act at Wabash College.

conflicted feelings about National Act and its cost.

“I think National Act is a great idea,” said Inter-Fraternity Council President Brett Driscoll ’24. “I think it’s an awesome way to bring campus together. How many other schools can say that they brought a big-time artist to their campus, sponsored by the college?” But Driscoll further explained that National Act has not always lived up to his expectations.

“With last year’s National Act, I wasn’t particularly pleased,” Driscoll said. “That was a lot of money we spent last year, and I wasn’t pleased. And we’re on pace to spend even more money than we did last year. While I think it’s a great thing, I think there are cheaper alternatives in which we can establish the goal we want.”

Regardless of the future fate of National Act, it seems that Student Senate is developing plans to address the current budget situation and considering options for the future. What changes could prevent a similar shortfall in coming semesters?

One proposal that McCullough, Driscoll and Lindsay discussed was moving towards beginning-of semester full budget requests. Under such a plan, clubs would meet over the summer to draft and propose budgets, allowing the Senate to see a semester’s demands at once.

“With all these events that occur every single year, we wouldn’t have to continuously have to work around them and wonder how much additional funding we’re going to have to allocate,” Driscoll said. These forward-looking solutions don’t necessarily involve increasing the Senate’s revenue. Though Senate’s income is fixed, few argue that the solution is increasing the student activity fee. Instead, it seems that policy and cultural changes are necessary.

“To me, the immediate solution is not charging students more money to increase the Student Senate budget,” said Lindsay. “There’s enough that we’re paying for that we could live without to put toward the things that have a greater benefit to the campus. And I think changing that culture is more important first.”





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# Tik tok concerns arrive on college campuses

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | STAFF WRITER  
• Over the past several months, several colleges have banned the use of Tiktok on WiFi networks and university devices. The United States has become a leading critic of the popular social media app, with even the federal government banning the app from officials' phones.

In the state of Indiana, no official bans have been put into place, however. Although Wabash College has an official account, Purdue University has deleted its own page and advised its satellite campuses to do the same.

These prohibitions have come as a result of national security concerns with the app and its parent company, ByteDance, due to it being a Chinese-led company. Skeptics of Tiktok are concerned that the app sells American data and private information to the Chinese government.

There are certainly privacy concerns with TikTok's ability to track a user's every move. But Wabash Director of IT, Brad Weaver explains that this is a concern with all social media companies and not just TikTok.

"There are certainly privacy concerns with all social media platforms," says Weaver. However, Weaver notes that the main difference here is "there is a perceived additional risk of the Chinese gov-

ernment receiving access to this private information."

Weaver notes that selling information is a common practice among many social media platforms. But, in terms of the United States government banning Tiktok, he notes this one could be a reasonable outlaw.

"Given the risk for government leaders to have TikTok on the same device as they do their work, this may have been a reasonable step to take, especially given the little value the app adds." This also is a much more popular political position to take, according to Weaver. That is, the "tough on China" stance.

Weaver noted that, for Wabash men, there needs to be an understanding about what it means to have these free social media apps. "It is important to think about privacy and what that really means [for Wabash students]," says Weaver. "These apps make money by selling information and selling ads. It is important to understand how all of that works."

Giovanni Zappala '23 has no fear of the rising apprehension of his favorite app.

"I don't really care if they sell my information because it is so funny," was the basis of Giovanni's stance on TikTok. "I would spend a whole day on TikTok if I could."



COURTESY OF CNBC

On the topic of a national security threat, Zappala finds no real basis for concern. "I don't see the issue although I have heard lots of people including family members worry about China and them tracking me through TikTok."

Instead, Giovanni finds a bigger issue in spending too much time on the app rather than the selling of private information. "If you let TikTok control your life, and you do nothing but watch TikTok all day, that is a bigger threat to Wabash and our country than China."

Whether there is a concern to be had or not, only time will tell how the rest of the universities and colleges across the nation will react. For now, recipe videos that will never be used and Corn Kid are safe for now.

# Adani's fall: A cautionary tale for the Indian economy

ARMAN LUTHRA '26 | STAFF WRITER • In a bombshell report released on January 24th, American short-seller Hindenburg Research has accused Indian corporate giant Adani Group, headed by billionaire Gautam Adani, of engaging in "the largest con in corporate history." The report alleges that the company has engaged in stock manipulation and accounting fraud over a period of decades, allowing Adani to amass a large fortune at the expense of investors. Based on valuation alone, Hindenburg argues that the prices of Adani's businesses could drop by 85%.

Adani Group, known for its rapid growth and ambitious infrastructure investments, has been accused of artificially inflating the share prices of its companies. The investigation claims that the company's seven key listed companies are fundamentally overvalued and carry significant debt, and that the company's financial and key decisions are controlled by a small group of Adani family members.

Adani Group and Adani's family members have previously been the focus of multiple major government fraud inves-

tigations, including allegations of money laundering, theft of taxpayer funds and corruption. The report also states that the company has used offshore shell entities in tax-haven jurisdictions to generate fake or illegitimate turnover and to siphon money from the listed companies.

Gautam Adani, once ranked as the world's third-richest person, has seen his fortune plummet by \$22.6 billion in a single day of trading. But while Adani's personal loss may seem irrelevant to the common man, experts warn that his fall could have far-reaching consequences for the Indian economy.

Adani Group, which is the most leveraged business in India with loans exceeding \$30 billion, has long been a source of concern for financial analysts. Indian banks are already grappling with a significant amount of bad loans from businesses connected to both the previous Congress government and the current BJP government. The failure of Adani Group could potentially trigger a chain reaction, causing the collapse of not only many banks, but also the stock markets and real estate

market, as well as the Indian Rupee.

Adding to the concerns, Adani is seen as a close supporter of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The main opposition party in Congress has frequently accused Adani and other billionaires of receiving favorable treatment from Modi's administration, allegations which Adani has denied.

The report suggests that a pattern of "government leniency" towards Adani Group stretching back decades has left investors, journalists, citizens and politicians unwilling to challenge the group's conduct "for fear of reprisal."

So while Adani's own fall may be heavily padded by his political and financial allies, much like those of previous con men like Vijay Mallaya and Nirav Modi, it is the retail investor and the common citizen who will bear the brunt of the consequences. If the allegations hold true, this would not only be a story of fraud and deception, but also a story of how the rich and powerful can manipulate the system, leaving the little guy holding the bag.

# OPINION



Matthew Brooks '24

Reply to this opinion at  
mjb Brooks24@wabash.edu

Do schools kill creativity? The relationship between creativity and education is not a new debate. Discussion on the value of standardized tests, changing the grading scale and understanding how to better classroom operations have been topics of discussion in the last few years to promote student engagement and creativity.

For the most part, education systems have failed to improve student's educational environments. Sir Ken Robinson said as

much in his TED talk titled "Do Schools Kill Creativity." Robinson had been the head of the British government's 1998 advisory committee on creative and cultural education and had the ability to improve how the British education system included creativity in its curriculum. His TED Talk has over 74 million views and is currently the most-watched such talk of all time.

Robinson's talk has been a foundational rhetorical artifact in the debate of creativity in the classroom and why students and facilities worldwide are asking the tough question of whether their school kills creativity. In that same vein, I asked myself the same question. Does Wabash kill creativity?

To answer that question, I think it's important to understand what creativity is and how it fits in the classroom. The Oxford dictionary describes creativity as "involving the use of skill and imagination to produce something new." I think ultimately Wabash does provide an environment that teaches its students the skill of imagination to produce something new. This imagination has allowed

its students to dream big in the classroom, start new clubs, or grow their current state.

Looking at Wabash's mission statement, Wabash pushes its students to think critically, and in return, I argue that it is an expression of being creative—we are encouraged to draw the lines outside the box by applying a multidiscipline liberal arts education to solve problems in our everyday lives. We Wabash students are taught to be creative in our problem solving ability thinking outside of what a focused, disciplined employee/student would achieve.

However, while I agree that Wabash promotes creativity in the classroom, it also provides roadblocks that inherently inhibit creativity. The intense culture around doing well academically is the primary block. For many students, the ability to be creative in their approach to problems, projects and papers is not in the cards due to the necessity of doing well academically.

In times when students might want to take the more abstract and creative approach, they fall back into the old reliable methods

# Does Wabash kill creativity?



Ethan Wallace '25

Reply to this opinion at  
ewallac25@wabash.edu

The NBA regular season is just over halfway through, and January power shifts have taken effect. Speculation about who will win the NBA Finals began before the first tip-off this season, so I don't feel bad for offering up my prediction now. Barring any big shifts over the next two months, this is how I would predict the postseason to play out.

**West:**

The West has been a wild shakeup this season. The entire conference has only two teams with 30+ wins. The New Orleans Pelicans are in the middle of one of the greatest January tanks in NBA history, with a nine-game losing streak, after they were second in the West with a 26-15 record just three weeks ago. The defending champions, the Golden State Warriors, are fifth in the West after playing an entire month without Steph Curry. Los Angeles has two failed super teams. The Lakers are at the bottom of the conference, despite having the most recognizable lineup in the league and two previous MVP recipients in LeBron James and after they managed to put

together perennial All-Stars Kawhi Leonard and Paul George, the Clippers are 7.5 games behind Denver. Right now the Sacramento Kings have the best record in California. With all that said, there are three teams I could see finding a spot in the Finals.

The team I would pick as an outside favorite to win the Championship would have to be the Memphis Grizzlies (32-18). After losing an unforgettable seven-game Western Conference Finals to Golden State, where Ja Morant put on a legendary performance, the Grizzlies bounced back with a mediocre 10-7 start to the season. However, since then, the team has slowly climbed to the second spot in the conference. Memphis is still pretty inconsistent and was just on the back-end of a five-game losing streak, but the team has the talent to make a deep playoff run and possibly win it all.

The second team I would pick in the Western Conference is the Golden State Warriors (26-24). Early in the season, the Warriors looked like they would be the top team in the West once again. However, with the loss of reigning Finals MVP Stephen Curry to injury, the Warriors have fallen back to fifth in the West, 8.5 games behind Western Conference leaders Denver. The lineup has plenty of players with experience in the Finals, and a fifth ring is a significant incentive for the other team veterans. Now that the better half of the "Splash Bros" is back in action, the team is looking like they might be able to do it all again.

My favorite for winning the Finals out of the West is the Denver Nuggets (35-16), who currently have the second best record in the league standings. Headed up by Nikola Jokic,

who may be on his way to a third consecutive MVP title, the Nuggets have been fairly consistent in staying near the top of the West all season. Their recent losses to the top three teams in the East could be a cause for concern. Luckily, with their superstar center in Jokic, a strong starting lineup, and an impressive overall record, I think they have what it takes to get a ring.

**East:**

The Eastern Conference is the dominant conference in the league this season. The East has five teams with 30+ wins, and six Eastern Conference teams are in the top 9 teams by record in the entire NBA. Throughout the season, the Eastern Conference has also had its changes, like the Indiana Pacers dropping to number 10 in the conference after a knee injury sidelined league assists leader Tyrese Haliburton in early January. Additionally, the Brooklyn Nets went on a huge run to go from the middle of the pack to second in the East before promptly losing Kevin Durant to a sprained MCL, and have been drifting back down since then. But for the most part, the Eastern Conference has stayed steady with some of the most promising teams in the league.

My third pick for NBA Champions out of the East would go to the Philadelphia 76ers (32-17). The Sixers have been on the up-and-up for a few weeks now. James Harden looks to have put his time Brooklyn behind him as he has been putting up a respectable staline packed with assists. Joel Embiid leads the league in scoring average, which combined with his 10 average of rebounds and an excellent showdown at home against Jokic and the Nuggets, gives him a strong argument for

# 'shOUT and D&I sensitivity trainings

*Continued from front page*

and Dean Redding working with some funds that they had to help," said Rivera.

Treasurer of the D&I Committee James Szalkie '25 played a key role in bringing these events to campus. He explained the value of attending these talks outside of a class requirement.

"This is a topic that needs to be discussed not in the classroom setting," said Szalkie. "Coming here after hours, not as classmates but as brothers changes the whole dynamic. We're not here for a grade, we're here because we have one common interest and that is making Wabash a better place."

**"What this training is doing is starting the process of getting you aware of and starting to undo those implicit biases... But then after you leave the training, you have to take the strategies and do the work."**

-Luis Rivera '25

Many students in attendance recognized the importance of these lessons. In the conflict de-escalation talk, students drew parallels between understanding aggressors and men's mental health.

"Guys are going through a lot of things, and men's mental health is a very serious thing," said Hayden Lewter '26. "By being able to know when someone is stressed or someone is angry about something, you can be there for somebody even if you don't know them."

"Wabash was founded to serve as wide and diverse a community as possible," said Gus Sanchez '26 in response to the implicit bias training. "Understanding how different people's experiences have affected their life and understanding my biases and how I view those experiences can really impact them."

Rivera intends for these events to serve as only the beginning of emotional education at Wabash.

"The next step would definitely be figuring out how we can make it a recurring thing," said Rivera. "In future events I would hope that they would be targeted towards incoming students so that they can understand the culture that we're trying to build."

of completing projects to ensure that their grades cannot be affected. Taking that risk in being creative is inhibited due to the relentless desire to excel academically at the risk of creative freedom and their mental health. This is a problem plaguing our generation's men and a serious problem on Wabash's campus. A way in which Wabash can help overcome this roadblock is by adopting principles of ungrading.

Ungrading is a movement providing solutions to teachers and professors educating students of all ranges to include creativity in the classroom. They believe that educators should grade less, grade less often and grade more simply. Ungrading argues that this allows the students to get the required feedback on their assignments and knowledge of the course but shifts the focus to the enjoyment of learning and creativity, not focusing solely on the course grade. I believe this is a healthy change that Wabash should adopt to help promote not only the creativity and critical thinking of its students but the struggle in our student's mental health.

an MVP season. With the fourth-best record in the league, the team has been solid all season and has been picking up the heat recently. If they can keep their current pace, a Finals win is not hard to imagine.

The second best team in the East is the Milwaukee Bucks (34-17). After injuries and a second round exit in the playoffs to the Boston Celtics spoiled a potential repeat last season, the Bucks are back and healthy again. Giannis Antetokounmpo continues to dominate in the league. Third in scoring, with more rebounds and assists than Embiid, the "Greek Freak" is also in the hunt for an MVP trophy. The team started off the season holding on tightly to second spot in the east, before taking a brief slip. But, they've managed to grind their way back to the top. Their resilience and ability to get back into the contest makes me think they have a good shot at the title.

My pick for the Eastern Conference team to walk away with the title is incontestably the Boston Celtics (36-15). Headed up by the best duo in Basketball, Jaylen Brown and Jason Tatum, both of whom are top 15 scorers in the NBA, the team has held the best record in the league since the first day of the season. Despite suffering injuries multiple times already throughout the season, the team has held onto the best record in the entire NBA. Although the team lost in the 2022 NBA Finals to Golden State, they have made an impressive offseason trade to bring in even more star talent with the addition of Malcolm Brogdon over the summer. This team will almost certainly be the final boss for any team looking to win it all.



# BACHELOR

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

Twitter: @WabCoBachelor\_  
Instagram: wabashcollegebachelor

## EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Cooper E. Smith • cesmith23@wabash.edu

## MANAGING EDITOR

Jakob Goodwin • jmgoodwi23@wabash.edu

## NEWS EDITOR

Sam Benedict • ssbenedi25@wabash.edu

## OPINION EDITOR

Andrew Dever • atdever25@wabash.edu

## FEATURES EDITOR

Logan Weilbaker • laweilba25@wabash.edu

## SPORTS EDITOR

Benjamin Bullock • bbulloc23@wabash.edu

## PHOTO EDITORS

Jake Paige • jwpaige23@wabash.edu

Elijah Greene • eagreene25@wabash.edu

The purpose of *The Bachelor* is to serve the school audience, including but not limited to administrators, faculty and staff, parents, alumni, community members and most importantly, the students. Because this is a school paper, the content and character within will cater to the student body's interests, ideas, and issues. Further, this publication will serve as a medium and forum for student opinions and ideas.

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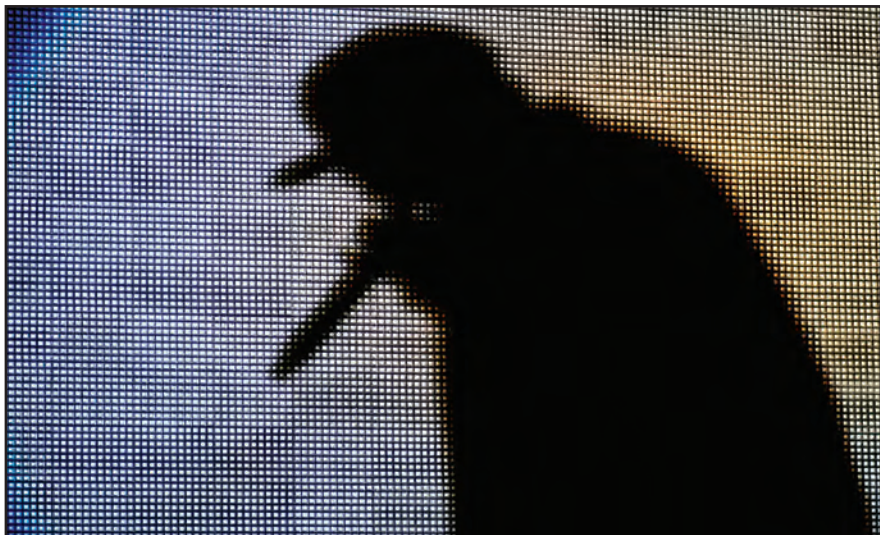
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## Staff Editorial: Is it time to revisit National Act?



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Mac Miller performs at the 2012 National Act. Despite former big-name artists, recent years have seen a performance bill that have included artists that many on campus have deemed to be more B-list, lesser-known names.**

Last week, Coordinator of Student Success Vic Lindsay and Student Body Treasurer sent a message to student leaders, telling them that the Student Senate had allocated a significant majority of its budget already, leaving student organizations with only a quarter of the budget left for this semester. The largest culprit of these austerity measures? National Act.

Roughly one-fifth of the Student Senate's budget goes to this one-night event. Is this something we're comfortable with? No other event comes close to taking that much of the annual budget. Especially given the current Senate budget situation, we feel that now is the time to revisit the event.

In previous years, Student Senate has gotten major talents, like Outkast, Mac Miller, Jack Harlow and Wale, to come to campus. However, in recent years, National Act has been an underwhelming event for students. Last year, there was a cap on the number of students to see B-rate rapper NLE Choppa, and even fewer were allowed to see Elijah Borders the year before. Is this caliber of talent really worth the massive cost it takes to corral them anymore? Especially when the artists cancel last-minute,

offering to return for an increased \$15,000 extortion... is this still worth it?

In our frequent interviews and conversations with campus leaders, we have found increasingly fewer students who strongly defend National Act and its budget. At best, many campus leaders acknowledge that there are mixed feelings about the event. But even more often, they admit that they personally do not find it worth the cost.

Now could be an opportunity to revisit National Act, to try to tap into its campus bonding while avoiding its costs. Maybe we could invite standup comedians or cover bands who can play anything, but surely there is an option better than spending a fifth of the budget on a b-list artist that only so many students can actually see.

We, as the Editorial Staff, do not claim to hold all the solutions. We merely hope to kickstart a conversation about how we want to spend our student activity fees for campus events. And when one-fifth of our current student activity funds go to a single event with—let's face it, tepid support—it may be time to rethink some things.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## "I AM CONCERNED THAT HE DOESN'T USE SOFTWARE VERY MUCH IN HIS COURSES"

*Hi-Five to Dr. Frank Howland for accidentally sending his feedback on the economics candidates to the entire campus. We simply hope he doesn't call us "at best, the border of unacceptable," behind our backs*

## OOPS.

*The Bachelor would like to recall the Hi-Five "I am concerned that he doesn't use software very much in his courses."*

## OEDIPUS WANTS TO KNOW YOUR LOCATION

*Lo-Five to TLC's "MILF Manor" for... everything about it. The whole "Milves dating their competitors' sons" was the only "plot twist" more telegraphed than an M. Night Shyamalan film.*

## ONE OF US! ONE OF US!

*Hi-Five to Marie Kondo for admitting that she stopped tidying up her home as much once she has kids. We have other reasons, but we're glad she's joined the club.*

## "HOW MANY TIMES DO WE HAVE TO TEACH YOU A LESSON, OLD MAN?"

*Hi-Five to Tom Brady for retiring from football . . . again. If this is real, we wish him the best and are glad he's finally gone, but if it's not, this schtick is gonna get old quick.*

## Fraud or Fatuity?



Carter Bertsch '26

Reply to an opinion  
atatccunawayccberts26@  
wabash.edu

Most Wabash students remember their first-time visiting campus. For me, I remember it distinctly because it wasn't more than a year ago. During campus tours, when prospective students are walking through all the academic buildings, making their way to the Lilly Library, one comment frequently mentioned by tour guides is about Student Senate. In my experience, my guide specifically mentioned that the Senate was the self-governing body that funds student activities across campus that occur year-round. I especially remember the large amount of funding, provided by the students, that was highlighted in the tour. It was a unique attribute of Wabash that many colleges don't have the luxury of benefiting from.

The idea of a student-run governing body looks good on paper and is an amazing aspect of Wabash. However, if you are like me and want to know where the money extracted from your tuition is going, then you would have to look at the Student Senate allocations. After scanning the Student Senate budget for 2022-2023, an observant student might notice some concerning figures.

For example, a major discrepancy in the allocations for independent living is painfully apparent. Why does Butler House, with a maximum occupancy of 12 people, get around \$2,000 (\$166.66 a person) while College Hall receives only \$1,500 with a substantially larger number of residents? Consequently, for an independent living in College Hall, they would only receive \$19.23 per person if

College Hall was at full capacity.

Considering that every student pays the same student activity fee, the stark discrepancy in appropriations is striking and concerning.

Now, a reasonable argument to counter the clear and disproportionate distribution of funds to the respective independent living units would be to assert that College Hall isn't at full capacity. While this may be true, to equal the per person spending that Butler House is afforded, the independent residency at College Hall would have to dwindle to nine guys. And that simply isn't the case.

Reckless spending, as seen in the extravagant Butler allotment, is the reason the Senate is running out of money so quickly. In conjunction with the Audit and Financing Committee (AFC) proposals, the senators allocate our money without a full list of what it is being spent on. I believe that the Senate needs to come forward and present all itemized receipts due to a fundamental lack of transparency plaguing the current Senate. I for one would like to see what these independent living units and clubs are spending their money on.

Stepping outside of Wabash, if the U.S. Senate were to mismanage and misuse funds this egregiously, it would look like fraud or embezzlement. This may be an extreme word choice, but something needs to be done about the continual and persistent misuse of funds. Unfortunately, examples of purchasing excessive amounts of food for private groups have been all too frequent. Notoriously, clubs like the cooking club have consistently defrauded the Senate, abusing your money in the process, for their personal gain. It is obvious that they are not looking for a big attendance except, of course, for Betas. Activities that are open to everyone need to be posted at least a day in advance. Behavior like the cooking club makes it appear that you aren't wanting people to show up and are just pocketing the funds.

I've sat in on two Senate meetings, and the AFC simply recommends how much money each group should be allocated and then the senate votes. Not one person in

either of those two meetings questioned what the allocated money was going to. The AFC is being too liberal with their recommendations. Consequently, the fact that they do not care about the money they are allocating has led to the plague of overspending and misallocation of funds.

What clubs are spending their funds on should be more accessible to students, and I feel that the AFC's meeting minutes should be sent out to all students. The AFC needs to start taking into consideration clubs and organizations that benefit everyone at the college, or clubs that are open to everyone, instead of over-funding private exclusive clubs and the Butler house.

Activities like TGIF, National Act and Back to Bash are great examples of activities that involve everyone on campus. The AFC needs to take a more frugal approach to allocating funds, stop overspending and reconsider what clubs should receive money for. At the last meeting, for example, AFC originally denied \$150 dollars for books for Wabash Christian Men, one of the better-attended organizations on campus, while granting the IMA almost \$10,000 this semester for wings and bowling.

From our side, we have a responsibility as well. As students it is our job to express our concerns with our elected senators and hold them accountable for the senate's continued mistakes. While it is very easy to ignore the Senate altogether, it is actually very important to show up to Senate when our requested budget is being voted on. On the flip side, Senate must provide us with a detailed request, with the cost and quantity of items purchased with our money.

I'm looking for a positive response from the AFC and Student Senate. Hopefully this will open the eyes of some people who were clueless to the matter or the majority who couldn't care less about Senate. I would love to see an improvement going into next semester, while seeing our clubs grow. I would also like to see this encourage students to work closer with their senators and improve the Wabash atmosphere.

## Wally's Wall: Who should perform at National Act?

### The Question:

National Act is on the way. If you could pick any artist to perform, who would it be and why? Should the performer definitely be a musician, or someone else?

### Vincent Alexander '24

It would be cool to see Chris Stapleton. I know a couple of my buddies enjoy him as do I. It would be quite the change up from last semester but I figured I'd toss it out there either way.

### Seth Acero '25

The guy from the Burger King commercials. But if that doesn't work out then Greta Van Fleet because they're pretty cool too.

### Patrick Donovan '26

Playboi Carti

### Isaac Caines '23

Sundy Best, a 2 man group from Eastern Kentucky

### Sam Benedict '25

Bryce Vine. No questions asked.

### Luke Russel '26

DaBaby

### James Langmaid '25

Dave Chappelle

### Aidan Walker '25

If I could pick an artist to perform for the national act, I'd have to say bring Mr. NLE Choppa back. I believe that the Choppa embraced our brotherhood with open arms and even had a special halftime show calling girls onto the stage. Bringing the Choppa back would not only excite every Little Giant on campus but would entice guests from other schools to come partake in this National Act, especially after last year's success.

## Check out *The Bachelor* Online!



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## Stolte's quarterback rankings: Using data to find the NFL's best QB



Mark Stolte '25

Reply to this opinion at  
mcstolte25@wabash.edu

Whether they like to admit it or not, all fans of the NFL share an innate desire to distinguish the bad from the good, the good from the great, and the great from the best. It seems that football fans incessantly talk about who is and isn't "in the G.O.A.T. conversation," a discussion that ironically often leads nowhere.

I don't need to lecture you on the multitude of factors that can influence a football game, let alone entire football careers. But as we enter an era where football analytics are a mainstay of watching the game, maybe we can start asking better questions and (hopefully) get better results. Of course, no metric is perfect, nor can any metric be entirely objective. But that won't stop me or other sports statisticians from trying to find new ways of thinking about football.

So, with all that in mind, let me pose a question that I'm sure will get plenty of you fired up: who is the best quarterback in the NFL right now?

Below are my current NFL quarterback rankings. The scores are based on a series of linear regressions that try to find correlation between certain quarterback-related statistics and winning. Average out those numbers, and you end up with the score I am using to rank each of the quarterbacks.

I know we won't agree on everything, and that is partially the point. Even I don't agree with many of these rankings. But instead of relying on common wisdom or anecdotal evidence, the list tries to compile the most widely accepted quarterback statistics into something statistically meaningful.

One of the biggest discrepancies you may notice is that the list disadvantages younger, less experienced players. That is by design. My data considers each quarterback's stats from the last three seasons of NFL gameplay, with the most recent season weighed more heavily than the previous two.

As such, the list factors in broader trends in a player's career without going too far back. However, it does of course mean that players like Trevor Lawrence and Justin Fields appear much lower on

	Name	RATING
1	P. Mahomes	100.80
2	J. Allen	90.87
3	J. Burrow	86.82
4	J. Herbert	86.60
5	J. Hurts	85.78
6	T. Brady	84.48
7	T. Tagovailoa	83.54
8	A. Rodgers	83.38
9	K. Cousins	82.58
10	D. Prescott	81.83
11	J. Goff	81.50
12	R. Tannehill	79.19
13	J. Garoppolo	78.93
14	L. Jackson	78.87
15	T. Lawrence	77.08
16	D. Jones	76.35

this list than they likely will in the future. So please, Jags and Bears fans, don't sue me just yet.

Without any further ado, here is the list in all its glory. What do you think? And who do you think will climb higher on this

	Name	RATING
17	D. Carr	76.28
18	J. Brissett	75.50
19	K. Murray	75.12
20	G. Smith	74.84
21	A. Dalton	74.05
22	D. Watson	73.35
23	R. Wilson	72.77
24	M. Stafford	72.62
25	M. Jones	71.40
26	M. Ryan	70.17
27	J. Fields	66.31
28	C. Wentz	61.21
29	B. Mayfield	61.09
30	D. Mills	60.47
31	K. Pickett	59.87
32	Z. Wilson	54.09

list in the next few years? Only time, and the data that comes with it, will tell.

[Note: This article is adapted from a paper titled “Aggregate QB rankings” by Mark Stolte ’25]

**In Mr.  
President's  
imagination...**

**Cartoon by Arman Luthra  
'26**

McCullough: Just...a little bit...further



# FEATURES

## Spotlight on Celebration of Student Research



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Tom Oppman '25 discusses his research on a protein complex in *c elegans*, a roundworm. Oppman's research found that the "turning on" function in the complex was more complicated than previously anticipated.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Hawk Ricketts '23 discusses Calvinist horror. "It's such an interesting concept because it hones in on such a unique religious concept: Do we really know what happens after death?" said Ricketts.**



PHOTO BY IAKE PAIGE '23

**Nhan Huynh '24 discusses his research with Director of International Programs Amy Weir. His project, "Functional Study of the SASH1 Gene in Developing Skin Pigmentation Disorder" won the Research, Scholarship and Creativity Award.**



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Simon Terpstra '23 explains his economics research entitled "Rich vs. Poor: A Comparative Analysis Between Western and Eastern Europe, Including Other Regions, and the Factors that Affect Gross Domestic Product."**



# Eric Dean Art Gallery welcomes Hoesy Corona



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Hoesy Corona, Wabash’s spring Artist-in-Residence, kicked off the semester with the opening of his collection “All Roads Lead to Roam” last Thursday. His pieces center around a suitcase-wielding wanderer, traversing the earth, prompting audiences to ponder the relationship between mankind and Mother Earth as climate change continually changes the world around us.



## Senior spotlight Hawk Ricketts '23, collecting acorns and spreading joy



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**TIERNAN DORAN '26 | POLITICS CORRESPONDENT** • Hawk Ricketts '23 is a Classics major and double Minor in Gender Studies and Religion from Zionsville, Indiana. Over his time at Wabash, he has served as co-president of 'shOUT, as well as serving as the 'shOUT representative for the D&I committee. Beyond that, he describes himself as the “go-to disabilities person,” with lots of roles where he doesn’t have official titles.

Homeschooled for most of his life, it was important to Hawk to find a college where he wouldn’t feel lost. From a young age, Hawk had a connection to Wabash and it was always a top choice. A close mentor to him was an Alumnus who encouraged Hawk that Wabash would be a good fit for him.

“He told me that Wabash would be the best place for me to start my education because it would nurture me and push me out of my boundaries in the right areas,” said Hawk. “I wouldn’t be lost in a sea like at a big college.”

Not until he was at Wabash did Hawk

understand just how beneficial the Wabash environment was for him. The environment where he could “come out of his shell,” was important to Hawk, but the transition wasn’t always smooth. Hawk describes himself as “a weird kid,” a title he’s proud of, but one he had to grow to accept.

“Freshman year I threw myself out of my wheelchair, because I’d never seen acorns before, and I was collecting them because I wanted to open them up and see what was inside,” said Hawk “I generally have a lot of curiosity when it comes to most things. If you talk to me about something I’m interested in, you will not leave for three hours.”

For Hawk, Wabash allowed him to preserve his own unique weirdness. He felt like he could pursue his vast curiosity while allowing him to connect socially with other students.

“I’ve made some of the best friends I’ve ever had in my entire life,” said Hawk. “Unconditional love and support is something I’ve felt here and something I hope to show to other people.”

Beyond Wabash, Hawk hopes to further his education. He plans on attending graduate school for religious studies with a specific focus on gender and sexuality.

“The thing that I am most excited about in terms of my future is being able to stay in school, because I love to learn,” said Hawk, adding how Wabash influenced him. “I love to learn, and I love to experience and going to a liberal arts college has allowed me such diverse course materials that I love so much.”

Whatever the future may hold, Hawk strives to be a comforting presence to those he’s around for both the remainder of his Wabash tenure and the rest of his life.

“I hope when someone sees me across the mall or on the first day of classes they feel a sense of comfort when I’m around,” said Hawk “Whether it be in a casual setting, a classroom setting or when it comes to activism, I just hope that, at the end of the day, at least I’m able to make people feel comfortable.”

# Michael Bricker '04: From Ball Theater to the Emmys

**JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR** • From the backdrop of a hit streaming show to the streets of Indianapolis, Emmy Award winning production designer Michael Bricker '04 sees the world through the lens of production design, creating a world that looks and works like it’s supposed to.

Last week I reviewed Kaleidoscope, Netflix’s new heist show, which Bricker worked on as production designer. As production designer, Bricker puts together everything from sets to furniture in the background and organizes filming on location.

“I’m in charge of the art department and essentially the look of the show, so anything that isn’t an actor or connected to an actor kind of falls under my purview,” said Bricker.

For Kaleidoscope, Bricker oversaw the entire set’s creation, from the jewelry bust that required altering stretches of New York streets to match the elaborate design of the SLS vault. Building the set of a Netflix hit starts with the script and building out sketches and designs of numerous locales, including a jail, an impenetrable vault and a beachfront crab shack.

“On Kaleidoscope, we built the sets in virtual reality,” said Bricker. “So we were able to go into VR and walk the set at full scale, make changes and share that with the director and producers to show them what the sets would look like before we started building them.”

While he used VR on his latest work, Bricker got his start building and designing sets in the scene shop for Wabash Theatre. Bricker spent four years helping build sets for theatrical productions and got the chance to flex his design muscles on The Illusion, where he served as scenic designer.

“So through independent filmmaking and then television, each step is scaling up from what I was doing at Wabash,” said Bricker.

Bricker won an Emmy for his work as production designer on Russian Doll, a major recognition of his hard work and skill.

“That was just completely unexpected for me,” said Bricker. “I only did the first season of Russian Doll, but that was my first television show that I’d ever worked on. So going from independent film to television, and then being nominated my

first time is pretty crazy.”

Aside from his work on screen, Bricker helped found People for Urban Progress, an Indianapolis based non-profit that advances good design and civic responsibility by developing products and projects in connectivity, responsible reuse, and making. After the Colts decided to move from the RCA dome to newly-built Lucas Oil Stadium, People for Urban process took large swaths of the decommissioned roof and created products out of it to ensure that material would be reused.

“It was really about thinking about how design in architecture and public space could be a little bit more diplomatic, provoking and nudging Indianapolis to be a little bit more progressive and thoughtful with the design of public spaces,” said Bricker.

Michael Bricker has worked on some of the best shows on Netflix, helping to design sets that won Emmys, but his life of creating the sets for stars began at Ball Theatre, where he first gained that eye for design that he employs every day.



COURTESY OF MICHAEL BRICKER '04



COURTESY OF MICHAEL BRICKER '04

The SLS vault at the center of the heist in Kaleidoscope.

**Free small drink when you show your Wabash ID!**

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# How not to embarrass yourself... Watching a musical

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23** | SPORTS EDITOR • As the old adage goes, there’s no business like showbusiness. And as far as showbusiness goes, nothing is more showbusinessier than the busiest of all the shows in business—musical theater. It’s a whirlwind of singing, dancing, lights, action, comedy, drama and any other number of well-established tropes you can think of. But while the stage and all its trimmings are, to some, a dazzling, awesome spectacle, to others it is a strange world where people, for some unknown reason, break into unexpected song while excited audiences of several thousand people, even more unexpectedly, just... go along with it.

As a self-described “musical theater person” myself, I understand why musicals are weird. I often take it for granted that, from a young age, I was firmly indoctrinated into this all-singing all-dancing cult that must seem thoroughly disorientating to the uninitiated. But I want here to give you a slice of my world: musical theater in all its glory and despair. So if you have always wanted to get into musicals but didn’t know where to begin, here is your chance.

**Part I: Pick the right show**

When it comes to finding the right first show, there are a dizzying array of options. I know it may look daunting, but I think there are a few simple pieces of advice to follow.

First, you can never go wrong with a blockbuster “classic.” Musical theater snobs might hate me for this one, but popular shows are popular for a reason, mostly because they are accessible to a general audience. Musicals like “Phantom of the Opera,” “Wicked,” “Les Misérables” and “Hamilton” are all wonderful places to start. And the best part about it is that all of those shows are unique and have very

distinct characters. Even if three hours of French students singing about their qualms with the government isn’t your scene, chances are green-faced heroines might be.

But if you are feeling more adventurous—perhaps you don’t want to be labeled “basic” by your musical theater friends—then there are plenty of other non-blockbuster options. For something more contemporary, shows like “The Book of Mormon” and “Six” offer witty comedy and innovative soundscapes in a far less stuck-up way than the classics. Or, if you are feeling particularly willing to try something different, go see any musical by Stephen Sondheim. And I mean any, they are all fabulous. From murderous barbers (“Sweeney Todd”) to mid-life crises in the Big Apple (“Company”), the late-great Sondheim has a distinct, if not sometimes jarring, sound, but his ability to put together an entertaining show is second to none.



COURTESY OF @WICKED\_MUSICAL ON TWITTER

My final piece of advice would be this: no matter what, stay away from jukebox or biographical musicals. By this, I mean any show that uses the music of an existing artist and uses it to tell that artist’s life story. I know it sounds tempting, but please, for my sanity and the health of musical theater as an art, stay away from shows like “Thriller” (Michael Jackson), “Beautiful” (Carole King), “Tina” (Tina Turner) and “Moulin Rouge.” If you absolutely insist of seeing a show of this type, go with “Jersey Boys” (Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons), the original and only semi-decent version of this cash-grabbing “genre.”

**Part II: Find good seats**

I know, I know. It’s obvious, but if you’re going to see a musical, you need to be able to see the stage. Just like going to

see a sporting event, it’s probably not the best idea to book a seat in the nosebleeds unless you are really strapped for cash. The stalls (that is, the lowest tier of seating) are generally considered the best view, but tickets down there are going to set you back a hefty fee.

My personal advice is to find a nice middle ground. I prefer sitting in the front row of the circle or dress circle. That way, there is nobody in front of you blocking the view, and sometimes you’ll get slightly better leg room. In my book, that’s a win-win.

**Part III: Theater etiquette**

Contrary to popular belief, the theater is not the bastion of upper-class exuberance or well-dressed luxury it used to be. While not quite “come as you are,” most theaters do not have a strict dress code. That isn’t to say you should show up in your pajamas or sweatpants, but you really can’t go wrong with a pair of jeans and a button-up shirt.

I think there are really only two truly egregious things you can do to annoy other casual theatergoers, and for the most part it’s just common sense. First, don’t sing along. Even if you know the songs, there is nothing more painful than having to sit next to somebody who thinks they are more important than the actors on stage. And second, avoid loudly rustling food packaging. By all means eat and drink—most theaters don’t care—but keep it to yourself.

**Part IV: Don’t be a snob**

Once you have embarked on your musical theater journey, it is very easy to be pulled into a pit of snobbery. I understand, it can be very tempting to find a genre you like and view others as somehow inferior or of less quality. But to become a true believer in the power of musical theater, I think you need to look past much of the factional strife between different musical camps. The most important thing is to enjoy musicals for what they are: a diverse variety of shows centered around song for the entertainment of the audience. Keep your mind open and no doubt you will fall in love with musicals from all angles and ages.

## Meet the newest Wabash Orr Fellows

**JAMES WALLACE ’26** | STAFF WRITER • As the spring semester begins, four Wabash seniors—Caden Beckwith ’23, Cade Cox ’23, Adam El-Khalili ’23 and Cole Vassilo ’23—have already planned out the next two years post-graduation as members of the 2023 class of Orr Fellows. The fellowship focuses on connecting outstanding college graduates with successful companies in Indianapolis and the Orr Fellowship network, providing the Fellows a two-year, full-time, paid position that marks the first step of the path to a successful future.

“I think the most rewarding aspect of the Orr Fellowship will be having a support group of current and ex-Fellows around at all times,” Vassilo said. “Making new relationships and creating a reputation in Indianapolis will also be rewarding.”

This means that Wabash graduates who become Orr Fellows now have at their disposal both the Orr Fellowship network as well as the Wabash alumni network. The valuable connections found in both ensure that those who qualify for the program will have a difficult time not finding a job when their Orr Fellowship tenures end.

“I think what the Orr Fellowship is going to help teach me is that I still have a lot of life to live,” said El-Khalili. “Getting that experience from the Fellowship is what’s going to help me with the next steps after. I have played with the idea of going to grad school to get a Master’s or PhD in economics after the fellowship, but that is totally up in the air.”

The other Fellows share the sentiment of not locking in plans now. They aren’t all ready to make a decision about what they will try to do after the Fellowship concludes.

“I’m looking forward to getting my hands dirty,” Cox said. “I want to find what I’m most passionate about, whether that be development, project management or something else.”

“I’m not really decided yet. I would like to go back to school,” Beckwith said, “but I might just want to stay with the company.”

The Fellowship essentially provides a two-year span in which the Fellows can develop and grow their skills while following networking opportunities that will extend their opportunities past the two-year program. One thing is for sure: These four Wabash men won’t hesitate to jump on the opportunity.

“I do know that I will take any opportunity that comes my way,” said El-Khalili. “And I’m going to exercise it to the best of my abilities.”

# SPORTS

## This week in sports: Settling into the February grind

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK ’23** | SPORTS EDITOR • The return of old rivals DePauw to Chadwick Court on February 1 was, of course, the event of the week. But even after the excitement of Wednesday’s basketball dies down, there is still plenty to look forward to this upcoming weekend in the Wabash athletics calendar. Volleyball hits the road, basketball takes on conference challengers Ohio Wesleyan and wrestling heads to the Greyhound Open, all coming up this week in sports.

**Basketball: Conference hopes revived**

The basketball team has put themselves firmly in the driving seat as the regular season hurdles toward a close. Wabash heads into February second in the conference, just one win behind Wooster, who have played one game more than the Little Giants. If Wabash wins out from here, they secure the No. 1 seed in the NCAC tournament.

The Little Giants began their week with a narrow but well-earned victory over conference underperformers Kenyon. When the Owls visited Chadwick Court on Saturday, January 28, many Wallies probably expected Wabash to win with relative ease. But far from being the case, Kenyon were relentless in their efforts to get ahead.

Wabash went into halftime with a four-point lead, but Kenyon turned it around in the second, pulling eight points ahead with 15:53 on the clock. It took a ferocious team effort, but the Little Giants eventually snatched victory from the jaws of defeat, the final score 74-69.

On Wednesday, February 1, Wabash got their February schedule off to the best of possible starts by beating rivals DePauw 89-79. Four Wabash players finished with double figure scoring figures, with



**Ahmoni Jones ’24 (left) and Vinny Buccilla ’25 (right) celebrate with the student section after Wabash’s victory over DePauw on February 1, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

Ahmoni Jones ’24 leading the scoring with 27 points.

**Go deeper: Full report, page 10**

**Wrestling: Rested and ready to go**

The wrestling team finally had a weekend to themselves on January 28-29. With no meet or tournament, the Little Giants had some time to reflect on their progress so far this season. It has certainly been a mixed bag for this team, winning three invitationals and three duals but losing out to four teams in the NCWA National Duals.

Nevertheless, hopes are still high as the team heads toward the back end of the season. Star wrestler Jack Heldt ’23 is currently ranked #2 in the nation at 285 pounds according to the NWCA Division III Men’s Coaches Poll. Three other wrestlers are also NWCA ranked: James Baczek ’25 (#9 at 184 pounds), James Day ’26 (#11 at 125 pounds) and James Arebalo ’25 (#13 at 174 pounds).

The team travels to Indianapolis on Sunday, February 5, to compete in the Greyhound Open at the

University of Indianapolis.

**Go deeper: See page 10**

**Track and Field: Beat DePauw!**

The track and field team looks to continue its recent run of good form when they visit DePauw on Friday, February 3. With a rivalry as intense as this one, and especially coming off the back of this week’s fiery basketball contest between the two schools, this is set to be one of the team’s season highlights.

In their last outing at Wittenberg on January 28, the Little Giants posted several season- and career-best times. In the 60-meter hurdles, Josh Massaquoi ’26 ran a season-best finals time of 8.49 to claim third place in that event. Wabash also produced a third-place finish in the 4x200-meter relay, with TK Walls ’23, Nathan France ’24, Thomas Joven ’24 and Josh Manfred ’24 posting a season-best time of 1:33.29.

Perhaps the standout performer of the day, though, was Brayden Curnutt ’25, whose 5,000-meter

run time of 15:15.68, a career best, earned him an eighth-place finish.

**Volleyball: On the road again**

The volleyball team is exciting to watch right now. With a lot of optimism behind them, the team travels to Wittenberg on Saturday, February 4, to play games against Wittenberg and Hiram. The Little Giants have never beaten Hiram and have lost their last two games against Wittenberg, adding extra incentive to bring their a-game this time around.

In their last two games, the team rallied hard but couldn’t quite find a win. Played at Benedictine University in Chicago, Wabash lost the first game 3-0 to the hosts before falling 3-1 to Trine University.

The team returns to Chadwick Court on Tuesday, February 7, to face off against Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, a team Wabash has never played before. A bumper crowd is expected, with the chance to break the all-time attendance record for a home volleyball game.

## Who will win IM basketball?

**ANDREW DEVER ’25** | OPINION EDITOR • With the start of the spring semester, Wabash has begun another year of intramural basketball. It is without a doubt the community athletics event with the highest participation, and this year is no different. The 2023 tournament features 233 players and 26 teams split up into four divisions.

But with so many teams, it can be hard to keep up with all the action. So, here is a brief rundown of the favorites to win this year’s IM basketball.

**The Backstreet Boys**

The new team in the league has been destroying their competition. In their first week, Backstreet scored 181 points in only 48 minutes. Their high energy, full court press is extremely tiring and difficult to break, and it does not hurt that they have three former Wabash basketball players leading their squad.

**Beta A**

The defending champs are a team to be reckoned with again. On Tuesday night, they barely lost to the Backstreet Boys, who had won their first two games by an average of 63 ppg, by three points. With numerous scorers and good size, Beta A is poised to make another deep run this season.

**Baseball House**

More of an outside threat, Baseball House has impressed in their opening couple of games. With good size at every position, tough defense, and consistent shooting, Baseball House has proven to be a difficult early season game. Despite losing to Sigma Chi, they are still in a good position to challenge for first place in the Western Division.



## Tennis alumni match kickstarts spring season



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
**Bennett Strain '26 prepares to serve in the warmups at the Wabash College Invitational on September 17, 2022, at the Collett Tennis Center.**

**JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | MANAGING EDITOR** • The Wabash tennis team kicked off its spring season on January 28 with a weekend in Wisconsin, where they matched up with the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and Cardinal Stritch University. UW-Whitewater and CSU represent the hardest competition the team will face this year, beginning the season with a challenging matchup they can grow from.

While the weekend in Wisconsin served as the official kickoff for the tennis season, the alumni match this weekend, on February 4, will be the true opening of the year for the Little Giants. Captains Liam Grennon '24 and Cole Borden '24 are excited about the alumni match, where they'll get to play against former teammates and mentors, as well as reconnect with old friends.

"The alumni match will be a great chance to connect with past players and to continue our team culture," said Grennon. "It also provides us with an opportunity to train for two weeks without having to play an official dual match. This is a great opportunity to improve as a team and to make adjustments based on our performance last week."

Among the tennis captains, expectations are high for the year. They feel the team can meet them, even after the rough showing against UW-W and CSU.

"We feel pretty good about the start to our season," said Grennon. "Being such a young team, I think getting some exposure to the level of a nationally- and regionally-ranked opponent will serve us well later in the season. I was proud of how the team stepped up and competed well with two strong opponents."

**"We are putting in the work to be prepared for the long season."**

-Cole Borden '24

Borden echoed the same sentiment, reflecting on the hard work the team put in to prepare for this season.

"We feel good," said Borden. "We have made an effort over break to stay in shape with lifting and hitting. During practice we are making the most of every ball. Every practice we have a goal to achieve so we can define success. We are putting in the work to be prepared for the long season."

For Borden and Grennon, being named captains meant a lot and placed a responsibility to work harder and be a great example for the younger players.

"We want to peak later in the season," said Borden. "As captain, I am feeling good about the effort I'm seeing. The young guys are doing well and as Captain, it keeps me accountable because I know they are modeling what I do every day."

The team faces off against alumni this weekend but opens the next part of its season hosting Millikin University and Rose Hulman Institute of Technology on February 11 at the Collett Tennis Center.

## 'Capable' Kopp '21 named official head golf coach

**ELIJAH GREENE '25 | SPORTS COLUMNIST** • The Wabash Athletics Department announced on January 26 that Justin Kopp '21 has had his interim title removed, installing him as the full-time head golf coach. Kopp, who took over as interim head coach in August 2022, received the promotion after a historic fall golf season.

Kopp has been involved with the Wabash golf program since 2017, playing on both the golf and soccer teams as a Wabash student. After his graduation in 2021, Kopp continued to assist the team, acting as volunteer assistant for Coach Josh Hill while he completed his Orr Fellowship in Indianapolis. But when Hill resigned his position in July 2022, just weeks before the beginning of classes, Director of Athletics and Campus Wellness Matt Tanney '05 asked Kopp to step in as interim for the 2022/23 season.

And step in he did. During the fall, Kopp led the team to a second-place finish in the Stateline Shootout at Mount St. Joseph University and a first-place finish at the Forest Hills Fall Invitational at Earlham College. Such a strong start couldn't be ignored. "Justin [Kopp] stepped in and filled a significant leadership void," said Tanney. "He did a really nice job over the course of the fall with a quality group of golfers."

Kopp's agreement to join the staff could not have come at a better time. After Wabash legend Mac Petty stepped down from the head

coaching position after the 2019 season, the golf team has had three coaches in as many years. But Kopp is intent on staying.

"I plan to be here," said Kopp. "I want to be here when my freshmen are seniors and when my recruits are seniors. I'd love to stay on long term."

With that purpose in mind, Kopp has already begun developing as a coach. After observing and assisting Hill and playing for the coach before him, Tyler Schmutz, Kopp has been hard at work honing his own skills, by both implementing nuggets of wisdom from his predecessors and bringing his stoic panache to the golf squad.

"I really saw different strengths from each of the coaches," said Kopp. "Coach Hill was a little more analytical, Coach Schmutz was a little more intense and Coach Petty was good about the holistic Wabash individual. I want to continue all the good things that they brought to the program."

But Kopp believes that he has a perspective that the other coaches lacked: his knowledge of what it takes to be a Wabash man.

"I'm at a big advantage because I was a Wabash student, and I understand the grind," said Kopp. "So, helping my players get connected to alumni, helping with day-to-day schoolwork and understanding if they need to miss a practice."

This knowledge allows him to connect with his players and be available to them, both academi-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
**Justin Kopp '21 (right) instructs Landon Timmons '26 (left) on the lie of his ball at the Wabash College Invitational on October 10-11 at the Broadmoor Country Club, Indianapolis.**

cally and emotionally, in ways that the other coaches could not. That, paired with his care and dedication to the program, stands him in good stead to lead this group of Wabash golfers.

"He's more than capable to lead the team and the program," said Tanney. "And we're really excited for the spring."

Kopp shared a major part of his coaching philosophy: "No player knows how much you know, until that player knows how much you care." And Kopp truly does care. "I care about this team, both as men and as golf players. As Wabash students, I care about them all more than I think any other coach

would."

Kopp's care and dedication are soon to be put into action as the Little Giants set their sights on the upcoming Music City Shootout in Joelton, Tennessee on February 25.

"I think we can win that first tournament," said Kopp. "The goal is to compete, to go into the last day of each tournament with a chance to win it."

After the Shootout, the Little Giants look toward their conference schedule in preparation for the NCAC Championships on April 28. Their goal? Knock off the powerhouse Wittenberg program for the NCAC title.

## Wrestling takes on DI opponents in Greyhound Open



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23  
**Jack Heldt '23 puts his opponent in a headlock at the Wabash College Invitational on January 21, 2023, at the Knowling Fieldhouse.**

**BENJAMIN BULLOCK '23 | SPORTS EDITOR** • With regional and national championships just around the corner, the Wabash wrestling team travels to Indianapolis on Saturday, February 4, to compete in the Greyhound Open. With several big-name schools in attendance, the Greyhound Open is one final opportunity for the Little Giant wrestlers to prove themselves before the post-season begins.

The Greyhound is an annual tournament hosted by the University of Indianapolis. It brings together wrestlers from across schools in Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky for a one-day non-scoring event. The Greyhound thus serves up some of the most challenging opposition Wabash gets all year, including wrestlers from renowned Division I programs like Purdue University, Indiana University and Bellarmine University.

In last year's iteration of the tournament, Kyle Hatch '22 and Jack Heldt '23 both claimed individual titles. Heldt entered the tournament as the No. 1 seed and proved himself worthy of the early plaudits. He won all five of his matches at 197 pounds, including an 11-1 major decision against McKendree University's Vinnie Scaletta in the finals.

"My expectations are, of course, to win the individual title again this weekend," said Heldt. "But really, this tournament is just another stepping stone in the process. We as a team have got our eyes set on bigger and better aspirations with regionals and nationals just around the corner. So, while I am focused on winning this title, it's not the end goal. It's just another step toward the national title."

Several other of this year's returners scored big at last year's Greyhound tournament. Ray Arebalo '25 placed fifth in the 174-pound weight class, beating opponents from the University of

Indianapolis and Ohio State University to make the fifth-place consolation final. Similarly, Chase Baczek '25 won his first three bouts to finish the day in sixth place at 184 pounds. Both head into this year's tournament eager to improve on their performances last year.

"My plan for this weekend and the rest of the year is to go out there and compete to the best of my ability," said Arebalo. "The matches will take care of themselves. My expectations are high, and I plan to keep on improving."

With the regular season coming to a close, the next two tournaments should set the stage for the team's postseason endeavors. After the Greyhound, Wabash travels to Olivet College for the Mid-States Invitational on Saturday, February 11. The Mid-States is the final regular season event before the NCAA DIII Central Regional Tournament on February 24-25, which this year will be held at Case Western Reserve University.

## Bringing energy to the floor: Volk '26 profile

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS WRITER** • With the Wabash volleyball season well under way, Patrick Volk '26 is making a big impact on the court. Part of a promising freshman class recruited by Head Volleyball Coach Ryan Bowerman, Volk has had a tremendous impact on the team in their first six matches. The 6'7" freshman from Lafayette, California, holds the net for the Little Giants. Volk is a strong presence in both offense and defense, and his arrival has brought some key talent to the program.

Volk is an important part of the Little Giants' team dynamic during matches and practices. His hard work impacts the team's performance in and out of the stat book. Getting to the right position to shut down scoring opportunities for opponents or being able to get a block at the net exemplifies the diligence and persistence that he helps to bring to the Wabash team. His confidence and energy is a huge asset in a sport that requires a lot of teamwork and chemistry.

"Patrick [Volk] brings a lot of energy to the floor," said teammate Luke Davis '26. "He's one of the guys out there who is really having fun. He plays with a lot of enthusiasm and gets everybody fired up. He makes big plays. He's been a really good addition. And whenever he makes a big play he gets very hyped up. He helps the rest of us get really energized."

On the offensive end, Volk works hard to get into a position where



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
**Patrick Volk '26 celebrates with teammate Michael Enz '26 in their game against Illinois Wesleyan University on January 18, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

he can get a lot of scoring attempts, giving him the opportunity to make big plays. His efforts seem to be paying off. Volk leads the team in kills with 45 total kills in their six games. Recently, in the match against North Park University, Volk achieved a season-high 17 kills. When he makes big plays, Volk does more than just put points on the scoreboard—he builds the atmosphere and gives his teammates the intensity they need to compete in a close match.

"Patrick's versatility on the court is one of his biggest strengths," said Coach Bowerman. "While we have used him primarily as an opposite hitter, he is capable of swinging from anywhere on the

court and has also shown that he can impact the game with his serve and his defense. As Patrick continues to gain experience playing at the college level, I believe we are going to see him continue to improve his attacking efficiency and become a player that we can rely on to score in a variety of situations."

On the defensive end, Volk is a force to be reckoned with. He usually holds down the right side of the net for the Little Giants, bringing his signature energy and effort to get key blocks. Standing at 6'7", he exerts a lot of pressure on opponents and is able to stifle the other teams' best scorers. His efforts also allow him to contrib-

ute an average of two digs per game, keeping the point alive for Wabash in a sport where wins and losses are often determined by the narrowest margins.

"My favorite part about the team is the brotherhood and the ability to stay close through the highs and lows of the season," said Volk. "It brings me comfort and confidence knowing my teammates are always there to support me and have my back whether I'm playing my best or not. I feel like the team has continued to make big strides towards becoming an extremely strong team capable of competing with the best of them. I look forward to continuing to build on this and bring Wabash to the top!"



# Basketball skins the Tigers in 89–79 rout

*Little Giants take another step closer to conference title*

Continued from front page

beats great defense, but DePauw doesn't have a great offense. Aided by the riotous crowd, stretching from courtside up to the words "Chadwick crazies" on the wall, Wabash took over the first half. Some fantastic defense kept the scoring to a minimum and forced both teams to prove their skills by getting into the basket. The first half ended with Wabash standing ahead 38-32.

"You can't ask for anything more," Vinny Buccilla '25 said. "We have some of the best fans in the country. It really showed tonight, and we fed off that. We got off to a little slow start, but once you make a little run and the crowd gets into it, the game really just takes off from there."

The second half opened with a firestorm of threes, with the two teams trading blows nearly every possession in the early minutes. Led by Buccilla, who went 3-3 from deep, and Ahmoni Jones '24, who hit two from beyond the arch, Wabash won the shootout. The tug-of-war went on for the entire half, with both teams hitting clutch shots.

Entering the last minute of the game, the Tigers were unable to close the gap, forcing them to foul. With their opponents at the mercy of the crowd, the Little Giants pushed the lead to 10 as the time ran out, the final score 89-79.

The Little Giants' 40% three point shooting and 17-19 free throw shooting drowned the Tigers in a flood of scoring. In areas such as rebounds, assists, fouls



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**Edreece Redmond '24 pushes up the floor on a fast break against DePauw on February 1, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

and turnovers, the two teams were nearly identical. The home team also edged out a slight advantage in points in the paint, with 36 to DePauw's 34.

Jones and Buccilla both went off for Wabash. Jones led scoring with 27 points, going 8-8 from the free throw line. Overall, he was 8-17 from the field, but his points always seemed to come at the perfect time. But the star of the show was Buccilla, who knocked 25 points off of 5-7 three point shooting, going 10-13 overall and leading the team in rebounds. Josh Whack '26 came off the bench to score 14 points, individually tying the entire DePauw bench.

"I know coming into this game

that coach has been really hard on me," said Jones. "So, I'm making sure that I'm doing what I need to do defensively, and making sure I know what I'm doing offensively. I wanted to come into the game and make sure my defense spoke for itself and let the offense come to me."

Following the game, Wabash moved to 16-4, 9-2 NCAC, tied with OWU for second and half a game behind Wooster (16-4, 10-2 NCAC). The Tigers, now far removed from their minute in the spotlight, have fallen to 14-7, 6-6 NCAC.

"Our guys have got to be prepared to win the game in a bunch of different ways," said Brumett. "That



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**Champ McCorkle '24 leaps through his defender in an attempt to score against DePauw on February 1, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

will be important come Saturday, but tonight the second half was so different than the first half. And I think looking forward to these next five games, our guys have to be mentally prepared to play the game that's right in front of them and play the half that's right in front of them."

Wabash will continue its hunt for the top spot in the NCAC when they face Ohio Wesleyan Universi-

ty at Chadwick Court on Saturday, February 4.

"For Saturday, we'll try to get our people to come back like they came tonight," said Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett. "We'll be trying to get our students energized like that, trying to get the town to come back. It was the best crowd we've had all year. And it's supposed to be. We want to keep that going."

## VINNY BUCCILLA '25

Wabash guard



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

### 2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 13.4      APG: 2.1  
RPG: 3.5      3PT%: 43.8

## WABASH vs OHIO WESLEYAN

Team PPG:



Wabash College

78.3



Ohio Wesleyan University

71.2

## HENRY HINKLE

OWU guard



COURTESY OF OWU ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

### 2022/23 STATISTICS

PPG: 12.8      APG: 2.1  
RPG: 2.6      3PT%: 38.3

## Dever: Primetime performance propels playoff push

ANDREW DEVER '25 | OPINION

EDITOR• With Wednesday's victory over DePauw, Wabash surpassed Ohio Wesleyan in the standings to equal The College of Wooster at 9-2 in conference play. After the comprehensive win over the team from down south, the Little Giants are uniquely positioned to rip the conference regular season championship from Wooster and host the conference tournament again.

However, before Wabash looks too far forward in the schedule to a possible conference-deciding game at Wooster, a massive game is looming on the horizon: a home contest against Ohio Wesleyan this Saturday, February 4 at Chadwick Court.

Last time the Little Giants played against Ohio Wesleyan, the Bishops barely escaped with a one-point home victory, surviving a Wabash second-half resurgence led by Sam Comer's '24 20-point double double. Unsurprisingly for a basketball team coached by Kyle Brummet, Wabash has made significant collective defensive improvements and improved its offensive efficiency to establish itself as the team to beat in the conference. With the approaching bigtime showdowns on two of the next three Saturdays, Wabash can clinch the conference if they continue to improve their game.

First, let's look at their defense improvements and strategies. For Wabash to win the conference, they are going to have to continue to do a better job on other teams' primary scorers. In the first matchup against Ohio Wesleyan, star player Jack Clement torched the Little Giants defense of 31 points on 11-23 shooting. Two additional teammates also contributed 20 and 14 points, respectively.

This past Wednesday, the Little Giants' defense showed that they can minimize the opposition's primary



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**Ahmoni Jones '24 indulges his pregame dance against DePauw on February 1, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

scorer and took a big step forward in forcing secondary scorers to contribute more to opposition offenses.

Although DePauw scored 79, partially due to the up-and-down, transition heavy nature of the game, perennial leading scorer Elijah Hales was held to 18 points on 6-12 shooting. While Hales's output certainly was significant, the Little Giants successfully limited his scoring, especially compared to their first contest in Greencastle. When Wabash squared off against the Dannies over winter break, Hales, like Ohio Wesleyan's Clement, clinically picked apart the Wabash defense for 33 points.

Consequently, the ability to take away simple shots from Hales, who only shot 12 times during the entire game, was critical in allowing the Little Giants to preserve the wire-to-wire victory. Sure, the Little Giants did give up 79 points, but considering the pace of play combined with the whistle-heavy officials, Wabash took important and considerable defensive strides.

On the offensive end, Wabash is going to need experienced starter Ahmoni Jones '24 to continue to

produce consistently while relying on the energizing Vinny Buccilla '25 to provide efficient sharpshooting from three and quick-fire points. Looking back at the close loss at Ohio Wesleyan last year, Buccilla and Jones combined for a modest 19 points on 6-19 shooting. Looking at Wabash's only other conference loss, the 86-80 defeat against DePauw, the pair picked up their scoring, combining for 35 points, but only shot 11-29 from the field.

However, Wednesday's game reaffirmed that the pair of integral scorers can efficiently and consistently produce from beyond the arc and finish contested lay-ups and floaters in the paint. It also showed the importance of having them at their peak offensive performance.

Looking first at Jones, he established his dominance and physical superiority over the opposing forwards by synergizing his interior scoring, going 8-17 with timely shots. While many may have been lost in the antics of the rivalry game, Jones quietly dropped 27 points, including a pristine 8-8 from the line, to lead the Little Giants in scoring.

Next, we turn to Buccilla, who



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

**Vinny Buccilla '25 tiptoes along the baseline against DePauw on February 1, 2023, at Chadwick Court.**

complimented Jones with 25 enormous points and helped Wabash push their second half lead to as many as nine points. For Buccilla, almost as impressive as the quantity of points was his efficiency and ability to quickly spark the Wabash offense, while maintaining near-perfect efficiency from the field. In a significant improvement from the first matchup against DePauw, Vinny torched the Dannies on 15-20 from the field, including 5-7 from beyond the arc, while also leading the team in rebounds. While Buccilla is no stranger to success, considering he is a two-time NCAC player of the week this year alone, his renewed efficiency is certainly refreshing for the Wabash faithful.

Once again, with Saturday's showdown quickly approaching, the consistency and productivity of Wabash's current offensive leaders is of paramount prominence to Wabash's playoff push. Simultaneously, led by Jones and Buccilla, and supplemented by the systematic ball and player movement, Wabash can once again wear down all five of the opposing teams' defenses. Finally, Wabash's bench play needs

to continue to be an integral part of their strength as a team. Throughout the conference season, Brumett has not been afraid to rotate numerous, often inexperienced, players into the starting five, while rarely hesitating to insert freshmen into immense moments. With conference regular season championships and postseason aspirations in mind, it is crucial that the Little Giants continue to utilize 8-9 players through building confidence in more than just the starters.

Once again, the DePauw game proved why it's crucial to have capable contributions from the bench. During the long stretch of the second half, substitute Josh Whack '26 briefly took over, hitting back-to-back floaters over taller defenders to provide Buccilla a break on the bench. Whack's 14 points certainly came at critical points of the game and helped stretch the opposition's defense, ultimately opening up more room for Jones around the rim. In the final stages of the season, bench scoring could prove to be the difference between a conference championship or coming up just short in the tournament.

When the Battling Bishops arrive for the penultimate regular season home game of the season, Saturday will prove as another test of the Wabash basketball team's medal and strength in tough games, with the conference tournament only two weeks away. As the Little Giants continue to climb the NCAC standings and preserve through injuries and adversity, continuing to improve on the offensive and defensive adjustments, along with consistent contributions from various bench players, puts Wabash in a position where the conference tournament is tenable. Downing DePauw was a good start, but Ohio Wesleyan and Wooster will be the proverbial icing on the cake.



# SPORTS

A full-page photograph of a basketball player in mid-air, shooting a ball. The player is wearing a white jersey with 'WABASH' and the number '2' in red. He has a white arm sleeve on his right arm and a tattoo on his left leg. The background features a gymnasium with red structural beams and a crowd of spectators. The word 'SPORTS' is overlaid in large white letters at the top.

# Wabash 89 – 79 DePauw

*Pictured: Vinny Buccilla '25. Photo by Jake Paige '23.*

## Swimming preps for NCAC tournament

HERNAN DORAN 26 | STAFF WRITER- The Washabaw swimming and diving team completed its regular season schedule with a road dual meet against Indianapolis University Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) on Saturday, January 21. The Little Giants lost to the Division I Jaguars 168-104.

Wabash scored its top points late with the meet already decided. Justice Wenz '25 picked up first-place points in the 200-yard breaststroke with a time of 2:16.38, ahead of teammate Eddie DaMata '26 in second place with a time of 2:16.77. Aidan Mason '26 scored third-place points by finishing in 2:28.88.

Ethan Comeyne '25 added first-place points in the 200 butterfly, completing the race in 2:10.18. Nicolas Hakimian '25 scored second-place points by finishing in 2:23.64. Ethan Johns '25, Caleb McCartv '23 and

Kander Straw 26 went 1-2-3 in scoring in the 200-yard freestyle. Johns touched the wall in 1:43.89. McCarty finished with a time of 1:49.65. Straw was third in the group of Wabash swimmers with a time of 1:51.34.

"Right now our team chemistry is really clicking, especially coming off of some hard training over winter break," said Comeyne. "We are just fine tuning the little things so that we can break some more records this season and hopefully get some guys to Nationals."

Dane Market '26 finished the meet for the Little Giants by scoring first-place points in the 400-yard individual medley by finishing the race in 4:31.68. Morgan Govekar '26 completed the race in 4:38.38 for second-place points for Wabash.

Jacob Penrose '23 captured second place in the 1,000-yard freestyle with a time of

10:23:03. Reane Albright '25 finished third in the 50-yard backstroke with a season-best time of 26.54.

Straw placed third in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 4:52.93. Comeyene also picked up a third-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke by touching the wall for the last time in the race in 59.69. Barret Smith '26 placed second in the 200-yard backstroke by finishing in 1:59.85. Albright completed the race in 2:14.22 to finish third.

Next up for the team is the NCAC Conference Championships, hosted this year by Denison University. The conference tournament will begin on Wednesday, February 8, and lasts four days until February 11. Wabash finished third in last year's tournament and will hope to repeat that achievement this time round.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Marc Nicholson '23 cheers on his teammates with vigor against DePauw on December 2, 2022, at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.**

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A photograph of an outdoor patio area. In the foreground, a bottle of Corona beer sits on a wooden table next to a white plate of food, which appears to be a salad or a dish with shredded ingredients. In the background, there are wooden planters, string lights, and a building with a sign.

A photograph of a plate of food. The main item is a large, dark, round piece of meat, possibly a burger or meatloaf, topped with a slice of lemon. It is served with a side of vegetables, including green beans and carrots. The background shows a bar area with shelves of bottles.

**HALF OFF A DESSERT WITH THE  
PURCHASE OF ANY MEAL!**

**\*MUST PRESENT WABASH STUDENT ID\***

## McRoberts: NCAC basketball power rankings

**NOAH McROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER**

- The first-place spot is completely up for grabs, and any of four teams have a legitimate shot to grab a spot in the top four. Even Oberlin and Kenyon, firmly out of the top four, have put together some solid contests. As things currently sit, no one is safe. So, keep your eyes peeled on The Bachelor and the Wabash College Video Network to keep up with all the movement.

**1. Wabash Little Giants, (16-4, 9-2 NCAC) [Last week: 3]**

After fending off some pesky Owls, Tigers and whatever Yeomen are, the Little Giants have put together a solid string of wins. What's most important is that they have Sam Comer '24 back for the final push as they try to nail down the #1 seed for the NCAC Tournament. Since they're sporting a top two offense in the conference, you better get your butt to Chadwick Court for Saturday's showdown with fellow top three team OWU.

**2. Wooster Fighting Scots, (16-4, 10-2 NCAC) [Last week: 1]**

After an awe-inspiring stretch of wins, Wooster had an ego check last weekend against Oberlin, losing by three points. Wooster's offense was exposed as they shot below 30% in both field goal and three-point percentage. Wooster sports a smothering defense and electric quickness that can overrun you, but if you manage to penetrate their defense and put up big points, it's checkmate.

### 3. Ohio Wesleyan Battling Bishops, (14-6, 9-2 NCAC) [Last week: 2]

OWU sported a clean five-game win streak before losing a tough match with Wooster last week. It's becoming increasingly clear that the Bishops are a one man show. If you can shut down Jack Clement, you win as the rest of the squad has very middling numbers across the board. This makes the Wesleyans of Ohio an extremely volatile team, meaning they could run the conference tournament or get dropped in the first round.

**4. DePauw Tigers, (14-7, 6-6) [Last week: 4]**

The once pristine walls of yonder Green-castle have shown some real wear and tear in the past few weeks. The Elijah Hales-led unit relies on a relatively poor strategy in today's game: the mid-range jumper. DePauw lacks a true big man, and they don't take enough three-point shots to be a legitimate threat from outside. However good their Jack Davidson '22 knock-off is, they need a strategy shift to get back in the running.

**5. Denison Big Red, (10-9, 6-5 NCAC)**  
[Last week: 5]

Denison is in a weird spot. Dominating Oberlin one week, and losing to Wittenberg by eight the next doesn't inspire confidence in their abilities to win when it matters. Living and dying with the three-ball, the Big Red take their name to heart by going big or going home. Unfortunately for them, all their players forget to spend extra time on their free throws. This sets them up as a team that will fall apart in close games.

**6. Hiram Terriers, (10-10, 5-7 NCAC)**  
[Last week: 7]

What in the world do we have here? Hiram doesn't suck right now. If not for a couple overtime losses, the high scoring Terriers could have jumped into the top four in the conference standings. Sporting devastating shooting numbers, Hiram can sink your ship before you knew what hit you. But get them flustered, and they can fumble the game away.

7. Oberlin Yeomen, (6-15, 2-10 NCAC)  
[Last week: 8]

Oberlin has assembled a team of heroes from around the world to stomp on the dreams of those with aspirations of a high seed. With a lineup of guys whose names you can't pronounce, Oberlin's strategy is to chuck up as many shots as possible and force you to do the same. Be prepared to work for a win against these guys. No one is safe with the Yeomen (no, really, what is a Yeoman?) in town.

**8. Wittenberg Tigers, (9-10, 5-6 NCAC)**  
[Last week: 6]

Wittenberg just stinks this year. They can't shoot three's or make inside shots, and they don't get rebounds and they don't share the ball. No one on their team stands out. They play solid defense and don't turn the ball over, so they don't look awful when they lose. They exist, and that's about it.

**9. Kenyon Owls, (7-14, 0-12 NCAC) [Last week: 9]**

Somehow, despite losing over and over again, Kenyon isn't completely horrible. They put up a lot of shots, and, even when they miss, they can capitalize some second chance points. They certainly gave Wabash a good game last weekend. If they can clean up the fouls and turnovers, Kenyon really has potential.