

## Craig '25 studies rise in local West Nile Virus cases



COURTESY OF THE INDIANA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

**The Indiana Health Department recently announced new findings in Harrison County suggesting a significant increase in mosquitos carrying West Nile Virus.**

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • West Nile Virus has suddenly appeared across the state of Indiana. As of August 25, the Indiana Department of Health reported 225 positive mosquito samples from 60 counties, including Montgomery County. So far, there has only been one case of human infection, located in Johnson County.

Connor Craig '25 has spent much of his undergraduate research studying West Nile Virus in mosquitoes. The biology major and South Bend native spent the summer of his freshman year studying under the head of vector control for St. Joseph, his home county. This past summer, his research took him closer to his home away from home, where he pursued an internship working with the Montgomery County Health Department. He explained the science behind his research and the current spike.

“During the summer, when the concentration of viral material in mosquitoes that we test for gets to a certain point,

our machines are notifying us that there is enough viral concentration to infect a human person,” said Craig. “Fortunately, in Montgomery County, all that was discovered was that mosquitoes tested positive, and there wasn’t a human case.”

Ultimately, while the spike is seemingly alarming at first, Craig stressed that there is no cause for panic. “It’s going to appear inevitably. There’s really no worry for an outbreak.”

While mitigating panic, it is important to understand the underlying causes of why this summer has seen such a wave. 2023 has seen an extraordinary heat wave, breaking a 13 year record for the state of Indiana.

“It is directly affiliated, of course,” said Craig. “Around when orientation was for us, that first week of school, the mosquitoes were everywhere because the heat was really bad. And you can kind of see that correlation with temperatures rising.”

Continued page 2

## News around the world

TIERNAN DORAN '26 | NEWS EDITOR • **North Korea:** According to U.S. reports, Kim Jong Un is planning his first trip abroad since the start of the pandemic. His destination? The eastern-Russian city of Vladivostok to meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin. They are expected to negotiate a deal over Russian acquisition of North Korean-made arms to refill Russia’s depleted arsenal and reinvigorate their forces in their war against Ukraine.

**France:** New legislation in France banning abayas, long robe-like garments worn by some Muslim women, in schools has led to wide-spread criticism. The ban, a continuation of efforts by the French government to remove any religious symbolism from school settings, has been legally challenged by civil rights groups. However, French President Emmanuel Macron has said that the ban is “uncompromising.”

**Brazil:** Severe flooding, brought on by a tropical cyclone, has wiped out homes, trapped civilians, and flooded streets in Southern Brazil. According to Brazilian Meteorologist Dr. Maria Clara Sassaki, within a

week Brazil had exceeded the average rainfall for the entire month of September. This is the fourth extreme weather event to strike Brazil in three weeks.

**Mexico:** The Supreme Court of Mexico struck down a federal ban on abortion, ruling the current ban was unconstitutional. Prior to the lifting of the Federal ban, abortion had been decriminalized in 12 states in Mexico. Mexico’s actions stand in contrast to its northern neighbor, the U.S. Mexico has proven itself to be a haven for U.S. residents after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

**United Arab Emirates:** Mounting attention has been given to the United Arab Emirates due to its position as a manufacturer and supplier of advanced microchips. Representatives of the United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom have traveled to visit officials in the UAE to discuss United Nations sanctions to prevent technology falling into the hands of Russia to be used in its conflict with Ukraine. UAE has also been invited to join BRICS, a partnership of nations led by Russia and China.



COURTESY OF AP

**Kim Jung Un poses with Russian President Vladmir Putin.**

## Keller claims his 100th career victory

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • The Wabash College soccer team celebrated a big moment when they defeated Franklin College 3-1 Friday, September 1, which marked the 100th victory of Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller.

Keller began coaching for Wabash in 2012, and since then he has won North Coast Athletic Conference Coach of the Year three times (2014, 2017, 2019). Under his leadership, the Wabash soccer team has finished with a winning record in seven of the last eight seasons. During his time he has coached one All-American: Christian Aleman '22, as well as 40 All-NCAC players.

After the game against Rose-Hulman, his record stands at 100-68-21 overall (43-33-12 NCAC).

“100 wins was nice,” Keller said. “But the guys are the ones that play and put the ball in the net for the wins. They deserve the credit.”

There’s no better way to start a season than 1-0, and that’s just what Wabash soccer achieved. Heading into their first game, the Little Giants—who have lost many key scorers since last season—needed to answer a few questions about



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

**Head Soccer Coach Chris Keller celebrates with his players at Fischer Field against Franklin College on September 1, 2021.**

who would be ready to step up.

Jose Escalante '26 wasted no time offering an answer, which came in the form of a goal just three minutes into the match. He followed it up with a second shot, soaring into the net late in the first half. Continuing his spectacular play, Escalante gave the assist to Jesse Martinez '26, who scored the third and final goal for the Little Giants 14 minutes into the second half.

Escalante was third in scoring

for Wabash last season with five goals. This early boost has bumped his career total to seven goals and two assists. Myles Bernat '26 also picked up an assist on Escalante’s first goal.

Offensively, the Little Giants were ready to make things happen, overworking Franklin’s goalie by accumulating 16 shots with eight being shots on goal.

Continued page 8

## Student Senate sees influx in budget requests as National Act sparks discussion



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Student Body President Cole Bergman '24 reviews the list of estimated club expenses at the first Senate meeting of the year.**

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • The Wabash College Student Senate has been one of the hottest topics of campus conversation during the first few weeks of the semester, specifically, the Audit and Finance Committee (AFC). National Act, new clubs and heightened budget requests have been at the forefront of student discussion at Wabash.

Following the COVID-19 outbreak, recent student governmental bodies within the Senate have pushed for clubs and committees to plan and hold a multitude of events that improve the student experience. However, there is only so much money to allocate.

“There are loud voices around campus that are always extremely critical of National Act, which is completely fine. What I want those voices to know is that we are listening to them.”

- Lewis Dellinger '25

During the first Senate meeting of the year, the meeting extended for such a long time that Senators motioned to end the meeting and continue financial recommendations at the next meeting. In the second meeting of the year, Student Body Treasurer William Grennon '24 came ready with a new system in place to efficiently vote on budget requests.

“I felt like I was able to implement some small changes to how we format and present AFC recommendations that paid off in efficiency at the second meeting of the Senate this past Monday,” said Grennon. “With around 14 tabled budgets from the prior week’s meeting, I was grateful we were able to present and eventually approve all the tabled budgets along with the numerous new budgets AFC received in the week following the first Senate meeting.”

During this week’s meeting, 26 clubs and committees requested a total of \$53,282.57, excluding the National Act Committee’s \$65,000 request. AFC utilized a tiered system that put budget requests into three confidence levels based on the historical nature of the request, AFC’s personal

recommendation and the level of expected discussion for each request. Although the tiered system created an efficient process for the high-confidence recommendations, the lower-confidence recommendations still required significant discourse.

“As a Senate, we are trying to create fair and equitable determinations on what can and can’t be allocated this year to ensure a balanced budget,” said 2024 Class Representative Gavin Hill '24. “Inflation has affected everyone, and our budget remains the same. This can be a difficult realization as clubs try to spend more money than last year to simply be able to perform at the same level they did the prior year.”

The highest-spending committee in the 2023-24 school year will be the National Act Committee. National Act has been a contentious topic over the past two years, but Student Senate elected to provide an extra \$5,000 to the typical \$60,000 allocated.

“As a National Act committee, we know that we are not going to make everyone happy,” said National Act Committee Chairman Lewis Dellinger '25.

Continued page 2



## Student Senate cont'd



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Senators Matt Lepper '25 and Brady Ester '26 review financial documents provided by clubs and committees.**

“There are loud voices around campus that are always extremely critical of National Act, which is completely fine. What I want those voices to know is that we are listening to them. We have heard what they have had to say about the previous National Acts and we are changing many different aspects to make this National Act the best possible. I would just ask them to trust our committee because we are aware of what this year holds for the future of National Act, and I have full confidence it is going to rock.”

This year, the National Act committee has announced a change of venue, stating that the concert will be taking place outside, but refusing to specify where outside.

“Without releasing too much information, I can say that we have settled in on a venue we like, we have a list of possible artists we will be offering here soon and we have a new idea that we are going to implement this year,” said Dellinger. “As of right now, we cannot

explicitly say what it is going to be, but I can say it is going to be extremely competitive among our student body and will bring in more bodies to National Act than ever before.”

During discussions surrounding the additional funds that were requested by the National Act Committee, senators brought up concerns that they have.

“Personally, I am not a fan,” said Hill. “I don’t feel that throwing money at the problem of National Act will be beneficial. We accept many risks when we spend large amounts on one event. I believe strongly that the National Act Committee will reform their duties to ensure a great National Act, while being aware of the risk at hand to ensure the event runs smoothly.”

Although the semester has just begun, the first two meetings of Student Senate are showcasing what will be the top priority for both students and senators. More discussions will surely arise as more budgets continue to be submitted.

Craig further emphasized the importance of timing in certain global patterns that help scientists learn when to expect West Nile Virus, given that rises in heat are directly correlated to the spread of the virus.

“Across different years, it’s shifting because of things like climate change,” said Craig. “Climate change is easily one of the biggest causes for spikes in West Nile Virus tracking.”

Furthermore, Craig provided context for the threat of the virus year by year, as well as the appropriate response scale.

“In an average summer, you’ll see two cases in big counties,” said Craig. “When I worked at St. [Joseph] County, it was maybe four cases across the entire summer. Things would be a little bit more concerning if it was ten to twenty. If you had



COURTESY OF CONNER CRAIG '25

**Conner Craig '25 utilizes a mosquito trap to capture and then sedate mosquitoes so he can test for West Nile Virus.**

## Mosquitos cont'd



COURTESY OF CONNER CRAIG '25

**Conner Craig '25 analyzes mosquitos as part of his internship this summer with the Montgomery County Health department.**

more than twenty human cases, then we have a problem on our hands.”

Having worked in two very different public health offices, Craig brings a well rounded and informed perspective to working in viral research. This summer, Craig primarily collected and organized field samples of mosquitoes to be sent to the State.

“It’s very cool to compare rural public health and urban public health,” said Craig. “This summer I worked in the Montgomery County Health Department, which is a big shift compared to South Bend. Freshman year, I would just test [samples] on site in the health department because we had the equipment. There’s a disadvantage with rural public health that you don’t have as much money to be able to do those sorts of things. I know Marion County is really good.

In [Indianapolis], they have a \$1.3 million vector control budget, but it’s a lot harder for companies like ours, which has like \$25,000.”

While the spike seen in Indiana hasn’t come close to becoming a public health emergency, there are still some basic preventative measures you can take to protect yourselves from West Nile Virus, not to mention mosquitoes in general.

“To prevent mosquito bites, wear long sleeves and pants,” said Craig. “Use your deep keratin bug spray or whatever you feel comfortable with.”

The Indiana Department of Health and other health organizations will continue to track and analyze this spike, but for now, citizens have no reason to be alarmed.

## COVID-19 resurgence leads to uncertainty

**HAYDEN KAMMER '24 | STAFF WRITER** • With First Lady Jill Biden testing positive for COVID-19, a new variant raising concerns from scientists, and the CDC and FDA clashing over the efficacy of a booster shot, COVID-19 has once again come to the forefront of the Wabash campus at large. As professors have begun to wear masks more frequently and COVID-19 running rampant through several fraternity houses, it poses the question: “How scary is this new variant?”

**“The best thing to do is to stay home when you’re sick, which is not a part of Wabash’s culture.”**

- Chris Amidon

Wabash College’s Nurse Practitioner Chris Amidon said that this is just a general uptick in cases, and nothing to be too alarmed about.

“I think a lot of this has to do with back-to-school in general,” said Amidon. “A lot of people are coming back together

and starting to be inside more. Hospitalizations are creeping up again, and [rising COVID-19 cases] seem to be a national trend.”

Nikolai Jones '24, the vice-president of Wabash’s Public Health Organization, echoed many of the same sentiments.

“There are a similar number of mutations between the Delta and Omicron [variants] and this new variant (BA.2.86), which is slightly concerning,” said Jones. “However, research shows that those who had Omicron are best suited to defend against the new 286 variant, so it shouldn’t be nearly as bad as the Omicron wave.”

In the past, low vaccination rates within Montgomery County were a cause for concern. This concern led to students questioning if they should reenter the Crawfordsville community. Luckily, Montgomery County has improved their vaccination rates. As of May 10, 2023, 95% of residents received their first dose and 94% had received their second.

Outside of getting vaccinated, Amidon said there are many precautions students can take to avoid getting sick, but one meth-

od stands out above the rest.

“The best thing[to do] is to stay home when you’re sick, which is not [a part] of [Wabash’s] culture,” said Amidon. “Because going to class is so important [at Wabash], it’s noticed when you’re not there. It’s harder to go unnoticed. But, we have to respect that we don’t always know if somebody in our class is immunocompromised. Improve the culture and stay home to rest [when you’re sick]. And if you’re in an area where folks are coughing a lot, wearing a mask can keep you safe.”

The College has come far with their COVID-19 policies since lockdown first began, initially stepping in and offering to help fraternities deal with positive cases. Now, the outlook has changed, with the College allowing fraternities and living units to handle cases on an internal basis. Phi Gamma Delta President Thomas Joven '24 notes this, talking about his experience with the outbreak at FIJI.

“Last Thursday one of our freshman tested positive, then over the next two or three days more guys tested positive as well,” said Joven. “We didn’t know what the campus proce-



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK TIMES

**Vaccine efforts expanded significantly at the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, contributing to the lessening impact of reoccurring COVID-19 waves.**

sure was, so I called Dean [Marc] Welch '99 and he had a similar reaction. He said if guys could go home that would be best, but if they can’t then we had to figure out a workaround. So we created a makeshift solution in our basement, got approval from Nurse Amidon, and moved the five guys in.”

Joven shared that besides rescheduling a brotherhood event, he doesn’t feel that COVID-19 should halt too much of the house’s operations. Jones also expressed the same senti-

ment, saying, “I might change my behavior if things get worse, but it’s difficult [to change] because many of us are sick of social distancing.”

While COVID-19 cases may be on the rise, this disease is here to stay. Downgraded from a pandemic to an endemic, COVID-19 has become a part of students’ lives for the foreseeable future. Although unfortunate, cases such as these will likely continue to be a norm for Wabash students in the years to come.

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

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## The Death of the DCEU



Curtis Faughnan  
'26

Reply to this opinion at  
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In the past decade, the film industry has been dominated by superhero movies. However, while Marvel movies go into theaters and always seem to be box office successes, as of recent times, DC movies have been struggling. 2016 in particular proved to be the beginning of the end for DC's success.

DC released two live action movies that year, *Batman vs. Superman*, and *Suicide Squad*. *Batman vs. Superman* had people hyped but as they exited the theater, the disappointed reviews began rolling in.

DC had thought it was a good idea to kill off Superman in the second movie, but this proved to be an awful idea as they had just established him.

*Suicide Squad*, the following movie, was just as bad. The only good thing to come out of these two movies were Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn and Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman.

At the same time, somehow DC managed to ruin two of their best villains in a year by casting both Jared Leto as Joker and Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor. This caused many fans, including me, to lose hope, but we as fans still had one last thing to look forward to with Justice League coming out the next year.

Unfortunately, during the filming of 2016's Justice League, the original director Zach Snyder had a tragic loss of his daughter to suicide, causing him to step down for the job as director after the movie had finished filming.

All that was left were reshoots and editing. Warner Bros., the stu-

dio that owns DC, got cold feet after he left and brought in the director of *Avengers* (2012): Joss Whedon. They ended up reshooting upwards of 20% of the movie.

Fans were upset and they felt like Snyder was backstabbed by Warner Bros. causing one of the biggest uproars in fan history.

The "#ReleaseTheSnyderCut" movement began, and this continued for three years going from the theatrical release of Joss Whedon's *Justice League*, November 17th, 2017, until February 14th of 2021 when they released the first trailer for Zach Snyder's cut of *Justice League* during the Superbowl the year it came out.

The peace lasted for about a year and a half after the release of the Snyder Cut. This is when James Gunn took over DCU. This was a great move by Warner Bros., as Gunn is a successful director. Prior to his takeover he made very successful superhero films such as *The Guardians of the Galaxy* Trilogy and *The Suicide Squad*. With his takeover of the DCU the next few movies that will be released will be reconnected.

I think this is a smart move to try and separate Gunn's DCU from the DCEU. There have been talks of him keeping things and aspects of the previous franchise, but I think that he should just hit the reset button.

There were talks about keeping Gal Godot and some others, but they need to just hit the reset button to get rid of both the good and the bad. I won't be happy if they get rid of Superman but keep Wonder Woman.

We already know some of the casting's for the new films and it looks amazing. These movies have fans including myself excited, and like many others I am anticipating watching them upon their release.

## HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

### A SERIES OF FORTUNATE EVENTS

*Hi-Five to Jake Pasch for forcing the fumble, Hi-Five to Derek Allen Jr. for getting the TD, Hi-Five to Jacob Riddle and Liam Thompson for executing the Philly special or Hi-Five to Don "Steel Balls" Morel for orchestrating it all. Either way, we're happy.*

### 136 FUMBLES AND COUNTING

*Lo-Five to Tom Brady for getting cheated on by Bradley Cooper. We're about to get the greatest comeback performance since the '97 flu game.*

### 'A LITTLE TO THE LEFT...'

*Hi-Five to Career Services for free headshots in the library. We're especially supportive since it means the first shower freshmen have taken all year.*

### DRAFT DAY DISASTER

*Hi-Five to the start of the NFL season for finally giving us something to talk about at the lunch table. Lo-Five to everyone whose fantasy teams are already broken beyond repair.*

### 'SOME PEOPLE CLAIM THAT THERE'S A WOMAN TO BLAME...'

*Hi-Five to Jimmy Buffet for teaching us its always 5 o'clock somewhere. Rest easy in that Margaritaville in the sky.*

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# Dueling Opinions

## Student discourse regarding security cameras

### Preserving the Gentlemen’s Rule



**Nickolas Roberson '24**

Reply to this opinion at [njrobers24@wabash.edu](mailto:njrobers24@wabash.edu)

The implementation of cameras on the campus of Wabash College may seem appealing to the staff, faculty and students as a means to provide formal measures to protect the campus from theft, property damage and break-ins.

However, such measures clash with the foundational axiom of our campus and its associated norms, ultimately threatening the autonomy of the student body. The Gentleman’s Rule substantiates tremendous freedom and liberty for Wabash students, while also charging them with equally important norms of responsibility and accountability.

Such decentralization of rules and authority instills the need for students to act under norms of civility and gentlemanly behavior, ultimately inculcating the norm of self-governance on the campus – something that makes Wabash College unique as an institution of higher education.

While cameras charge students to think before they act, as their actions may be recorded and judged later by the College administration, this weakens the norms of accountability that students adhere to, wherein students call out and address behavior that violates the Gentleman’s Rule. If cameras became the norm on this campus, concerns arise where students would have less of an incentive to hold their Wabash brothers accountable, for the College administration would have a greater charge for handling such issues.

Moreover, concerns also arise over disagreements regarding gentlemanly behavior by the students and College administration, with cameras exacerbating these concerns. The students of Wabash act as the agents who uphold, adhere to, and set the standards for the Gentleman’s Rule, and the College administration labelling behavior as violating the Gentleman’s Rule where students find no violation is an ever-present tension.

If the College administration, via the use of surveillance footage, witnesses’ behavior they deem ungentlemanly yet the student body finds no cause for concern, then this hampers the norm of the Gentleman’s Rule enforcement as a bottom-up process by student members and institutions. While the security of the campus remains a prominent concern for all Wabash community members, the College administration should pursue other means of security that do not generate the aforementioned concerns.

To summarize the unintended consequences of cameras on Wabash College’s campus, Adam Smith provides pertinent knowledge in The Theory of Moral Sentiments: “The man of the system...is apt to be very wise in his own conceit: and is often so enamored with the supposed beauty of his own ideal plan of government, that he cannot suffer the smallest deviation from any party of it...He seems to imagine that he can arrange the different members of a great society with as much ease as the hand arranges the different pieces upon a chess-board. He does not consider that the pieces upon the chess-board have no other principle of motion besides that which the hand impresses upon them; but that, in the great chess-board of human society, every single piece has a principle of motion of its own, altogether different from that which the legislature might choose to impress upon them.” (Smith, p. 233-234)

### Campus needs cameras



**Derek Miller '24**

Reply to this opinion at [djmiller24@wabash.edu](mailto:djmiller24@wabash.edu)

Cameras are a necessary next step for campus safety improvements here at Wabash College. Looking back over the past few months, we have had break-ins to fraternities that included vandalism, car windows smashed and local residents roaming the alleyways at night.

Wabash is a place that is governed by one rule, the “Gentleman’s Rule,” and even though I trust most people on this campus, I’m not sure how close we actually follow that rule. The Wabash College website states, “The oldest tradition at Wabash is the link our students make between the enormous freedoms they enjoy with the responsibility that goes with such freedoms.” If I were a betting man, I’d say that over half of the student body doesn’t know the wording of the Gentleman’s Rule.

For me, the rule goes like this: Do what you want and don’t get in trouble, but if you do get in trouble, own up to it. Security cannot be everywhere at all times, and no one is perfect... especially the low-lives who vandalized the fraternities and car.

Now I’m not saying that a student did these things to fraternities, but who knows? Maybe it was a local resident... maybe it was a third party cleaning service... maybe it was Campus Services... maybe it was a student. We

won’t ever know because there are no cameras on campus.

In my opinion, I think it was a local resident, but how am I supposed to know? Cameras are a great improvement that would benefit the campus because it will deter crime. And local residents in general.

When will enough be enough when it comes to the damages that we have seen around campus? When will the time come that people keep pushing blame and filing a police report that never gets anywhere?

Cameras also play a pivotal role in assisting law enforcement agencies in solving crimes that do occur. They provide crucial evidence, serving as impartial witnesses to incidents. This evidence can be instrumental in identifying suspects, reconstructing events, and ultimately bringing perpetrators to justice.

All in all, I’ll leave you with this: If we are really conducting ourselves at all times on campus as gentlemen and responsible citizens, what is the issue with getting cameras on campus?

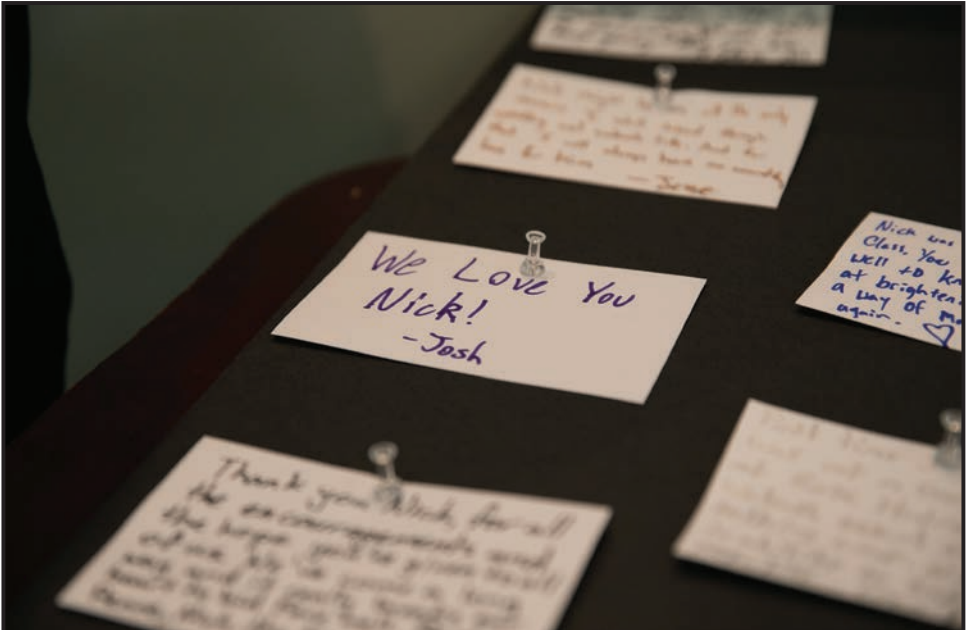
# FEATURES

## Wabash community gathers to commemorate life of Nick Casad



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Matt Lepper '25, a key organizer of the memorial, embraces Libby Toney. Lepper united the Wabash community to remember the life of Nick Casad.**



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Words of love fill a memory board devoted to Nick. The legacy Casad leaves behind is seen through the multitude of stories and notes displayed in his memory.**



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**As part of the memorial service, students, faculty and loved ones gather to write personal notes for the memory board, evoking warm memories and fond emotions.**



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Andrew Sinkovics '25 listens to Johnathan Otte '25 tell an affectionate story about Nick. Sinkovics and Otte wrestled together, bonding on and off the mat.**



# Sudoku

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

## Easy

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

## Medium

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

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# 'Movie quotes'

## Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12
13				14						15			
16				17						18			
19			20						21				
22						23		24				25	26
27						28							
29				30	31				32				
			33					34					
35	36	37					38				39	40	41
42						43				44			
45								46	47				
		48				49		50					
51	52					53					54		
55						56					57		
58						59					60		

- Across**
- Room coolers, for short
  - Soup eater's sound
  - "You got it"
  - Say "I do"
  - Earth, for one
  - Cookie used in ice cream recipes
  - "Bom dia"
  - One of 11 Egyptian pharaohs
  - 50-and-over org.
  - ... – The Terminator, "The Terminator"
  - Camera cards, for short
  - Postings on an airport board
  - Hanging it up
  - Causes of bigheadedness
  - Updated, as a dictionary entry
  - Morning droplets
  - Icebreaker?
  - Puts on, as a musical
  - Persian Gulf state
  - Forest clearing
  - Muumuu's cousin
  - Tavern offering
  - Hit Taylor Swift album in 2012 and 2021
  - Anglican, in America
  - WXY, on an old phone

- Veto
- Halloween charity
- Atlas abbr.
- ... – E.T., "E.T."
- Dell competitor
- Gashes and slashes
- Hot roof material
- Yemen capital
- Pound's 16
- Lasso, of TV fame
- Initials heading a Web address
- One making up a "raft"
- Boorish person

- Across**
- Sidestepped
  - Wabash, e.g.
  - Take the bait?
  - Cuts of meat
  - Tibetan monk
  - Prepare to drink, perhaps
  - Really needed a shower
  - Scoreboard stats
  - ... - Rocky, "Rocky"
  - Burning rubber?
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Lingus (Irish carrier)
  - Quick flight, metaphorically
  - Fly, to a spider
  - Some four-year degs.
  - Filtered
  - Electric car company
  - Formerly
  - Merchandise: Abbr.
  - Did a 5K, say
  - Spinal and digestive, for two
  - Saigon's replacement
  - ... – Admiral Ackbar, "Return of the Jedi"
  - Salon substance
  - Barbie's boyfriend
  - Simian
  - EPCOT dragon
  - Bloodhound's activity
  - Baked ziti ingredient
  - Sworn \_\_\_\_\_
  - Doesn't prosecute
  - Hit an infield fly
  - Govt. medical agency
  - Word before "the gun" or "the circumstances"
  - Gangster chaser
  - \_\_\_\_\_ upon a time
  - Tray contents
  - Litter box user
  - Serenade



Scan for solution!

# Review: The sensational Zach Bryan

DEREK MCDONALD '27 | STAFF WRITER • Sensational country artist Zach Bryan released his second album on August 25. This album, titled after the artist himself, contains an array of songs that touch the hearts of many. This album is definitely worth a listen, with features from artists like The War and Treaty, Sierra Ferrell, The Lumineers and country star Kacey Musgraves. The album contains an array of unique sounds and stays new and refreshing throughout, with a total of 16 songs.

The album even features a No. 1 hit on Billboard Hot 100, the song featuring Kacey Musgraves, “I Remember Everything,” due to the rising anticipation after it being foreshadowed earlier in the year.

The poem-like introduction, labeled “Fear and Fridays,” is captivating and sets the mood for all of the songs to come. A quote from this poem, “Awoken on mountain tops, I’ve seen death and birth and kissed good lips, I don’t need a music machine telling me what a good story is, matter of fact I’ve never asked nothing from nobody,” really represents the meaningful lyricism that is throughout the album.

The songs tell a story that is a reflection on Zach Bryan himself, promoting his origins, outlook on life, and past experiences. Many find themselves, myself included, relating to the lyrics on a deep level, enhancing the overall experience of the album. Many will find deep and true connections to the common themes of love, relationships and working-class America. These songs serve to heal the heartbroken teenager, encourage the blue collar worker, and deepen the love of partners. I find myself listening to this album when I’m feeling down in the dumps and it hits the spot everytime.

This album is comparable with his hit album “American



COURTESY OF SPOTIFY

Heartbreak.” In my opinion, it matched “American Heartbreak” with its lyrical content. However, the melodies in “Zach Bryan” are much more exciting and capturing, while still having that melancholy element that we know and love him for. More memorable songs in the album that are definitely worth a listen include “Jake’s Piano - Long Island,” “Spotless (feat. The Lumineers)” and the common favorite “I Remember Everything.” The feeling of longing that “Jake’s Piano” generates

touches base with my heartstring and gives a sorrowful reaction every time. Zach Bryan executed the theme of imperfection in “Spotless” with his lyricism. By admitting his own shortcomings, it made him more relatable and down to earth, and I felt as though I knew and could trust him.

The album is a very strong example of why Zach Bryan came to fame so quickly and continues to sit at the top of national charts.

**FINAL VERDICT:  
5/5 WALLYS**





# Welcoming new faculty members

## Noe Pliego Campos



COURTESY OF  
NOEPLIEGOCAMPOS.NET

**HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | STAFF WRITER** • As a new year begins and classes start anew, new faces begin to make themselves known on campus. One of these, Associate Professor Noe Pliego Campos, brings a unique perspective and set of interests to Wabash's academia.

Pliego Campos's life has been anything but straightforward.

A first-generation college student, he initially planned to teach history to high schoolers, which would allow him to coach them in one of his many passions, soccer. However, the aspect of being a teacher never really excited him.

"I thought at that point, I thought history was just making PowerPoints. You just read from them to your students," Pliego Campos said. "You assigned this test and that was it. And I was like, I'll have more fun coaching soccer. So that's what I really loved."

It was in taking classes such as History of Mexico and History of Music and Pop Culture in Mexico that he developed a fervor for research. His teachers recommended graduate school, and although

he was hesitant at first, working on his undergraduate thesis made him reconsider.

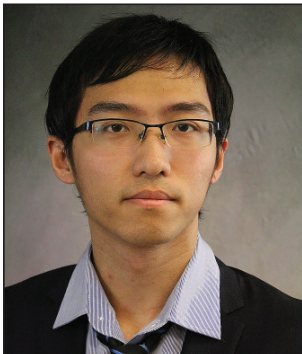
"In 2015, I'm trying to figure out my undergrad thesis topic. That's the moment that graduate school seems like a real option for me" said Pliego Campos. "And that's when I decided to say, hey, I want to be a professor."

Though he was unsure about what he wanted to focus on, his love for soccer and Hispanic heritage led him to study youth cultures in Mexico in the 80s. Yuppies and "Chavos Banda," two prominent groups in Mexican youth subculture, both fall under his umbrella. He also specializes in examining queer youth culture, studying the effects of the AIDS crisis on the group, as well as the University of Mexico and how higher education has impacted the country.

Pliego Campos was drawn to Wabash by an online job listing. Though he was thrown off by the all-male aspect, he decided to visit, where he became "amazed" by the school's academic climate.

"I started seeing how engaged and how self-aware a lot of [the students] were, especially knowing that it's an all male school in a rural setting in Indiana. And that's not stopping a lot of y'all from wanting to have really difficult conversations and having critical questions," Pliego Campos said. "And the first week of class has affirmed that feeling that y'all are willing to tackle big questions and talk with each other."

## Qixin Deng



COURTESY OF PURDUE UNIVERSITY

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | STAFF WRITER** • If you have a class in mathematics or computer science this year, there is a chance you may have Dr. Qixin Deng as your professor this year. Deng joined the Computer Science department this summer, and he knew immediately Wabash was where he wanted to be.

"[Wabash] was actually the first college I applied to, and the first interview and the first offer I got," Deng said. "Actually, once I got the offer from Wabash, I canceled multiple interviews after that."

Deng was no stranger to the area when he chose central Indiana as his new home. After earning an undergraduate degree from Zhengzhou University in Electronic and Information Engineering, Deng completed his Master of Science degree at Purdue University. He subsequently earned his PhD from the University of Houston in Computer Science.

While completing his Doctorate in Houston, Deng collaborated with Electronic Art's research lab, SEED, primarily working on facial imaging and neuro-rendering technology.

"Neuro-rendering is a pretty interesting technology that we can use to build a bridge between 2D and 3D information," Deng said. "That's making it possible to directly reconstruct the human face from the 2D image, so it's a very promising area."

One important factor in Deng's desire to come to Wabash, after spending so much time at large universities, was the College's liberal arts curriculum. Particularly outstanding was the relatively few course credits a Wabash student needs to satisfy the subject he majors in.

"In China, you're going to put like 80% of credits towards your major. So liberal arts is a totally different way of doing education as a student in the undergraduate period," said Deng. "They can expand their vision, or try several different fields they might be interested in, so it's pretty good."

Additionally, Deng values the smaller class sizes and unique structure at Wabash.

"The college has a kind of close knit community, and it's good for students to be able to access the professors because we're focused on teaching them."

Deng, who enjoys playing badminton and video games with friends in his freetime, expressed with fondness his appreciation for Wabash and his desire to help the college continue to provide high-level education.

"I never thought I could be here before," Deng said. "It's very important for me that we can ensure the quality of the education."

## Ruihua Liu



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS  
AND MARKETING

**BENJAMIN DOUGLAS '27 | STAFF WRITER** • Over the past year, Wabash has wanted to find ways to expand its Chinese and Asian language programs. With that in mind, Wabash hired Visiting Instructor of Chinese Ruihua Liu.

Hailing from Anhui province of China, situated west of Shanghai, the avid jogger, biker and reader has a decorated background in both teaching and writing. She first got inspired to teach when her father, a math teacher, introduced her to the field.

"My father was a great teacher and is someone who inspired me to go into teaching," Liu said.

After high school, she attended her province's college, Anhui Normal University, where she majored in English. She then attended Shandong University Graduate School before she started teaching English at the University of Science and Technology of China. Then after a few years of teaching, she came to the U.S. and attended the University of North Dakota where she received a master's degree in English and taught College Composition at the same time.

After graduating, she went to work for Rice University, where she was an editor for an economics journal. After working there for a couple of years, she stated

that she "missed teaching" and that she "wanted to go back." She then got certified to teach Chinese and has been teaching Chinese since.

This past year, she was looking for new teaching jobs and came across Wabash College. She came to the campus and was pleased with how the school's students and faculty treated her.

"They were authentic," Liu said.

She was also impressed with how some of the students were involved in the interviews as well. A common question to ask when deciding to learn a new language is "why?" So why should we study Chinese?

"Many people think Chinese is difficult to learn but that's not fully true," Liu said. "It's much different from English, such as the tones and the characters, but there are a limited amount of characters you need to know and use to be able to communicate in Chinese. If you want to read a newspaper in Chinese, you need to know around 900 characters whereas in English, to be able to read the Bible you need to know around 2,000 [words]. Chinese grammar is much simpler compared to English."

At her previous institution, she was able to teach a student how to speak basic Chinese within five lessons.

"I hope to have my students be able to comprehend and understand the basics of Chinese and hold a basic conversation in classroom settings by the end of the semester," Liu said.

She also believes that it takes a lot of work and dedication, but if you have the right mindset and motivation, you can be successful in learning Chinese.

# SPORTS

## Tennis to build presence in regional rankings

*Fall season provides time to reevaluate singles and solidify doubles*



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Ethan Koeneman '26 and Cole Shirfferly '26 celebrate a point in their doubles match against Wittenberg, April 7, 2023.**

**ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR** • Last season saw Wabash tennis undergo a monumental rise, surging from last place in the conference the season before to finishing in fourth overall in the NCAC tournament after upsetting Oberlin in the first round. The team's 14-9 record was the program's best since the 2014-2015 season.

The program's rise was the result of the massive recruitment success that brought in eight freshmen to bolster the roster. The team graduated one senior-Alvaro Alonso-Sanchez '23—who spent most of the season playing first-team singles for the team.

This season, the team seems to following the same playbook, beginning with another large freshmen class. Five new members will be joining the program—Sam Dziasz '27, Vitoria Bona '27, Nathan Brackney '27, Eric Tien '27 and Rafael Rin '27.

Other than Alonso-Sanchez, Wabash returns the rest of its starting lineup for their 2023 campaign. Cole Shifferly '26 is the favorite to assume the number-one spot for the Little Giants. Augusto Ghidini '26 and Tharakesh Ashokar '26 who played fourth- and fifth-team singles, respectively, as well as Ethan Koeneman '26—who played in a variety of different doubles configurations—all return for their sophomore year. Seniors Liam Grennon '24 and Cole Borden '24 round out the list of returning starters. These five will be joined by Wabash's deep bench which has plenty of members who are capable of stepping into the lineup if needed.

The loss of Alonso-Sanchez leaves an open spot near the top of the lineup, which if unfilled by a new member, will result in the lineup shifting upward by one. But, Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett is confident that his team is ready.

"There are a couple of freshmen who are going to be competing for one of those open lineup spots," said Bickett. "But I also think our freshmen who are now entering their sophomore year, guys like Shifferly, Augusto, and Tharakesh, they're also prepared to step up and step into those roles."

Looking ahead to the fall season, the tennis team has a slate of heavy-hitters from the Midwest

Region lined up, with the clear goal of advancing in the regional rankings. Last year the team came close in matches against several teams ranked Top-20 in the Central Region. They lost 4-5 to both Millikin University and Wheaton College and 3-6 to University of Wisconsin-Whitewater. The team also went 1-1 against conference opponent Oberlin.

"Last year we had some really close losses with some teams in the [Top]-15 to 20 range," said Bickett. "I think rather than putting a specific number, we'll just try and improve on our current position."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Augusto Ghidini '26 returns a serve in his singles match against Wittenberg, April 7, 2023.**

This push within the regional rankings is the next big step for the program. Their fourth-place finish in the NCAC tournament was a huge moment for the team, but the top three teams in the conference are all ranked amongst the Top 40 DIII teams in the nation. Getting closer to the top 10 in the Central Region will help prepare them for the difficult spring season, where the now-incredibly competitive North Coast Athletic Conference will be asked to sort itself out once again.

"The fall season is all about building confidence for the spring," Borden said. "It is a great time for guys to build that competitiveness. We talk a lot about being 'dawgz' out there on the court. It doesn't matter what the score of the match ends up being because that is out of our control. The intensity at which we compete, on the other hand, is completely in our control."

One area where the team will be looking to make improvements over last season is in doubles. Because team scoring in college tennis is a best of 9, counting 3 doubles matches and 6 singles matches, winning 2 out of 3 doubles matches has an outsized impact on the overall match. A team that enters singles ahead 2-1 only has to win on half

of the singles courts to take the match. In contrast, a team that

only wins one doubles match must win 4 of the 6 singles courts. This was a struggle for the Little Giants during the 2022 season. To put things into perspective, out of the team's 14 wins, only 3 came after the team lost 2 of the 3 doubles matches. In the eleven other wins they captured either two or three of the doubles matches. In all 9 of their losses last season, the team gave up two or three of the doubles matches. With the help of their dominant returning singles roster, a bolstered doubles performance could prove the key that the team needs to achieve their goals for the season.

**"It doesn't matter what the score of the match ends up being because that is out of our control. The intensity at which we compete, on the other hand, is completely in our control."**

- Cole Borden '24

The team will begin their fall season at the Transylvania University Invitational on Saturday, September 9. The two-day invite will give the team a chance to meet some capable opponents and provide freshmen with an opportunity to become familiar with the competitiveness of college tennis before moving on to stronger teams.

"There'll be three solid programs at the invitational, Wittenberg, us and Transylvania," said Bickett. "So it's just a good opportunity to test ourselves against some good teams, some tough competition. And our goal with any match is just to go out there and get better and learn from what we're not doing well. Then we will see what we are doing well and try to find ways



# Last-minute touchdown wins Gentlemen's Classic

*Clutch Pasch '26 fumble recovery saves the game*



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Liam Thompson '24 waits in the pocket against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 15, 2022, at Little Giant Stadium.**

**JAKE WEBER '25 | SPORTS WRITER**• On September 2, the Little Giants took on the Tigers of Hampden-Sydney College in Farmville, Virginia, marking the 136th season opener for Wabash College football. The Gentleman's Classic has transformed into an up-and-coming rivalry as the two institutions share the brotherhood of being all-male colleges. Hampden-Sydney was founded in 1775 and is the only other non-religious all-male school in the country without a sister institution. This game was the fourth iteration of The Gentlemen's Classic since its revival in 2014.

The first time the two schools first played against one another, Wabash claimed a 34-21 victory at home. The Little Giants took a 2-0 lead in the all-time series with a 35-3 victory at Hampden-Sydney in 2015. Wabash won last year's

matchup in Crawfordsville, scoring the game-winning touchdown with 46 seconds remaining for a 52-48 victory. This year, the competition was expected to be just as fierce as ever.

Wabash entered the matchup with a strong resume. As one of the best teams in Division III, Wabash is ranked fifth on the NCAA's all-time victories list and 12th in winning percentage at .634. The Little Giants were highly favored to walk away with a win, following the pattern of their past three matchups with Hampden-Sydney. With 10 returning starters on offense and eight returning to the defense, the experienced Little Giants roster was poised to improve their record against Hampden-Sydney to 4-0.

Senior quarterback Liam Thompson '24 entered his final season at Wabash as the Little Giants' se-

cond-leading passer in school history. Thompson starts the season with 8,721 career passing yards, which ranks fourth in North Coast Athletic Conference history. Thompson is third among active Division III quarterbacks in career passing yards, breaking both the Wabash College and NCAC single-season passing record after throwing for 3,588 yards last season.

For sophomore defensive back Jake Pasch '26, "[The] main thing I'm excited for is just the brotherhood aspect about [the team]." Pasch remarked that "[Hampden-Sydney] has a similar culture to us, but it's just another game."

Even though the game was not in Crawfordsville, Wabash alumni, current students and community members were out in full force, nearly filling the away bleachers. After winning the coin toss, Wabash chose to defer, which was

followed by an early Thompson interception and touchdown for the Tigers, scoring just 1:57 into the first quarter. However, the Little Giants did not let this impact their performance on the field, and began answering Hampden-Sydney's points with their own. Senior wide receiver Cooper Sullivan '24 caught a 3-yard pass to tie the game at 7. This was followed by another touchdown for the Tigers later in the quarter. But a response from senior running back Donovan Snyder '24 tied the game again, scoring off of a 5-yard carry with 29 seconds left in the half.

Also during the second quarter, sophomore defensive back Samuel Ringer '26 was injured during an attempted tackle.

"We lost one of our guys, and we all went on that sideline and supported him," said Pasch. "Some of us cried. It's a real feeling."

Ringer did not return to play. The team continued fighting back for Ringer, and ended Hampden-Sydney's offensive drive shortly after his injury. The teams ended the first half with a 14-14 tie.

On the opening drive for Wabash after the half, Thompson rushed through the middle for a 17-yard touchdown to give Wabash a 21-14 lead to end the third quarter. The Tigers responded at the top of the fourth quarter, scoring two more touchdowns taking back the lead, 28-21.

The entire game hinged on the last few minutes of play, as Wabash was down by a touchdown with only 4:23 remaining on the

**Continued page 8**

## WAB

Rushing yds.

181

Passing yds.

218

Total Offensive yds.

# 399

## HSU

Rushing yds.

246

Passing yds.

153

Total Offensive yds.

# 399

# Personal bests highlight a lackluster weekend

*Wabash places fifth out of nine at Denison Inviational*

**HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | SPORTS WRITER**• Last weekend, September 2-3, the golf team played in the Denison Invitational in Granville, Ohio, placing fifth out of nine teams. While many upperclassmen shot low scores, Mark Weiss '24 performed particularly well, shooting a career best of 73 strokes on the second day of the event and tying for third out of 56 competitors. Despite this personal success, Weiss says there is still room for team improvement.

"Just by saying, I think we have room to improve that by no means is innocuous," said Weiss. "I think we're in a great spot to get to where we want to go this season. But we obviously have some stuff we got to work out."

Weiss believes that "Decade",

a new program the team is using, aimed at gradually improving stats, will be a big help for them this season.

**"I think we're in a great spot to get to where we want to go this season. But we obviously have some stuff we got to work out"**

- Mark Weiss '24

"Golf is really hard strategy wise, in figuring out what shots you're gonna hit, and when. People don't realize how much of an impact that that sort of stuff makes

on your game," Weiss said. "And so that's one of the ways that we're kind of hoping to make a big stride this year is to eliminate silly mistakes by using a system like that."

Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp shares Weiss's sentiments about the team. They were only two shots away from fourth and three from third, and the third place team, Otterbein, were placers in the national tournament last year. Despite the tough competition, Kopp isn't deterred.

"I'm proud of the way they acted on the course and the way they kept their composure," said Kopp. "But we all know that we need to keep grinding, keep working harder if we want to get to the conference championship level".

Though Kopp has a small-

scale scrimmage against DePauw planned for this upcoming Sunday, the team's next official outing isn't until Sunday, September 24, when they travel to Memphis, TN, for the Rhodes College Invitational.

With this scrimmage and with future practice, Kopp plans to both foster competition amongst the athletes and prepare them for the kind of courses they'll be playing in Memphis. In this time of preparation, he wants the athletes to feel comfortable and cared for, as well as honed in to the analytical aspect of the sport.

"I'm working with them on the mental side of things to make sure that they're staying even keel on the course," Kopp said. "Learning what makes them tick. What makes them play the best golf".

# Cross country finds mixed results at Denison

*Hot conditions challenge runners to dig deep*

**JAMES DALY '24 | SPORTS WRITER**• Over Labor Day Weekend, the Wabash cross country team finished third in their first meet of the season. Competing in the Men's 5K at Franklin College on Saturday as their opening meet of 2023, the Redpack was bested only by Manchester and UIIndy, respectively.

The team, boasting an average time of 16:33, was the fourth fastest of the day. The Redpack's performance in this event was led primarily by Joe Barnett '24, who stood out from the runners throughout the event, ultimately finishing in 12th place with an impressive time of 16:24.8. Barnett expressed satisfaction with his performance that day, believing that, in spite of the intense heat outside during the meet, the team is in a good place for the rest of the season.

"This was our first meet of the season and was a 5k," said Barnett. "So, a little bit of an opener for the 8K that we have this weekend. It was very hot out that day. The temperature got really warm towards 2k, which is just under halfway through the race. I think the hardest part of



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Carter Norris '27 (left) and Logan Shaffer '25 run at Charlie Finch Alumni run at Huntsman Track Saturday, August 27.**

the race was just staying locked-in."

Entering the meet Barnett knew e challenge ahead, but felt the pressure to perform well for the team. He let this push him forward during the competiitiyon. "My first goal was to get out, just to get a good front pack and stick with the front four guys. I wasn't running this for me. I was more running this race for the freshmen there and just run with the team. I think that's what's the most important part of the race."

Finishing in 14th and 15th place respectively were Will Neubauer ,25 and Jacob Sitzman ,25, who ended the race a mere se-

cond apart from each other. Meanwhile, finishing in 4th place amongst the Redpack and 18th

**"I wasn't running this for me. I was more running this race for the freshmen there and just run with the team. I think that's what's the most important part of the race."**

- Joe Barrett '24

overall was Drake Hayes '24, who ran an impressive average

mileage time of 5:18.9 and merely ended up six seconds behind Barnett.

"I would like to continue being one of our top runners," Hayes said. "It's all sports for our team. So, for the 8k, sub 26 would be really exciting for me. I think we have a really good shot at the conference this year and winning the season. And then it'd be really cool to see us place in regionals and advance out of that."

Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary expressed general satisfaction with the results of the race.

"I was pleased," he said. "I was, not overly thrilled or ecstatic by the results or overly disappointed or pessimistic. Anyway, it was a really good meet for us, and I would say that we're in a really good spot. Also, we're very excited for what's to come. The team dynamic is the best I've ever seen up to this point in my coaching career and I am excited for the future"

The Wabash Redpack's next meet will take place Saturday, September 6, at Denison University in the North Coast Atlantic Conference Preview.

# McRoberts: NCAC Week 2 Football Power Rankings

**NOAH MCROBERTS '25 | SPORTS WRITER**•

**1. Wabash College Little Giants (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)**

It appears as though the Gentleman's Classic will be a classic every year. After a 52-48 W last year at home, the Lil' Giants made the long and treacherous journey out to Hampden-Sydney, for another down-to-the-wire matchup. With 3 minutes to go on 3rd and long, down by 7, the prophet-like Don Morel knew to run the football for a yard, punt the ball to the other team's 30, force the opposing QB to fumble, and have his RB get a two-point conversion with a pass to Liam freakin' Thompson. With a coach like this, who can stop us?

**2. DePauw University Tigers (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)**

I'm sorry Tigers, but you're not match for Mr. Head Coach Don Morel. You may have dominated a very solid Fightin' Engineer squad, doubling their first down numbers, collecting more than three times their rushing yards, forcing 5 punts, and doubling their time of possession. Get out of here Kitty Cats.

**3. Denison University Big Red (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)**

Last weekend, in what amounted to a classic fireworks show, Denison scored 6 TDs on the back of a 668 yard onslaught of offense against Capital's 5 passing scores. However, what Denison had in explosiveness they lacked in discipline as they surrendered 13 penalties, 4 of which gave Capital first downs. Though, it is tough to gauge the significance of this win. Capital went 0-10 last year, but that also was in

the conference belonging to the likes of Mount Union and John Carroll. Either way, it seems to me that if Denison can avoid that pesky yellow flag, then they have a legitimate chance at the 'chip this year.

**4. Ohio Wesleyan University Battling Bishops (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)**

In a defensive showdown, Ohio Wesleyan made an impressive showing in a victory over the Otterbein Cardinals last weekend. While their offense struggled out the gate, the OWU-D capitalized on mistakes, accounting for 3 INTs, one of which went for 6. Then, the offense made the adjustments necessary in the 2nd half to put it away. Despite the 2-score victory, Ohio Wesleyan's offense showed signs of major weakness, given their 37% completion percentage on 30 passes. These Battlin' Bishops have the pieces to do some damage this year, but if they get behind early, they could be in trouble if they have to rely on their air attack to get back in games.

**5. Wittenberg University Tigers (1-0, 0-0 NCAC)**

In day one for the preferred Tigers, they displayed the abilities that tend to come with a storied program. Thanks to some big breaks from the punt and kick teams, including a punt return TD, Wittenberg was consistently set up in good field position. However, they were rather prone to giving up the big play, and their offense didn't display the same explosiveness, instead methodically moving downfield. It remains to be seen if they can consistently get help from special teams, and if they don't the Tigers might not catch up to offensive powerhouses of Wabash and DePauw.

**6. The College of Wooster Fighting Scots (0-1, 0-0 NCAC)**

The Fighting Scots fell to the Quakers of Wilmington 63-43. Don't let that final score fool you, as most of Wooster's success came in garbage time, scoring half their points in the 4th quarter. On 22 attempts, they succeeded in pushing forwards a whopping 29 yards, while amassing a 2-3 TD-INT ratio. I don't think I need to mention the state of their defense given the lopsided score. Could Kenyon leapfrog them soon?

**7. Kenyon College Owls (0-1, 0-0 NCAC)**

Somehow, Kenyon might be able to spook some teams this year. They lost to Bluffton over the weekend due to an inability to limit big plays, while giving the ball away a few too many times. In the 51-35 loss, the Owls held the lead in time of possession and first downs gained on the back of a solid running game. They will likely hold the title of the best worst team in the conference.

**8. Hiram College Terriers (0-1, 0-0 NCAC)**

The Terriers were downed in a dog fight with Heidelberg, a team that's been in and out of the top 25 in recent years. As one might expect, they were trounced. The expectation is similar this week vs. Mount St. Joseph, another team in and out of the top 25. I guess Hiram just loves taking a beating.

**9. Oberlin College Yeomen (0-1, 0-0 NCAC)**

Oh Oberlin, only you could get beat by a team with the name Kalamazoo. But hey, the losing streak is still alive and well, up to 13 now, spanning three straight seasons. How low can they go?





PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

## Gentlemen's Classic Cont'd

clock. Following a punt from the Wabash 24-yard line, Hampden-Sydney began a drive that may have sealed the outcome of the game. But Pasch forced a fumble on the first play of the drive, and his recovery of the fumble provided Wabash another chance at possession.

Pasch was named the NCAC Defensive Football Athlete of the Week for his performance in the game, recording one sack and 11 tackles in addition to forcing the pivotal turnover.

Following the turnover, the Wabash offense knew they had to be explosive. After three plays, Thompson completed a 16-yard touchdown pass to senior wide receiver Derek Allen Jr. '24 to place Wabash down by only one before the PAT attempt.

Rather than sending the teams into a tie with two minutes remaining, Head Football Coach Don Morel took a calculated risk and called a two-point conversion. Morel is accustomed to taking risks at this point. With this being his seventh season, Morel boasts an impressive 46-15 record coaching the Little Giants. To take the lead once more, Wabash completed a reverse pass, coined "the Philly Special", from senior wideout Jacob Riddle '24 to Thompson, giving Wabash its precious one-point lead.

The outcome of the game was sealed soon thereafter, as the Wabash defense stopped Hampden-Sydney, forcing a turnover on downs. The Tigers were kept to seven yards across their first three downs, and junior cornerback Avery Epstein '25 batted a pass on a failed fourth down conversion to secure possession for Wabash. The game ended with the clock winding down and Wabash had won.

Thompson ended the day accruing 287 total yards, 17 completions and 2 touchdowns. Snyder rushed for 99 yards and 11 touchdowns, and Allen Jr. and Cooper Sullivan '24 combined for 11 receptions, 162 yards and 2 touchdowns.

This opening win foreshadows a path of optimism for the rest of the season, as the Little Giants move to a schedule packed with away games and tough competition. Pasch looks forward to the season optimistically, saying "We've got work to do, let's get after it."

## Keller 100th career victory cont'd

*Soccer kicks off fall season with big moments for younger players*

On the defensive end, the Little Giants looked tough, holding Franklin to just 12 shots.

"We started well and put them on their heels," said Keller. "We lacked a little composure after we scored the second goal, but found our rhythm in the second half and iced the result."



PHOTO BY JAKE PAIGE '23

Jose Escalante works between two opponents against Webster University on September 11, 2022.

Another area of concern for Wabash before the game was the goalie position. Last season's loss of Soren Russell and graduation of Michael Bertram '23 left an open spot with only one returner who had taken on the position during the 2022 season. However, there was a man ready for the job. Between the posts, Fernando Ramos '25, who saw limited minutes last season, turned away two shots for his first career shut-out.

"Fern had a solid game," Keller said. "He did a good job, and thus far has been the most consistent."

On Wednesday, September 4, the Little Giants played Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology for their second game of the season.

Early on the Fightin' Engineers took a one-goal lead just under 13 minutes into the first half. The Little Giants, wasting little time in their response, tied the score 1-1. The scarlet jerseys swarmed Escalante as he celebrated his third goal of the season.

The first half finished with a lot of similarities between the two teams in more than just the score. Both teams recorded five shots, two saves, two corner kicks, and six fouls.

However the party didn't last long into the second half. Just 66 seconds in, a shot found the back of the Engineer net for a Wabash

lead. Bryce Kinnaman '27 scored the goal—the first of his collegiate career, coming off an assist by Escalante.

"It felt relieving," said Kinnaman. "Coach has put me in great positions to score, and I'm glad I could finally finish one off. I also have to thank Jesse Martinez for

goal. Predictably, after his performance against Franklin, Ramos returned to the net where he produced three saves for Wabash. Despite giving up two goals, his performance was still solid, and staved off an early loss.

While a draw is certainly better than a loss, members of the team felt that they could have found the extra goal they needed to win.

"Rose is a well-organized and well-coached group of guys," said Andre Aguilera '25, who took one of the team's four shots on goal. "Tactically they did what they needed to do and executed their plan well. We definitely felt like the game was ours but those boys fought hard to tie it up. In the end we take a lot of positives from this result and feel confident for our trip to Georgia."

"Rose-Hulman has a very organized team," Kinnaman said. "So, we had to be thorough in breaking them down to create chances. There were periods in the game where we had control of the game but didn't capitalize."

Although the season is still fresh, it seems safe to say that the team has already found answers to several questions they set out to answer. The team is ready to go and hungry to win, backed with tremendous leaders like Keller and the team's seniors.

have room for improvement, but are very confident and our great senior leaders like Jerry Little ['24] and Hugo Garcia ['24] who know what level we need to be out to contend in this conference."

One of the biggest takeaways should be that Escalante is ready to step up for the team and serve as lead scorer if that's what they need from him.

**"We definitely felt like the game was ours but those boys fought hard to tie it up. In the end we take a lot of positives from this result and feel confident for our trip to Georgia."**

- Andre Aguilera '25

"I have been focused since this summer," Escalante said. "I want my goals for this season to become a reality and help the team to be at its highest potential. I feel more confident because a year of experience has really helped me analyze my game. Also, coming back and training with the boys makes me realize that I have to step up because we can achieve a lot as a team."

Looking ahead, the Little Giants will have a packed weekend, as they travel to Mount Berry, GA, to compete in the Berry Invitational. Scheduled to play two games, Wabash will take on Berry College on Saturday, September 9, and Birmingham-Southern College on Sunday, September 10.

The team will, no doubt, be looking to carry the offensive momentum from the first two games into this match, with hopes to replicate the defensive effort of the Franklin game.

Then on Tuesday, September 12, the Little Giants will face off against Anderson University, here in Crawfordsville for the team's home opener. The game will begin at 4 p.m. at Fischer Field.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Myles Bernat '26 goes after a contested ball against Denison on Tuesday, October 11, 2023.

During the game Wabash saw Rose-Hulman take 15 shots, five of those being shots on goal, to their own nine with four shots on

"I think we've been very solid and lookin better and better everyday," said Aguilera. "We have high hopes for the season and