

Getting their feet wet: Freshmen shine in first meet



Head Swim Coach Will Bernhart coaches Justice Wentz '25 on proper breaststroke technique on October 16, 2023 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

Haiden Diemer-Mckinney '26 | Sports Writer • A strong start to the swim season, with a impressive turnout by several freshman swimmers set a high bar for the swimming & diving team who got their season underway, hosting the 2023 Indiana Division III Championship Meet on Saturday, October 14. This meet saw Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology, DePauw University, Anderson University, Hanover College, Franklin College and Manchester University travel to Crawfordsville to kick off the 2023 DIII swim season in

the Class of 1950 Natatorium. The Wabash team with 649.5 points finished second out of seven teams, with 20 top-five individual finishes, 3 top-five relay finishes, and 3 individual champions. This finish set them between Rose-Hulman who cruised to a win with 760.5 points and DePauw who finished third with 637 points. All three individual champions were freshmen, two by Nicholas Plumb '27 in the 100-yard backstroke and 200-yard backstroke, and the other by Quinn Sweeney '27 in the 500-yard freestyle.

Continued page 8



Keane Albright '25 takes his mark as he prepares to compete in the backstroke competition on October 16, 2023 at the Class of 1950 Natatorium.

FAFSA changes bring uncertainty to Wabash families



The FAFSA form has seen significant changes this year, most prominently to no longer include children in college as a metric.

Ben Douglas '27 | Staff Writer • Beginning in the 2024-2025 Wabash school year, the Admissions office will have an overhaul in its financial aid pro-

cess. More specifically, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). These changes will significantly affect incoming students who will be applying next year.

The long-term effects are unknown, but what is known is that this will have immediate impacts for Wabash students in the following years. The FAFSA Simplification

Act will transfer through the Student Aid Index (SAI) instead of the expected family contribution metric. Previously, families with multiple children in college would have received more financial aid. With this change, however, this will no longer be the case. This has made Pell Grants more accessible nationwide, and questions regarding the FAFSA forms have been limited. According to the Wabash College FAFSA Simplification Information guidelines, "Students and families will see a different measure of their ability to pay for college and will also experience a change in the methodology used to determine aid." The new formula removes the number of family members in college from the calculation. It allows a minimum SAI of negative \$1,500 to give financial aid administra-

tors more insight when determining students with especially challenging situations. The main goal of the new FAFSA change is to expand accessibility to a broader range of people than it did previously. Before, if you had a drug conviction or a failure to appear, it would have doomed most students seeking higher education. However, this new rule change allows for those opportunities to be expanded. The FAFSA Simplification Act expands the federal Pell Grant to more students and links eligibility to family size and the federal poverty level. Some applicants can determine Pell Grant eligibility before enrolling in college based on their family size, household income and state poverty standards. Another significant addition is the introduction of the data exchange. This change

will enable schools to reach out to groups of people who might need financial aid more than others. "Wabash has made decisions on helping families through this, and we are going to hold students harmless; we will do this by assuming that they have more children in college," said Associate Dean for Enrollment Management Alex DeLonis. "They made this decision because they believe that many students would not have been able to afford it due to the lack of scholarships and grants. This decision stemmed from the Future Act, which allowed for Direct Data Exchange. Which is what eventually became the turning point for FAFSA." The long-term effects of this decision are still unknown, but students, parents, and faculty will have to wait patiently for next year to see the results of this decision.

News around the world

All the news you need to know... simplified



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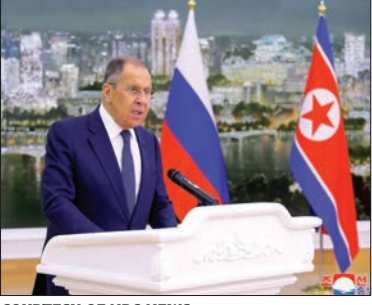
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ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | Staff Writer
Belgium: A gunman killed two Swedish citizens Monday night in Belgium before disappearing into the night, causing a manhunt to ensue. The gunman, who claimed the attack on social media, may have been motivated by multiple public Quran burnings committed by an Iraqi refugee living in Sweden, officials say. The burnings prompted threats from various Islamic militant groups when they occurred back in August. The shooting coincided with an international soccer match between Belgium and Sweden, which was abandoned after news of the attack filtered into the stadium. Fans were held inside for nearly two hours as a safety precaution.
China: Vladimir Putin arrived to a guard of honor in Beijing on Tuesday as he gets set to meet with Chinese leaders, emphasizing China's continued support of Putin's regime as the war in Ukraine rages on. Putin will be a guest at events this week celebrating the ten-year anniversary of China's controversial Belt and Road Initiative, a massive global infrastructure project that partners Chinese companies with foreign nations seeking to build infrastructure, which is quite often out of their price range. Putin's visit is the latest example of cooperation between Russia and China, with both countries expressing wishes to continue to pursue their shared goals.
Venezuela: Venezuelan government and opposition leaders have agreed on a deal to open up the electoral process in Venezuela in exchange for the easing of U.S energy sanctions. The deal, which was reached earlier than expected, was signed in Barbados on Tuesday afternoon after months of urging from the international community to restart negotiations that last took place in November. The agreement is the most significant step in the current efforts to revitalize a nation that has suffered for a decade from corruption and mismanagement, leading to widespread hunger, violent protests, and mass emigrations.
India: India's Supreme Court declined to make a ruling on the legality of gay marriage this week, instead asserting that the issue is a legislative one and cannot be made by the courts. While the justices on the bench spoke out in support of the LGBTQ+ community, they all agreed that granting LGBTQ+ individuals the right to marry is an action that can only be taken by India's parliament. Civil rights for members of the LGBTQ+ community have been gradually expanding in India over the past decade as public perception of the issue changes due to activism and increased visibility of LGBTQ+ culture in the media.
Ukraine: Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov began his visit to North Korea on Wednesday with goals of discussing agreements that North Korean president Kim Jong Un and Russian president Vladimir Putin signed back in September. North Korea has supported Russia throughout the latter's war in Ukraine, and U.S. intelligence reported that the North Korean regime recently facilitated the transfer of weapons and ammunition to the Kremlin. While Lavrov will only meet with his North Korean counterpart this trip, Putin has accepted an invitation to meet with Kim Jong Un in Pyongyang. The timing of their planned meeting is yet to be announced.

Turmoil erupts in the Middle East

ELIJAH WETZEL '27 | Staff Writer • Nearly 5,000 people lost their lives and thousands more have been injured or displaced in the opening week and half of Israel's war with Hamas. The conflict began the morning of October 7, when at approximately 6 AM thousands of Hamas fighters broke through the "Iron Wall" that separates the Gaza Strip from Israel and began shooting both Israeli soldiers and citizens. Hamas' offensive lasted into the night and early morning of the next day, with Israeli casualties totaling to more than 1,400 individuals. Hamas fighters kidnapped hundreds of civilians, including children and the elderly, as hostages. In response, Israel launched waves of missiles into the Gaza Strip that hit both civilian and Hamas targets as they prepared for a possible ground invasion. Over 300,000 Palestinians have been displaced by the conflict so far, and Israel warned an additional one million individuals living in Palestine, including around 400 Americans, to evacuate south to avoid possible casualties. In the wake of the initial attacks, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu offered his take on the conflict: "Israel is at war." Historically, violence between Israel and Palestinian ruling groups have been the rule rather than the exception, and tensions have steadily risen since Hamas gained control of the Gaza Strip in 2007. However, what makes the violence currently unfolding in Gaza surprising is the intensity and indiscriminate nature of the attacks. "I think that the shocking thing was not that there was a Hamas attack or that there's now going to be an Israeli reprisal, but the extent of it, just how big of an attack this was, and how massive the reprisal is now looking like it's going to be," said Professor Ethan Hollander, Associate Professor of Political

Science at Wabash College. Hollander went on to note that assigning blame in a conflict such as this is nearly impossible because both sides have killed civilians and seek to assign all the blame to the opposing side through their rhetoric. "I can just see the tragedy on both sides so much," said Hollander. "The Israeli reprisal will be huge, it's going to kill a lot of civilians, and the Palestinians will say it is excessive. The Israelis will say that they're doing their best to limit civilian casualties, but the Palestinians will say you're not trying very hard. Surely both sides are ready to lie if they have to, but they don't have to lie. They can just selectively include details to make their rhetorical point." The fact that more lives will be lost on both sides of this conflict is apparent from pictures and videos on social media, including people swept up in the conflict, audio and visuals of missile-damaged neighborhoods and videos of lives lost. Dalton Waldman '25 took a trip to Israel last winter, through the Birthright program, and made connections with many individuals affected by the war thus far. He uses social media to view personal updates from many of them.

"I met a lot of Israeli soldiers, some teachers, our tour guides and people we interacted with on the street," said Waldman. "One of our tour guides, who we spent 12 days getting to know, was basically taking video and showing, 'this was my neighborhood before, and now it's reduced to rubble.'" What hopes there were of a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine being brokered in the near future were certainly dashed as the war continues to rage on. A peaceful resolution to the war will be anything but straightforward. "The only people who are wrong in this conflict, as far as analysts go, are the people who think there is an easy solution or that one side is right and one side is wrong," said Hollander. "If people are too confident on either side, I am immediately suspicious because you're either not looking at it carefully enough or you're missing some sort of empathy for one of the sides." Waldman repeated the call for empathy on behalf of all individuals who have been or will be affected by the struggle. "Worry about the people, rather than the ideology."



COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK MAGAZINE

Fires rage in the Gaza Strip as missiles bombard the area in retaliation to earlier attacks.

Riddle '24 debuts new film in charity premiere



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Jacob Riddle '24 hosts the premiere of One Man Show in Salter Hall on Monday October 9, 2023.

NATHAN ELLENBERGER '26 | FEATURES EDITOR • On a campus filled with talented young men with penchants for high achievement, Jacob Riddle '24 has carved out a definitive niche for himself. Amid the thriving arts community at Wabash, Riddle has made a name as a motivated independent filmmaker—crafting

short, but polished films across a wide range of subject matter. His most recent film, *One Man Show*, is his boldest work yet, pushing his artistic chops to the limit with a musical, a once great film genre that has largely fallen by the wayside. Riddle also partnered with a national charity for the film's premiere in Salter Hall on Monday, October 9.

Riddle boasts an ambitious filmography, working at a prodigious and consistent rate with several shorts produced throughout his time at Wabash. Not one to tie himself down to one genre or topic, prior projects have ranged from pulp horror and cerebral science fiction to earnest explorations of masculinity and love. Nevertheless, *One Man Show* manages to stand out even in the midst of such a diverse body of work. The film stems from Riddle's self-ascribed "obsession" with love. Such a distinct film offered unique challenges, as well as unexpected modes of expression.

"Love is such a difficult subject to write about. It's so complicated that you just have to show it," said Riddle. "That's why I went with the musical this time. I open the movie with a dance number and I close it with a dance number. I feel like for me, that's where the story really resides."

In order to execute his vision, Riddle needed his production to be more than a literal one-man show. He assembled a fully professional cast and crew, drawing from the Wabash community and Purdue arts faculty, as well as several freelance professionals.

"When you want to hire people that are as professional as I've been able to work with, you've got to be able to pay them well," said Riddle. "I was very grateful to get the Dill Fund from Wabash, because this project would not have been possible without it."

Not only did the film's premiere celebrate Riddle's accomplishment as an artist, but the occasion helped benefit a good cause. Alongside the screening, there was an opportunity to donate to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, a charity near and dear to Riddle.

"I fell in love with AFSP specifically because of one of my favorite directors, Zack Snyder," said Riddle. "His daughter passed away from suicide, and afterwards he put AFSP on the map as a giant global effort, so I wanted to jump on that."

Riddle has partnered with AFSP for each of his film premieres, consistently raising over \$500 each year.

As an artist, Riddle wears his influenc-

es on his sleeve. Along with his reverence for titans of the medium like Martin Scorsese and Akira Kurosawa, Riddle emphasized the influence younger filmmakers have had on him.

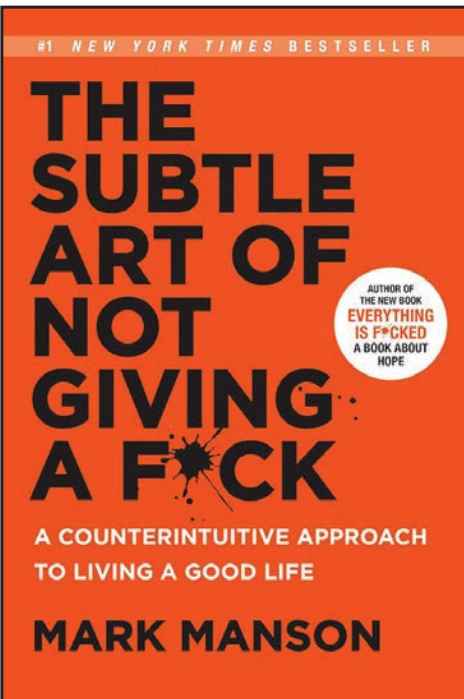
"This time, I studied Damien Chazelle's work on *La La Land* and *Whiplash*," said Riddle. "I drew a lot of inspiration in terms of camera movement with the Steadicam from him."

Riddle has already accomplished a great deal, and aims to achieve even more, but is grounded and practical with his plans as Commencement draws nearer and nearer for the restless senior.

"The film industry is not something where you can just graduate from Wabash and immediately become the next Christopher Nolan," said Riddle. "I am currently applying to graduate school at Florida State, University of Southern California and ArtCenter College of Design, in Pasadena, California."

Regardless of how he gets there, Riddle has his eyes set on his goal of making movies professionally. With his meticulous approach to production, diverse subject matter interests and passion for philanthropy, Riddle is well-equipped to outgrow Crawfordsville and carve out his own niche in Hollywood.

Review: You only have so many to give



COURTESY OF AMAZON

DEREK MCDONALD '27 | STAFF WRITER • Everybody struggles with one thing or another, adversity is part of life. Many have attempted to articulate advice and other self help ideas in books and lessons that can be applicable to everyone's daily life. No book does this like *The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F*ck* by Mark Manson. This book provides relevant insight into modern day problems. Mental health is a constantly growing problem in modern times. Mark Manson gets down to the roots of these issues. I recommend that every person struggling with the ever-so-adapting emotional constructs of the world to read this book. The lessons provided in the text can be life changing and help people to achieve a healthier and more fulfilling life.

The Subtle Art has prompted many new ways of thinking about everyday events and how to handle the adversity that life naturally brings forth. Lessons like responsibility for oneself and smartly choosing one's values have had a personal impact more prevalent than any other book of the same genre. This

book is unmatched due to its personable, conversational approach that easily resonates with readers.

Not only are the lessons easily deciphered and applied, but they are relevant to many new internal issues brought forth by the 21st century. A major lesson is that you only have so many f**ks to give. If you find yourself easily angry or emotional and do not understand why thinking about it doesn't seem to help, then that is one of many lessons this book presents. While specific chapters will resonate with everybody to different degrees, at least one lesson can and will change one's outlook on life. When adversity comes my way, I have found myself repetitively saying, "there are only so many to give." This book has changed my perspective on so many things for the better. I am happier and more motivated due to applying this book to my everyday life.

The Subtle Art does not act as a handbook for how to solve the issues of life, but it brings awareness of those issues to the reader. It forces the reader to think about their own issue and come up with a solution through lessons introduced in the text. Mark Manson points out flaws that the reader may not even realize that they have and prompts them to not only realize these issues, but work through the problems themselves.

Overall this book does not provide the answers to life as some other books may claim, but it gives powerful insight that can change your life for the better. Since reading this book, I have saved myself a lot of despair and have come to figure out what is worth caring about and what is not. I recommend this book to anyone and everyone.

FINAL VERDICT:
5/5 WALLYS



Review: Drake brings more of the lame



COURTESY OF PEOPLE MAGAZINE

HENRY CHILCOAT '27 | STAFF WRITER • As someone who quite enjoys listening to the early albums of Grammy-winning hip-hop music sensation Drake, my least favorite time of the year is when I'm forced to sit down and reflect on how it all went wrong. Sure, the Toronto native still racks in millions of dollars each week, and his newly released music never fails to hit the top of the Billboard charts. However, the eager, hungry Drake that the industry fell in love with hasn't graced his discography in years.

For All The Dogs, while not his most egregious project, does little to nothing to set itself apart from his past couple albums in lyrical content and song quality. Most of it's not bad, just painfully mediocre and forgettable. I couldn't say anything on songs like "Fear of Heights", "Another Late Night", and even the album's closer, "Polar Opposites", because I don't remember anything notable about them; They blend into the bleakness of much of Drake's catalog and will eventually be just one more string of code in Spotify's never-ending software.

His rap-focused tracks are more forgivable, and some even made it to my playlist. "First Person Shooter" features an electric verse by featured artist J. Cole and some clever wordplay by Drake. "Away from Home" took me back to Drake's simplistic roots before his fall

off. He also dives rather successfully into rage rap with songs like "IDGAF", where his performance is overshadowed by one of the sub-genre's most influential musicians, Yeat.

This theme of overshadowing is plain across much of Drake's modern work and in this album, Drake is often playing second fiddle in his own recording sessions. The fact that Teezo Touchdown, SZA, Cole, and PARTYNEXTDOOR all trump Drake as features lowers his credibility as a self and media proclaimed "GOAT" contender in modern rap. It doesn't help that Drake doesn't respect his own music: every song on the album has at least one stupid, goofy bar like "All I really know is M bags like I drove through and ordered fast food" just waiting to take you out of its flow. I can't take Drake's music seriously if he won't do the same, and the lackluster ordinance and themes of this album indicate just that.

This album proves to me that, without a doubt, Drake refuses to grow as an artist, releasing yet another solidly "meh" album to continue his streak of mediocrity. All in all, *For All the Dogs*, while it has its moments, is still a bland project and was a waste of an afternoon.

FINAL VERDICT:
2/5 WALLYS



Cousin Rick's Pick Three

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST •

Rutgers (@Indiana) at -5 Rutgers ATS (-110)

Coming from an IU fan, the Hoosiers have looked miserable on the gridiron against any Big Ten opponent this year. To make matters worse, the last time IU held a Big Ten opponent within one possession was just over a year ago. Throw in the fact Rutgers is 5-1 against the spread (ATS) this season and even a disappointing Rutgers team should cover against the Hoosiers.

Tennessee @ Alabama O/U 49 Under (-110)

While one of the SEC's most storied rivalries found life again last year, this year's contest doesn't promise to be the barnburner we previously saw. Alabama and Tennessee's defenses rank 11th and 16th in the FBS in PPG allowed at 16.0 and 17.8 PPG respectively. Given any competitive defense in the SEC has kept either offense in the mid-20s or below, there's no reasonable expectation we'll be seeing a Joe Milton or Jalen Milroe masterclass. Hammer the under.

Detroit (@Baltimore) at +3 Detroit ML (+140)

Sometimes, you just have to go with your gut, and that's what this pick is. Apart from the beginning of the season, the Ravens have been unable to string together two weeks in a row and their 4-2 record is largely supported by mediocre opponents. On the other hand, the Lions feel like they're for real this year, playing much more consistent football than the Ravens. As a result, Little Giants should disregard their disdain for ferocious felines this week and pick Detroit to outright win.

Lines and odds provided by DraftKings, accurate as of Tuesday, 10/17. Please gamble responsibly.

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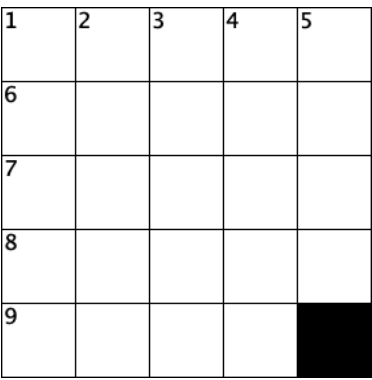
Wabash vs Wittenberg

October 28th

United Way in Montgomery County

Mini

Crossword by
Logan Weilbaker '25



- Across**
- 1. "The final frontier"
 - 6. Leader of the pack
 - 7. Biblical pariah
 - 8. "Tall" stories
 - 9. Part of a dance

- Down**
- 1. Seasons
 - 2. Fold of cloth
 - 3. Cider fruit
 - 4. Sound from a nest
 - 5. Big features on an elephant



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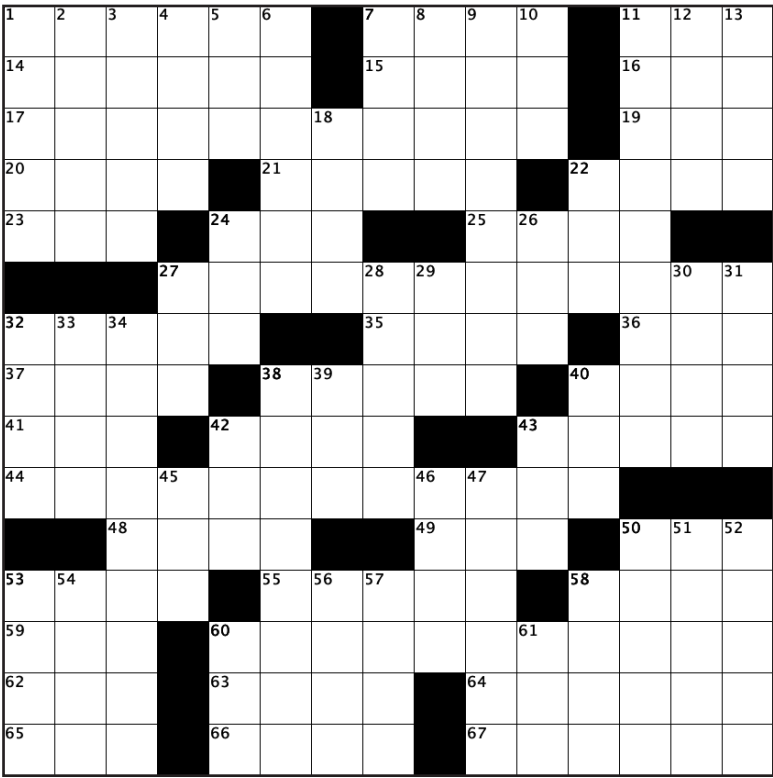
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'Spooky Season'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



- Across**
- 1. One side of a balance sheet
 - 7. Had liabilities
 - 11. Apt name for a thief
 - 14. Patronize, as an inn
 - 15. Crockett of folklore
 - 16. October 30, e.g.
 - 17. *"Scream," or what "Scream" is a parody of
 - 19. Civil War leader
 - 20. Spooky-sounding lake
 - 21. Hit the radio waves
 - 22. Net
 - 23. Palindromic texting inits.
 - 24. Consumed
 - 25. Whence the Magi came
 - 27. *A scientst, or a novel about the scientist
 - 32. Court
 - 35. Word that appears as part of two National Park names
 - 36. Marching band org.
 - 37. Like falsetto singing
 - 38. Extra ____ (egg size)
 - 40. Oodles
 - 41. Jaguar, e.g.
 - 42. Gazpacho, por ejemplo
 - 43. Boba Fett, e.g.
 - 44. *The act of going door to door, or what you

- say at each door
- 48. Word with ego or acid
- 49. "Nightmare" street
- 50. Apple core?
- 53. Get on one's knees, perhaps
- 55. Scent follower
- 58. Psyche's beloved
- 59. AP English ____
- 60. *Diegetic dance move, or a song about the dance
- 62. Roll for Snoopy in "It's the Great Pumpkin Charlie Brown"
- 63. "Give 'em the ____"
- 64. Switzerland, in France
- 65. "You betcha!"
- 66. Understands
- 67. Place on a leash

- Down**
- 1. "From ____ to ____"
 - 2. Meteorologist's prediction
 - 3. New Delhi garments
 - 4. Bronte heroine
 - 5. Ancient text "____ Te Ching"
 - 6. Layers of rock
 - 7. Big stink
 - 8. Salt shaker?
 - 9. Fingerprints, perhaps
 - 10. Turn red?
 - 11. Part of the family
 - 12. ____-under
 - 13. "How you ____?"
 - 18. Demeanour
 - 22. D.C. clock setting
 - 24. Garfunkel, for one
 - 26. Cigarette residue
 - 27. Word following small or french
 - 28. Jeweler's measure
 - 29. Unit of energy
 - 30. Computer image
 - 31. Cat-o'- ____ -tails
 - 32. Fiction's opposite
 - 33. One who does not tell 32-Downs
 - 34. Rubs the wrong way
 - 38. Way out of a contract
 - 39. Car ad fig.
 - 40. "Option," on a Mac
 - 42. Glide down an Alp
 - 43. Engine part
 - 45. Wall
 - 46. Musical based on the opera "La bohème"
 - 47. Jackie, vis-a-vis the Jackson 5
 - 50. Cymbal sound
 - 51. Sheriff's band
 - 52. One on the aisle
 - 53. Remote button
 - 54. Sushi go-with
 - 56. "Right away, boss!"
 - 57. Mail letters?
 - 58. Give off
 - 60. Txt



Scan for solution!

Sudoku

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

Easy

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

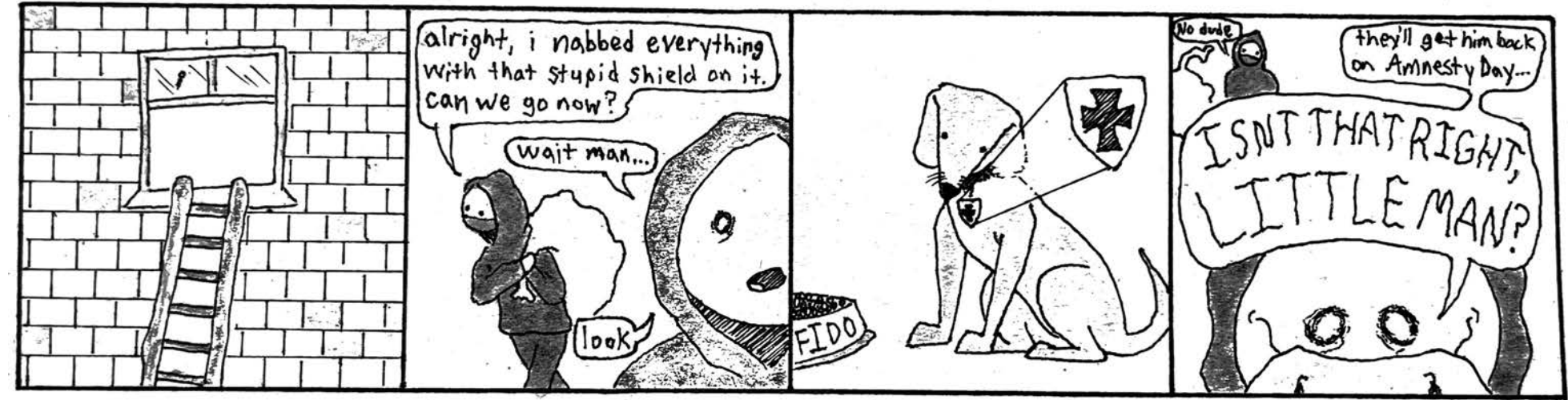
Medium

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

Hard

'Honor among pledges'

Comic by Preston Parker '26



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

Although an individual newspaper, the Board of Publications publishes *The Bachelor*. *The Bachelor* and BOP receive funding from the Wabash College Student Senate, which derives its funds from the Wabash College student body.

Letters (e-mails) to the editor are welcomed and encouraged. They will only be published if they include name, phone, or e-mail, and are not longer than 800 words.

The Bachelor reserves the right to edit letters for content, typographical errors, and length. All letters received become property of this publication for the purposes of reprinting and/or redistribution. Profanity may appear in the publication, but only in cases of direct quote or if profanity is necessary to the content of the story. Please do not confuse profanity with obscenity. No article or picture of an obscene nature will appear in this publication.

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Wabash and LGBTQ History Month



Oscar Huesca '25

Reply to this opinion at
ojacome25@wabash.edu

As many of you have likely noticed, this month holds quite a bit of significance for the LGBTQ community. October is designated as LGBTQ History Month, and this celebration is meant to highlight the history of LGBTQ rights. 'shOUT is currently working to celebrate the month with campus-wide events, including a collaborative event with La Alianza and the MXI on the 25th (which you should definitely consider attending).

The purpose of this celebration is not only to highlight the achievements of LGBTQ figures throughout history, but also to bring attention to the present history of LGBTQ rights. The fight for equal rights has a long and storied history, and it has continued through today. In spite of the massive strides that have been made in the last century, there is still much work to do in this very country.

In fact, there may even be a regression of LGBTQ rights over the last few years. Bills throughout the country have targeted LGBTQ media, art and individuals under pretenses such as averting the danger of "wokeness" or through more blatant fearmongering. These bills have ranged from attempts to censor literature to impeding healthcare for transgender youth.

In fact, many of these sentiments will seem familiar from studying a cursory history, including some unsettling parallels. It is important to recognize the achievements that have been made throughout history, but it is also important to know that history is not just in the past; educating oneself can help in understanding the struggles that LGBTQ people face up to this day.

How does this celebration relate to Wabash specifically? After all, you all saw the flag display on the Mall earlier this month, and some of you may have opted to walk on the grass that week. The obvious answer is that we have many notable LGBTQ alumni, and even alumnae. It only takes a simple Google search of "Wabash College" to see that these include Andrea James, a prominent transgender rights activist and filmmaker, and Silky Nutmeg Ganache, a drag queen and contestant on the nationally-aired RuPaul's Drag Race.

However, I also think it is important

to think about our identity as a college in relation to our LGBTQ history. As one of the few all-male colleges remaining in the United States, it would be easy for us to be the hotbed of toxic masculinity that some might assume we are. Instead, we should consider our place among academia and how having a single-sex student body affects how we perceive each other and the outside world.

We should also consider our shortcomings as an institution. Presently, the College has no explicit policy on transgender students, either for students who might wish to transition during their four years or for transmasculine prospects who might want to attend. Although both situations have yet to be in immediate need of addressing, I believe it would be beneficial to at least consider these questions. After all, our mission statement would encourage us to do so.

I can speak from personal experience that another reason for LGBTQ History Month is simply for the sake of recognition and visibility. I've spoken with many people who are afraid to be open with their families, knowing that they may not be accepted. As someone who identifies as queer myself, I've felt tension on this very campus. Although I've never had any disparaging comments directed towards me, I've seen and heard about enough incidents to know that ignorant and/or homophobic sentiments continue to be an issue on this campus (as evidenced by certain anonymous online platforms).

This is not to say that I believe Wabash is a homophobic institution; I've encountered nothing but love and acceptance from my conversations with other students and faculty and I know that there are many allies on this campus. I've never felt physically unsafe, even when I walk around wearing nail polish. I've especially felt accepted by my fellow members of 'shOUT, and I am honored to be its current secretary. By continuing to have an active presence on campus, I hope that 'shOUT and the LGBTQ allies on campus can help maintain a positive, educational atmosphere for those who might be ignorant but nonetheless open-minded.

My takeaway is that we should all do what we can to keep ourselves educated about the world around us. I realize that most of us here are not part of the LGBTQ community, but I can almost guarantee that all of us know and care about someone who is, whether we know it or not. Educating ourselves is vital to understanding each other and our differences, and I believe that we, as Wabash students, can continue to think critically and act humanely.

HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

FRAMING IT RIGHT

Lo-Five to Denison's camera crew for broadcasting most of the football game. We just have to hope the cameras on campus catch as much action as they did.

LET'S DRESS UP AND PLAY "HOUSE"

Lo-Five to the House Republicans for struggling to elect their third candidate for Speaker of the House in the past year. We thought the third time was the charm?

JOE COOL

Hi-Five to President Joe Biden for traveling to two active war zones during his time in office. We aren't sure if you're brave or stupid, but we salute you either way.

BETTER OR WORSE?

Hi-Five to Taylor Swift's security guard for returning to Israel to fight in the Israeli Defense Force. He'll have an easier time fighting off the Palestinians than the masses of crazed Swifties.

"SKEEYEE"

Hi-Five to Sexy Red for announcing her pregnancy this week. Lo-Five to her kid, who will have to grow up with a mom named Sexy Red.

Checking in: Wabash wellness on campus



Garrett Dalton '26

Reply to this opinion at
gcdalton26@wabash.edu

The Wabash Wellness programs have already been very active on campus this year. Led by Student Development and Wellness Coordinator, Tristen Abbott, as well as a group of student Peer Health Educators, Wabash has been lively with wellness initiatives for its students.

In September alone, Wabash Wellness organized many events that were utilized by hundreds of Wabash students. These events included multiple presentations such as Dr. Dunaway's "Sweating with the Team," Krista Kobel's "Food as Medicine," and Dr. Profeta's talk on the effects of drugs and alcohol.

One especially notable event was the Wabash Brothers Memorial 5K to raise awareness for suicide prevention. In addition to the talks, Wabash Wellness has coordinated many training sessions open to the campus that include QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer – Suicide Prevention) and Naloxone administration. These events were largely successful in terms of turnout and educational value.

As we are now in the midst of October, the month of emotional wellness is in full swing. There are several events coming up as the semester continues that are beneficial learning and service opportunities.

These events include the beginning of "Homework in the Arboretum" where students can boost their men-

tal health while by being in an environmentally friendly area meant for homework.

Also, Wabash's finest, Buck Waddell, will be leading a series called "Life Skills 101 with Buck" where he will be giving in-depth tutorials on basic life skills, such as simple car maintenance.

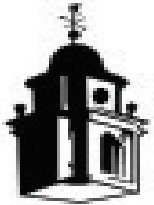
The Wabash Wellness program also encourages you to partake in the Crawfordsville Animal Welfare League volunteer events where you can decompress while walking dogs or playing with cats. Additionally, the rest of the semester will also be filled with more wellness speakers to help educate the Wabash community on various topics.

Another great thing that Wabash Wellness is implementing is Peer Health Educator office hours in the library. These office hours give Wabash students full access to their fellow Wabash brothers that serve as Peer Health Educators. Discussions can include things like time management, overall well-being, coping skills and strategies and workouts or stress management. The options are truly endless.

Wabash Wellness is as involved on campus as it ever has been. We greatly encourage Wabash students and faculty to take advantage of the unparalleled opportunities that Wabash Wellness provides.

From life-saving trainings to calm study sessions, Wabash Wellness is providing an outlet for the Wabash community to better itself in a way that it has not before. We are very excited about the initiatives being brought to campus and hope to see every Wabash student utilize these opportunities.

Check out the *The Bachelor* Online:



bachelor.wabash.edu



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@WabCoBachelor_

Wally's Wall: Headshots

The Prompt:

Submit your worst headshot from your time here at Wabash.



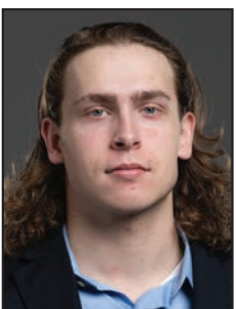
Don Silas '24

"My senior photo taken 10 minutes after I woke up."



James Wallace '26

"I think the sideburns speak for themselves."



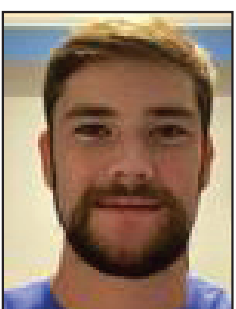
Parker Lewis '24

"The eyebrow slit was a fun time."



Nathan Ellenberger '26

"The long hair didn't even survive pledgeship."



Quinn Manford '25

"They keep saying they'll update the directory..."



Preston Parker '26

"Don't mind the tie, just look at the comics."

Disagreement vs. Disdain



Luke Fincher '24

Reply to this opinion at lrfinch24@wabash.edu

In the last edition of The Bachelor, Seth Kirkpatrick '24 addressed a pertinent issue on our campus, touching on many aspects of the issue of homophobia in the Wabash community. Seth said a lot of things that needed to be said, and it's worth continuing the conversation.

Seth took issue with the negative reactions that some Wabash men had to the appearance of the small pride flags that lined the brick pathways across the Mall, explaining that this hostility is punching down and asserting that passing snide comments on the matter off as jokes does not lessen the damage it does to LGBTQ+ Wabash men. He also made the point that such contempt for fellow Wabash men is directly against the ethos of Wabash, which is the point I most emphatically agreed with.

I won't spend the entire article recapping what Seth already said, so I want to add this: The way we define homophobia can sometimes hamper connections and understanding. Seth was referring to the textbook homophobia we do indeed see in some corners of campus, but sometimes we can use that word too generally.

We tend to conflate any disagreement with LGBTQ+ philosophy with homophobia. This is true sometimes, such as when someone takes a stance against a group's position simply because they hate the group itself—for example, being against the pride flags on the Mall because you hate 'shOUT or the LGBTQ+ community in general.

However, sometimes people will disagree on something for more legitimate reasons—for example, being against giving kids puberty blockers still early in development. That stance is usually not founded on hatred or fear, but rather a reasonable concern that such things could have negative consequences for their development.

The point I'm trying to make is that real homophobia is present when one reacts to something based on their hatred or fear of the LGBTQ+ community. Beliefs that fall outside that bigoted purview should not be uncritically labeled as homophobic ravings and dismissed, as that blocks any opportunity for either side to understand why the other guys think what they think, and opportunities like that is what this great school thrives on.

Why is the presence of pride flags on the Mall receiving pushback? It's a question that could tell us something about ourselves if we talked about it like men, and maybe both sides have points that could be addressed.

If we should listen to views that aren't based on hatred, then we need to figure out how to discern between

honest disagreement or actual disdain. To this end, simply listen to how he speaks about the matter. Does he speak as if he is speaking about roadkill he saw on the way back from Purdue, or is he speaking as if he is discussing a higher ideal with his friend? Does his choice of words suggest contempt or concern?

We've all heard what it sounds like for someone to speak about something they hate. In fact, we all have things we hate, such as the school down South or the way someone cuts their sandwiches. Sometimes, the way in which someone speaks can tell us more about what he thinks than what he's saying.

I want to finish this by addressing both my Wabash brothers who disagree with one or more aspects of LGBTQ+ thought and my Wabash brothers in the LGBTQ+ community.

To the former, be sure to base these views not on fear or disgust, but higher things like reason, sociology, or philosophies of sexuality that are respectable and defensible, very much unlike personal beef. Furthermore, your honest questions should not be dismissed, and you should not be afraid to ask them.

To the latter, hearing challenges to beliefs that have been informed by a prominent aspect of your identity can often seem like an attack on your existence. I won't be so daft as to say I understand perfectly how that must feel, but I do understand how it feels to have my deeply held convictions derided. It is important to remember that while someone's challenges might possibly be based on hatred it is also likely that they are just confused or curious, and this is an opportunity for a good conversation.

One last address to my Wabash brothers whose disagreements (on anything really, not just the subject at hand) are actually based on hatred or fear: look around at your classmates, fraternity brothers and drinking buddies. See the whole person. Every aspect of their background, likes, dislikes, experiences and more weave together into a completely unique tapestry forming your brother. Would you preclude yourself from what could be a great friendship simply because of one disagreement?

I'm sure nothing I've written here is particularly new information, but it is easy to forget in the heat of it all. If we want this campus to be united, we have to be willing to hear each other out, and that means leaving the beef at the door and stepping up as equals to figure each other out. It also means standing up for yourself and others when hatred of your fellow Wabash man shows itself.

The objective ranking of all of Ye's solo albums



Ryan Papandria '25

Reply to this opinion at rlpapand25@wabash.edu

Recently, there have been talks that Kanye, the artist formerly known as Kanye West, has been in the studio working on new music for his millions of fans. After an array of antisemitic remarks and jabs at prominent public figures, Ye has been discarded by most of the American culture since early 2022. While these comments were blatantly ridiculous and insulting, there is still merit to praising the fine music of the greatest artist of all time.

If you want to listen to Ye's entire discography a certain way, the only way to do that correctly is to go exactly in order. West developed his own personal style from production to rapping/singing capabilities throughout his career. To understand his creative process and changes over time, it only makes sense to go chronologically. Otherwise, here is the objective ranking of all Yeezy's solo albums.

1. **Graduation (2007)** - Graduation is Kanye's best album to date, with absolutely zero skips. As his third studio album, Ye embraced electronic and pop elements as opposed to his typical "chipmunk soul"

style. Upbeat and party songs like "Flashing Lights," "Can't Tell Me Nothing" and "Good Life" juxtapose the moodier, more thankful songs like "I Wonder," "Everything I Am" and "Big Brother." This album is joyous, it encapsulates Kanye's confident lifestyle and is a fun listen.

2. **My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy (2010)** - After his 2009 VMA incident in which Kanye made Taylor Swift famous, some thought West would never release music again. Instead, he released a star-studded album full of classics. The best way to describe this album is simply "art." Songs like "All of the Lights," "Power" and "Lost in the World" stand the test of time.

3. **The Life of Pablo (2016)** - This 2016 LP comes in as the third-best Kanye album. Here, he touches on the theme that his life is that of three different Pablos: Pablo Escobar, Pablo Picasso and Saint Pablo. This theme results in an epic listening experience through some songs like "Father Stretch My Hands Pt. 1," "Famous" and "Waves."

4. **The College Dropout (2004)** - After years of being thought of as just JAY-Z's producer, Kanye stepped into his solo career with his debut album, "The College Dropout". With his unique production style and lyrical ability, he pleased many

and started his career with the #2 album on the Billboard Hot 100 (in fact, this is his only solo album not to debut #1). This album has plenty of classics, like "All Falls Down," "Jesus Walks" and "Through the Wire."

5. **Donda (2021)** - Ye's most recent release is one of his longest and most emotional albums to date. Although it suffers from too many "filler" tracks, there is way more good than bad here. The heartfelt songs such as "24" and "Jesus Lord" combines with some of the best rapping in "Off the Grid" and "Praise God" listeners have heard from Kanye in years.

6. **Ye (2018)** - Similar to Donda, Ye is one of Kanye's most vulnerable and emotional albums. This album focuses on his own mental health and battles with Bipolar Disorder, as seen in "Ghost Town" and "Yikes." Contrary to Donda, however, this album suffers from the too few songs, standing at only 7 tracks.

7. **Late Registration (2005)** - Kanye's 2nd studio album certainly did not disappoint, but in terms of his entire discography, it ranks towards the bottom. This album is home to arguably Kanye's most popular song "Gold Digger." West incorporates a lot of jazz samples along with his patented vocal chops to create a similar experience to that of The College Dropout. Some

of these songs, however, just miss the mark a bit. Other good songs on this album are "We Major" and "Touch the Sky."

8. **808s and Heartbreak (2008)** - 808s turned out to be one of West's most influential albums of all time, pioneering a new era of hip-hop with stylistic and thematic differences. Although Ye influenced a new wave of artists, he has much better albums. "Heartless" and "Amazing" stick out as some high points in this LP.

9. **Yeezus (2013)** - This is by far Kanye's most experimental and abrasive album in his discography. None of these songs would be frequently played on the radio, and the album may scare people away if you play it for them for the first time. Regardless, there is still merit for appreciating this work. Some top songs include "Bound 2" and "New Slaves."

10. **JESUS IS KING (2019)** - Jesus Christ did the laundry, and Kanye released his religious-centered album in 2019. There are some solid cuts in this, but no where near the best we have seen from Ye. The production quality is not great and the album has very little replayability. There are still a few songs that could be added to any playlist, like "Follow God," "Everything We Need," and "On God."

Looking to join the conversation?
Want to make your voice heard?



If so, contact James Wallace at
jpwallac26@wabash.edu and get your point across
to the campus in *The Bachelor* opinion section.

Wabash Club
of Indianapolis

'Bash Before the Bell



Join Alumni, Family, & Friends
on Thurs., Nov. 9
at Half Liter BBQ
with My Yellow Rickshaw
featuring Nathan Klatt '01

Register at wabash.edu/events/wcindy-bell

The truth of white noise



Phenix Carney '25
Reply to this opinion at
pacarney25@wabash.edu

In my time at Wabash, I have roomed with a quite a few different fraternity brothers and I am here to describe why listening to white noise makes you a terrible roommate. The true purpose of this article is not to create any controversy (in fact, if you are a solo-sleeper then this doesn't pertain to you; do what you need), but it is to address those of you who have roommates.

For starters, playing white noise is purely obnoxious, especially if it comes from your phone on full volume and happens to be a very harsh rendition of the sound. Also, in my experience, white noise makes you a heavier sleeper, so you are likely less likely to wake up with your alarms on time. This often leads to disrupting the rest of your roommates. In addition, we are all Wabash men; we are extremely busy. If you are so restless that you need a calming noise to put you to sleep, you may need to rethink about how you are going about Wabash.

Let's get into why it is obnoxious in more detail. I will combat any arguments I can think of. For starters, some noises are most definitely worse than others. Say you have a roommate who has a fan blowing, this is excusable. But say that roommate listens to what appears to be TV static, this would clearly be an issue. The sound of TV static is unnatural,

and our ancestors would never have had these noises playing. If you truly must, bring the noises back in time and make them more natural. The main reason this is an issue is because there are other people sleeping around you and they also would like to have some sleep and this could be quite disruptive.

The next main point is the creation of a heavy sleeper. If you listen to noise while you sleep, then other noises may also become attached to your sleeping routine. This means you may sleep through your alarms and further punish your roommates who forcibly are awoken by your alarms.

The last point is being a Wabash man. Personally, as a student-athlete, member of clubs and current rhyne, sleep comes very naturally and I take it any chance I get. So if you find that you are consistently awake or have trouble sleeping, then maybe hit the gym before bed or stay away from screens and food late at night – a throwback to Dr. Winter's Chapel Talk.

Overall, if you have a roommate by the made-up name of Drescott Puffy, maybe you should have a conversation and let them know how you feel. If you are that roommate, maybe try to slowly get off of the noise. Soon you may have a partner you move in with that does not like this, so best to kick the habit now.

SPORTS

SOCCKER
WABASH: 1
WOOSTER: 2

SOCCKER
WABASH: 0
OHIO WESLEYAN: 2

FOOTBALL
WABASH: 24
DENISON: 28

SWIM & DIVE
2ND AT INDIANA DIII INVITA-
TIONAL

Soccer falls to OWU

Three-straight losses end conference hopes

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • Players, words and yellow cards were flying as Wabash soccer faced Ohio Wesleyan in a must-win game to keep the Little Giants' conference hopes alive. On Wednesday, October 18, Wabash 5-4-4 (1-2-1 NCAC) took on the Battling Bishops 9-3-1 (3-1 NCAC) at Fischer Field.

Heading into the game, Wabash was faced with a situation where they had no choice but to win the match or fall out of conference contention, as a pair of losses over fall break put them near the bottom of the NCAC standings. The first loss was a 0-1 rout at the hands of Denison on October 11. The second came on October 14, when the team fell 1-2 to the Wooster Fighting Scots.

Unlike sports like basketball and tennis, the NCAC soccer tournament allows only four teams to enter. The Little Giants have historically battled for that fourth spot into the tournament. But with the two losses and a tie already on their record, the team needed to win three of their last four matches with a tie in the fourth. On the other hand, OWU entered this match tied for second in the conference.

From the first whistle, Wabash was disadvantaged. The Battling Bishops used excellent positioning to constrict the usually speedy Wabash offense. With their defense leading to many avenues of scoring, OWU scored their first goal of the game just over 13 minutes into the contest.

With both teams unable to find many quick-strike scoring opportunities, a more physical game would quickly develop. It was clear that neither team was happy to share the field with each other. The officials wasted no time, trying to keep the game civil. They did this with zeal. Whistles kept the game moving at an excruciatingly slow pace.

One of the calls, a yellow card



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Jose Escalante '26 braces for contact in the Little Giants' game against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 18, 2023.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25
Hayden Eaton '25 sends the ball long in the Little Giants' game against Ohio Wesleyan University on October 18, 2023.

on goal to Wabash's one. Fernando Ramos '25, despite giving up two goals, had a good outing with four saves.

On Saturday, October 21, the Little Giants will take on conference juggernaut Kenyon College 11-3 (5-0 NCAC), who hasn't lost to a conference opponent since 2016. This loss has put the Wabash team in seventh place between Wittenberg and Oberlin, who are scheduled to face the Little Giants later in October.

Golf wraps up historic fall season

TREY SCHEUB '26 | STAFF WRITER • As the Little Giants' golf team wraps up their fall season, they close with a mix of achievements and challenges. Despite achieving only some of their goals, the team's hunger for success remains undiminished.

Head Golf Coach Justin Kopp '21 acknowledges that the team had an overall successful fall season. This year's team has set a mark on program history by having one of the best fall seasons and best player by a wide margin.

"It's been the best season statistically, in the program's history," said Coach Kopp.

Achieving this was all due to the players who came into the season with a good attitude on and off the course when they had trouble getting too negative or down on themselves in the past year.

This season, the team entered tournaments with a focused determination, setting clear goals aimed at enhancing their placement and overall player success.

"Our goals going into tournaments are to be committed to every shot and to minimize mental errors," Kopp said. "We control what we can control."

These objectives deeply resonated with the players, as demonstrated at the Rhodes College Invitational and the Wabash College Invitational, where they showcased the effectiveness of their approach by securing a fourth-place finish. While at the Wabash College Invitational, the players battled through hours of driving and a 54-hole tournament, in which these goals helped them stick to what they knew, resulting in a sixth-place finish.

"Some of the results may not look like we're doing great," Kopp said.

To him, it's all part of his plan. Kopp firmly believes that his program gains much more value from facing off against the nation's top teams.

The experience of competing at such a high level fills Kopp with anticipation, giving him excitement as he believes the challenges of the fall season will generate an even more successful spring season.

While the team endured a very successful season, it did not come without drawbacks.

"It's been the best season statistically, in the program's history."

- Coach Kopp '21

"I think if you asked any of the guys on the team, I think they'd say we can do better," said Kopp.

Looking ahead to the spring season, the team hopes to eliminate simple errors they encountered during the fall. Focusing on removing high scores from their scorecards, having more guys compete in tournaments and not leaving as many untaken shots on the course, will contribute to more productive rounds in future tournaments where the team hopes they can climb the leaderboards easily.

After finishing the fall season, Coach Kopp believes that due to the toughness of their schedule and the caliber of players that have, they will be in the front running for the conference and able to perform competitively against some of the best teams in the country, which brings excitement to the team and Coach Kopp for the spring season.

Personal bests bolster XC at Augustana Interregional Invite



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

Wabash cross-country prepares to run at the Charlie Finch Alumni run on Saturday, August 27 at the Huntsman Track.

JAMES DALY '24 | STAFF WRITER • Facing off against 42 other teams on Saturday in an 8k race at Rock Island, Illinois, the Little Giants cross country team competed in the Augustana Interregional Rumble, finishing the meet in 33rd place with an overall score of 908 points. Racing on Rock Island's Saukie Golf Course in this 453-man event, the team notably picked up numerous personal record times across their pack of runners. This came even in spite of several setbacks faced by the Redpack throughout the season ranging between illness and injury amongst the team members which resulted in some of them having to sacrifice days' worth of practice. According to Head Cross Country Coach Tyler Mc-

Creary, while the team could have had a better race, given these circumstances as well as the fact that the conditions on the course were far from ideal, there remains much reason for excitement.

"You can't be solely focused on the outcome because there's a lot to feel good about," McCreary said. "It was a wet course that day. So that threw a wrench into how things went. But if you look at where our guys started, they moved up well throughout the race. They've learned to run composed, mature races, pacing it off then picking runners off. So that's encouraging."

Their fastest performing runner that day was Drake Hayes '24, who finished his race with a PR time of 26:18:50 ahead of

over three hundred other runners. Meanwhile, Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 finished the race in 172nd place recording a personal best time of 26:26.6.

“You can’t be solely focused on the outcome because there’s a lot to feel good about.”

- Coach McCreary

Justin Santiago '25 also had a remarkable race, finishing off in 326th place with a time of 27:39.2. While far from his

Getting ready for gameday with Coach McCreary

NICK WRANGLER '27 | SPORTS WRITER • In a sport focused on pacing and gradual improvement, a reliable schedule is vital to ensuring success for the cross country team. This week *The Bachelor* sat down with Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary to explore the weekly schedule that has allowed the team to outpace the competition during the season.

With the end of the season in view, the practices begin to take a turn. The team is approaching the conference competition, so they are running through their final workouts of the year. Preparing with light runs, stretching and leg work, the runners begin a period of maintaining their pace built over the season.

"From a training perspective, once you get like inside 10 days of a meet, the training you do doesn't really help you for the meet," said McCreary.

As the team trains each week, routines tend to stay consistent. Their week of training starts on Sunday as the team completes their first long run of the week. These runs consist of anywhere from 10 to 15 miles and serve as the starting point for the week.

On Mondays the team has morning stretching with an afternoon meeting and practice. At the meetings, the team focuses on previous competitions and the training week ahead of them.

Tuesdays are when the team has their first workout of the week. These workouts are mainly for short recovery as Coach McCreary says these are not really intense. Although the workout is not necessarily intense, Tuesdays are a key part of the week for the runners.

On Wednesdays the team meets by themselves for a medium long run.

"Wednesdays are like a medium long run day," said McCreary. "So, guys meet on their own and that's actually an NCAA day off so they generally get their mileage in."

On weeks where the team is competing on Saturday, Thursday's practice is a small workout as the runners prepare for the meet. The preparation days mainly consist of short runs in order to prepare their bodies for the competition ahead.

Heading into Friday, the team meets and does some team stretching followed by a light run to loosen their legs.

On competition day, the team wakes up bright and early to loosen up their bodies. They go for a light fifteen-minute jog to get their blood flowing, followed by team breakfast. When it is time to leave, the team loads the bus, heads to the course, and is ready to compete.

Tennis finds collective growth in preperation for spring season

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • Tennis rounded out the fall schedule in a doubleheader against Oakland City University on Saturday, October 7. Without any conference matches or the NCAC or NCAA tournaments being held, the fall tennis season is often overshadowed by the spring season where the team will play its biggest matchups. Head Tennis Coach Daniel Bickett uses the time to get each player into the right mindset that will allow for success when those conference opponents come around.

Against Oakland City, the Little Giants played two matches, tying 6-6 in the first and losing 4-7 in the second. This was an impressive showing for Wabash, considering the fact that once again the team wasn't playing its top guys in both matches. The depth of the roster was able to shine despite the result. With the secondaries turning out two close matches against a solid team in Oakland City, there's little doubt that, once assembled, the team's best lineup will be ready to leave a trail of disappointed opponents reeling in their wake throughout the spring season.

For most teams, their season would end after their final match. However this season Coach Bickett has implemented a new training schedule. Instead of utilizing all of the team's allocated practices in the first few weeks of the season. Bickett spread the practices out over the semester, so the team can continue meeting a few times a week through November and December. In a sport where consistent rhythm and focus play an exaggerated role, finding ways to keep the players active puts the team in a good spot to succeed and reveals that Bickett expects a dominant showing from the team in the spring season.

As a team, the tennis players set out to achieve a few goals. One of the team's biggest goals for the fall season was to 65% of their singles matches and 60% of their doubles matches. The team has met both of these goals, with wins in just over 65% of their singles matches and 68% of their doubles matches. This signals a major jump in doubles, an area where the team struggled during their previous season.

For freshmen players, Bickett says the fall season is about helping them discover the habits that bring them success in both academics and athletics.

"With the freshmen the goal is always to get them acclimated to college tennis and get them to understand the expectations and how to manage their time with academics," said Bickett.

Sophomores are asked to make one of the biggest jumps as they turn the lessons of their first season into a fully-fledged skill set. With the sophomore class being the largest class on the team, their improvements will be one of the driving factors for the program over the next two years.

"With what I've seen from our sophomore class, it's pretty easy to see the improvements that are being made," said Bickett. "They're all stepping up and showing that they've taken what they did last year, their freshman year, and they've learned something from it. And they're ready to get out there and play some tough competition."

By the time a player reaches their junior year, Bickett hopes they have found themselves as a player and are ready to take on a role as a team leader. Chris Zimmerman '25 was the only junior who played during the fall season.

"Since first stepping on the tennis courts at Wabash, I have

best, Santiago believes that the team collectively ran well on Saturday despite their finishing placement that day.

"I think from a team perspective, we had a good day," Santiago said. "We performed well against the teams [we were] trying to be competitive with. Most of the guys did well and I think we accomplished everything we wanted to. Personally, it wasn't my best effort, but overall, as a team, we performed well. So I think [there is] a lot of positives to take away from."

Looking back on the race, Coach McCreary continues to believe that the team is in good standing for the rest of the season and thinks that the next two weeks will provide the Little Giants a great opportunity to increase their efforts leading up to their next race.

"Next, [we need] to get two good weeks of high-quality training," McCreary said. "We'll have this week will be the last key week for us as a team we'll have a really big workout effort on Tuesday and then another solid one on Friday but [once] all the trainings [are] done all we can do at that point is continue to run and keep ourselves healthy and fit and then we'll be ready to get after the conference."

The Little Giants will have their next meet on October 28th at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships hosted by Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

learned that leadership does not always entail strong vocal presence in practice or in a competitive setting," said Zimmerman. "The student-athlete experience at Wabash is physically and mentally taxing, and sometimes helping to improve a teammate's experience off the court can lead to an improved performance and mindset on the court. Making sure that everyone approaches practices and workouts with the mindset of improving 1% every day will help ensure our prosperity as a program."

Cole Borden '24 and Liam Grennon '24 are the two seniors for the Wabash team this season. Their veteran leadership will continue to play a crucial role on the team moving forward as they help direct a young lineup towards success in the fall season.

“They understand what we’re trying to accomplish as a team, they know what their roles are to kind of help us get there.”

- Coach Bickett

"For seniors, guys like Liam and Cole, it's about making sure they're making the most of the time that they have left, because it doesn't last forever," said Bickett. "And I think they have a really good perspective on it. They understand what we're trying to accomplish as a team, they know what their roles are to help us get there."

Tracing the tracks of Joe Barnett '24

FERNAN ELIZONDO '27 | SPORTS WRITER • For senior cross country runner Joe Barnett '24, being honored as the NCAC Men's Cross Country Athlete of the Week for his 23rd-place finish at the Greater Louisville Classic seemed like a no-brainer. A time of 26:25.9 is impressive for Barnett, just six seconds off of his personal best.

But the road to athletic success for Barnett has been long and not always the smoothest. For almost his entire college career, the PPE major and Spanish minor has been battling injury to race for the Wabash Redpack. The constant ups and downs have been both mentally and physically trying. But for Barnett, consistency has become the key to his success.

An Indianapolis native and Westfield High School graduate, Barnett had always known about Wabash College. Local family friends who had graduated in years prior kept Wabash at the forefront of prospective colleges. Even though Wabash had always been present for him, it wasn't until later in his high school career that he began to consider Wabash seriously as an option for college.

"It wasn't until my junior year when I decided to come [to Wabash] and give it a look," said Barnett.

Even though he hadn't considered Wabash at that point, Wabash seemed to choose Barnett long before he chose it. During his sophomore year, Barnett competed in a cross country meet in Little Giant Stadium, where he caught the attention of the Assistant Cross Country Coach Bobby Thompson '14.

"When I was in high school, we used to run a track meet [at Wabash] that [Wabash] hosted. After that race, Coach Thompson approached me and said, 'write down your name and contact information. We'll reach out to you when you're a junior.'"

After his sophomore year, he got a call from Head Cross Country Coach Tyler McCreary, who invited him to visit the campus.

"When I finally came on a visit, I immediately thought, 'I want to go here,'" said Barnett. "It was my first college visit, and so every other visit after that, I compared [the other schools] to Wabash. Wabash set the bar high after that first visit."

It was official: Barnett had drunk the Kool-Aid.

Barnett's first years as a Wabash student-athlete were tough because of significant injuries, which hindered his ability to perform, so much so that during his freshman year, Barnett did not participate in any of the Redpack's fall cross-country meets. Due to his lack of involvement, Barnett seriously questioned whether he would remain on the team.

"My first two years [of college] I had a lot of injuries," said Barnett. "[Those injuries] were hard to deal with because [running] is something that I enjoy doing."

The battle back to full fitness was challenging and required diligence and consistency. With the support of his teammates, Barnett realized he would always have a place on the team and could continue as a part of the Redpack.

"I was glad I stuck with [cross country] and kept going because I had success later in my time [at Wabash]," said Barnett.

Now, as a senior, Barnett uses his role as a team leader to instill consistency, diligence, and discipline into the newest batch of cross-country runners.

"You have to show up every day and do something hard," said Barnett. "Running is challenging, but I think I set a good example on the team by being a hard worker and getting the hard work done every day. That's a really valuable [lesson] that has impacted my life."

Outside of cross country, Barnett loves to play guitar with his Lambda Chi brothers, where he has time to jam with the guys and space out his time between classes and training. Barnett is still undecided on his post-graduation plans but is interested in the public policy and government job sector.

"Not every day is going to be great," said Barnett. "Which means you just have to show up and give it your best effort day after day, which ultimately leads to improvement."

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Getting their feet wet cont'd

Other standout performances from the meet were Xander Straw '26 with a second place effort in the 500-yard freestyle, Justice Wenz '25 in the 100-yard backstroke—finishing second—and Connor Craig '25 swimming to second in the 100-yard individual medley.

“It’s nice to have a fresh start and mindset coming into the season,” said Plumb. “Our team is very excited. Coming from an enormous and highly competitive swim team at Carmel High School, it’s really special to be able to make a serious impact on the team in my first year. I’d like to make it to a final at conference, and to make it to NCAAAs.”

“It felt awesome to be back in the water again,” said Sweeney. “The racing atmosphere at collegiate meets is electric.”

For Sweeney, his early impact can be a result of the presence the upperclassmen bring, which keeps him motivated and disciplined.

“I have some great upperclassmen teammates that I can rely on, and I love knowing that they can rely on me,” said Sweeney.

Getting back into the flow of the

season, the team looks to take another step forward and push their boundaries. This year the swimming & diving team which found themselves in third and fourth at the NCAC championships for the past four years, seeks to compete atop the conference once again. The fast start from Saturday can be explained by the hard work the team has kept up in the offseason. Head Swimming Coach Will Bernhardt noted his anticipation for the season debut.

“It felt awesome to be back in the water again. The racing atmosphere at collegiate meets is electric.”

- Quinn Sweeney '27

of training. Getting back into ‘racing’ shape is something that takes a few competitions to really get going.”

The team is aware of Bernhardt’s hopes and driven to push the team forward in the conference, regional and national rankings.

“A huge team goal for us is sending swimmers to NCAAAs,” said Plumb. “We were really close to sending a relay last year, and I know we just need a bit more to get over the hump. Equally as important to the team is closing the gap in our conference.”

“Our main focuses are going to be consistency at dual meets and conference, as well as working to crack into the national rankings,” Sweeney said.

One of the keys for the team’s future success will be their youth. With a big incoming class of freshmen the next few seasons should see a depth of talent for the Little Giants’ roster. Coach Bernhardt always feels pleasure working with an incoming class, and he had particularly high praise for this group of high-performing freshmen.

“This entire class has shown

over the first month of the season that they are hungry and humble,” said Bernhardt. “The entire class has come to Wabash with a certain determination that is inspiring the entire team to take training and racing to a whole new level. This freshmen class has the opportunity to be very special and the staff is privileged to be able to help

“This entire class has shown over the first month of the season that they are hungry and humble.”

- Coach Bernhardt

them along their journey.”

For Coach Bernhardt, some of his goals lie outside the pool, including works of community service and academic achievements. Coach Bernhardt explained the academic goals in detail.

“We have some work to do on campus to achieve that goal but in

the spring semester last year, we had the third-highest team GPA among NCAC teams with a 3.42,” said Bernhardt. “We want to be at least a 3.5 to take the top honor in the conference.”

As far as in the pool, the goals Bernhardt has in mind are very similar to Plumb and all the competitors.

“A few of the big athletic goals are to catch Kenyon and Denison (two national powerhouses for swimming) at the Conference Championship Meet and to send a team of men to the NCAA Championship in March,” said Bernhardt.

Zooming out for the season at large, Bernhardt is optimistic with how the season will shake out, “The team is laser focused on all of our goals,” Bernhardt said, “It is going to be a fun year to watch how they grow and check off all the various goals they have for this year.”

The team will be back in action this Saturday, October 21 as they travel to West Lafayette, to compete in the Indiana Intercollegiate Meet at Purdue University.

Football undeterred by loss to Denison Kenyon caught between Wabash and conference rebound

RYAN PAPANDRIA '25 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash Little Giants 4-2 (3-1 NCAC) will take a road trip up I-70 to Gambier, Ohio to take on the Kenyon Owls 1-5 (1-3 NCAC) at 12 PM on Saturday, October 21. Kenyon comes off a 48-7 rout at the hands of Ohio Wesleyan.

Last Saturday, the Little Giants fell to Denison 28-24 on the road in a heartbreaker to mark their first conference loss and second loss overall in the 2023 season. Wabash held a 24-21 lead late in the fourth quarter before conceding the go-ahead touchdown pass with 2:45 remaining. The offense’s late-game heroics were not enough, turning the ball over on downs with one minute remaining around midfield.

Despite the tough loss, Head Football Coach Don Morel and the rest of the team are not worried about the conference loss.

“The math and reasoning tells us that we can still accomplish our two biggest goals: win the Bell Game and win the conference championship,” said Morel.

Morel wants the rest of the team to continue to control what they can control.

“We need to continue to lift hard, practice hard and play hard,” said Morel. “If we do that, we will be right where we want to be for the Bell Game.”

This Denison Game is in the past now, however. This week, the Little Giants have a new opponent, and they are ready to get after it.

“The team has already put this game behind them, now it’s all Kenyon,” said Morel.

“We need to continue to lift hard, practice hard, and play hard. If we do that, we will be right where we want to be for the Bell Game.”

- Coach Morel

Although Keyon is a conference bottomfeeder year in and year out, the 2023 Owls boast a strong run game offensively, averaging 193.5 yards per contest, which is only four fewer yards per game than Wabash. Their starting running back, Jordon Benjamin, is second in the league in yards per game, has five touchdowns and 4.6 yards per attempt. He is paired with a physical offensive line that Coach Morel will watch out for.



Sam Long '25 and Lewis Dellinger '25 celebrate a touchdown against Oberlin College on September 23, 2023, on Frank Navarro Field at Little Giant Stadium.

“We first need to fit the gaps correctly,” said Morel, when talking about how to stop Kenyon’s rush attack. “If our defense is able to penetrate through the physical Owls offensive line, the Little Giants will take their best offensive strength away and force Kenyon to beat them through the air. The passing game is not Kenyon’s strong suit, as they are currently sitting at dead last in the conference in pass yards per game, total passing yards and total completions.”

Kenyon’s defense has little to boast, sitting near the bottom in many key defensive statistical categories. They allow 47.8 points per game and 488.2 yards per game. However, one stat of note is that they are a feast-or-famine style defense; the Owls are currently tied for third in the conference in interceptions with 7 picks on the year. The key for the Kenyon defense to slow down Liam Thompson '24 and the high-powered Wabash offense, will be to force multiple turnovers right from the jump.

Regardless of the potential for big plays on defense for Kenyon, Morel does not think it will last an entire game. Morel believes the Wabash offense will simply be too much to handle for an entire four quarters.

“What hurts Kenyon is that

they don’t have the depth on defense,” says Morel. “They will play well in the first quarter like they have in every game so far.”

“What hurts Kenyon is that they don’t have the depth on defense.”

- Coach Morel

Against Denison, kicker Brody Rucker make a 35-yard field goal late in the first half for his career-long. Coach Morel is excited about the potential that the team may have a weapon in the kicking game when the offense stalls out deep in opponent territory.

“Brody is developing into a good kicker,” says Morel. “It has been a process, but he has been hitting all his extra points, and I feel confident in letting him kick a field goal in-game now.”

The 4-2 Little Giants are hungry to avenge their loss from last week when they take on Kenyon at 12 PM this Saturday. This game is just another step in the road to a 2023 conference title and further preparation for the 129th Monon Bell Classic.

Road to the NCAC football conference crown

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26 | SPORTS WRITER • With about a month left of the regular season, football teams in the NCAC are approaching their quest of bringing an NCAC championship to their school. Some teams are in full control of their destiny, others need some chaos for their squad to have a chance, and a few are already out of contention.

Well out of conference contention, the Hiram Terriers 0-7 (0-5 NCAC) still have a goose egg in their win column. They have had some close battles, including a slugfest against Wittenberg and a one-point loss to Ohio Wesleyan, but they have come up well short in all of their other games. They still have three more chances at a victory, but their hopes of a conference championship are out the window.

Two other teams whose hopes are approaching its end are Oberlin 1-5 (0-4 NCAC) and Kenyon 1-5 (0-3 NCAC), who each have one win on the season. Both teams have struggled to keep their losses competitive, but they hope to make the most of this final month stretch and go into the offseason with some optimism.

It would take a miracle for Wooster 2-4 (1-3 NCAC) to win the conference, as they would need DePauw and Wittenberg to lose out, Wabash to lose all but one game, and Ohio Wesleyan and Denison to lose twice, a very unlikely scenario.

Ohio Wesleyan 4-3 (3-2 NCAC) and Denison 4-3 (3-2 NCAC) are both still alive in the conference race, but need some chaos for a chance to win. Ohio Wesleyan and Denison are evenly matched, experiencing encouraging wins and crushing losses. The only chance these two teams

stand is if they win out, and every team ahead of them loses all of their remaining games. If this unlikely scenario were to occur, the fight for the conference championship would be decided by these two, as they face each other in the last week of regular season play.

The three teams that have the best chance of winning are Wabash 4-2 (3-1 NCAC), Wittenberg 5-1 (4-0 NCAC), and DePauw 7-0 (5-0 NCAC).

Wabash must win out in their last four games, and with one loss, they have a small disadvantage in comparison to the top two teams, but a win against both would have them tied in records with a head-to-head advantage. If this happens, they’ll be in the driver’s seat for the conference crown.

The two teams atop the conference right now are Wittenberg and DePauw, both who are in control of their destiny. Wittenberg finds itself in a unique situation, sitting with one loss against nationally-ranked Alma College, leaving them undefeated in conference play.

DePauw remains perfect with no losses on the season, and the reigning NCAC champions are looking to defend their crown once again. They’re potentially looking ahead to their season finale at Wabash for the Monon Bell Game, however they shouldn’t look ahead just yet, as they travel to Wittenberg this Saturday to battle for the top spot in the conference.

There are certainly teams who are out of reach at this point, but the race to the finish is far from over, and chaos could arise to shape an exciting final month of NCAC football.



Donovan Snyder '24 breaks a tackle against the College of Wooster on October 7, 2023, on Frank Navarro Field at Little Giant Stadium.