

129TH MONON BELL CLASSIC SPECIAL ISSUE

Coach Morel shares his game-winning trick plays

SEE PAGE 11

Staff editorial: Scarlet and gold

SEE PAGE 9 COURTESY OF COMMUNICATION AND MARKETING



In many classic issues of The Bachelor, stemming back to the 1930s and 40s, every issue previewing the Wabash-DePauw football game was titled "Beat DePauw" or "Smash DePauw."

#### Safety and security at the forefront of **Bell Week**



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKET

Double gates on the sideline and extra security were in place at the 128th Monon Bell Classic at DePauw University on Saturday November 12, 2022.

SAM BENEDICT '25 | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF • The Monon Bell football game is always the highest-attended game of the year for both Wabash College and Depauw University. Ensuring that students, alumni and others have a fun, but safe, experience is paramount.

smart," said Wabash's Director of Safety and Security Buck Waddell. "We don't want anybody to get hurt. We want to have a great celebration when we win the Bell back. Be smart during the game, and after the game when we win."

Historically, Bell Week has created situations on both campuses that affect the experience of spectators and students. From Bell heists to hostile on-field moments and even tailgates, this week induces the most headaches for safety and security officers. This event is the largest of the year in Crawfordsville.

"We have seating for 8,000 people in the stadium, but we probably have another five or 6,000 that show up to tailgate and party and enjoy the festivities," said Waddell. "We know it's a major college rivalry.'

Last year, DePauw students and alumni rushed the field as Wabash players, coaches and administrators were still on the field. Tensions ran high, but nothing problematic happened at the time.

"The 'rushing the field too quickly' was because [DePauw] had a horrible security force," said Waddell. "They did not have a law enforcement presence. The guys who were there were a lot of teenagers and younger kids. Working as security is not the same as the law enforcement officers that we will have here. This is not the first time that we've used law enforcement officers. They're well trained, they're well disciplined and their job is not only to protect both teams on the field, but really to protect our fans in the stands from hurting themselves

or hurting others because

people do get excited and

exuberant and might have a little bit too much to drink. They're here to protect all of us, but they're not here to handcuff people and lead them out. That is not their

In the case of a Wabash win, being cognizant of DePauw and allowing their staff to get off the field before rushing the field has been emphasized to the student body. However, this shouldn't deter students from enjoying all that the Bell Game has to offer.

"As a player myself, I love seeing the students getting rowdy," said Student Body President Cole Bergman '24. "It's Bell Week, and we all want to have fun and cheer on the team. I encourage students to have fun responsibly. The last thing we want is for people to get injured or kicked out of the stadium."

Bell Week leads to antics between the two schools, and this year was no different. Here at Wabash, students are guarding important areas on campus including the Chapel, the Senior Bench, and the Wabash College sign on the perimeter of campus.

vigilant," Waddell. "I've said this all year; make sure that your residence hall doors are shut and locked and that there are no rocks propped in the doors of the fraternity houses. If somebody is not going to the game, ask them if they'll walk through the house and pay attention. If people do see something, call us. We already have a normal person working on Saturday and we're going to have six more people supplementing our staff at the game. People just have to be vigilant and guys around here understand that. If it looks out of place, then something's going on."

While being alert for safety and security concerns is important, students shouldn't lose sight of the greater theme of this

"Make sure to show out, cheer on the team and have

fun," said Bergman.

#### Wabash aims to reclaim Monon Bell in 129th matchup

Winner to advance to national playoffs



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Wabash defenders take down a Depauw offensive player in the 128th Monon Bell Classic at DePauw University on Saturday November 12, 2022.

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR • It's all or nothing for the Little Giants as they take on the DePauw Tigers in the 129th Monon Bell Classic on Saturday, November 11. They get one shot at accomplishing everything they set out to do this season. In the upcoming iteration of one of college football's most historic matchups, Wabash can beat DePauw, bring home the Monon Bell and conquer the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC)

Last year's Bell Game ended in a heartbreaking 49-14 loss down south in Blackstock Stadium. In a game that saw an unstoppable-looking Wabash offense grind to a sudden stop in the snowy conditions, the Tigers claimed the Bell and first place in the conference. This season, Head Football Coach Don Morel and his team set out to flip the script and win back everything they lost — the game, the Bell and the conference crown.

The Scarlet and White are ranked second in the conference

with a 7-2 (6-1 NCAC) record. Ahead of them are the Tigers whose undefeated 9-0 (7-0 NCAC) record is the best in the NCAC. A win in the Bell Game would even the conference records at 7-1 each and give the Little Giants the edge in the head-to-head matchups, which is the first tiebreaker. A loss would send it all the other way.

While this Little Giant team enters the game with hopes of success, the road to this point hasn't been easy. A competitive first half against DI opponent Butler University made the eventual 21-47 loss an even harder pill to swallow. Then in their fourth conference game the Wabash team were upset by fourth-place Denison University, who scored late in the fourth quarter to establish a winning 28-24 lead.

But as difficult as their lows have been, their highs have made it all worth it. Their first game of the season, the Little Giants seized a victory over allmale rival Hampden-Sydney College with last-minute touchdown and a trick play on the two-point conversion that sealed the win.

A runaway 21-point first quarter against then thirdranked Wittenberg in a mustwin game locked the Little Giants into second place, heading into the final two weeks of the regular season.

"I'm really proud of our team. We've had a pretty rugged path to get here. And we're right where we want to be," said Morel.

In their last outing, the Little Giants cruised past Hiram College 52-13 in their final away game of the conference season. The team rang up 604 yards of total offense, while holding Hiram to 289. Quarterback Liam Thompson '24 connected for 19 passes on 21 attempts for three touchdowns and 354 passing yards. Backup running back Xavier Tyler '26 led the Little Giants in rushing with 122 yards on 23

**Continued page 2** 

#### David Weglarz '04 continues to contribute to the Monon Bell game

JAKE WEBER '25 | STAFF WRITER • Wabash College prides itself on producing successful careers for all its graduates, especially when those opportunities break the "traditional" career paths of our world. This was especially true for David Weglarz '04, whose career path has not followed any mold set before him. Weglarz may have been an English major in his time at Wabash, but that certainly has not stopped him from pursuing an award-winning career producing craft spirits with his Saint Louis-based distillery, Still 630

Weglarz began his post-Wabash experiences as a whitewater rafting guide in the Smoky Mountains. Following half a year of living in a tent rafting every day, Weglarz was looking for something with more stability. He left the Smokies for Chicago and began working as

tender by night, trying to make

ends meet," said Weglarz. "It

was the hardest time of my life,

a futures trader. "I was working as a trader by day and a bouncer and bar-



Still 630 in St. Louis, Missouri.

but it was very formative." Weglarz credits his time as a

student-athlete on the football team for helping him to build the resolve to make his career "Making those 6 a.m. work-

outs at Wabash gave me the confidence to realize I can do whatever I set my mind to."

While earning six figures and enjoying his job as a futures trader, Weglarz felt unfulfilled

with this career path. He want-

ed to make an impact and con-

tribute to other people's lives,

and wanted to make something to accomplish this goal. "I am the hero of this jour-

ney; I can make it whatever I

While in the midst of the economic recession of 2008, Weglarz took notice of the rise in popularity surrounding craft breweries. On June 11, 2011, he founded StilL 630 in St. Louis, Missouri, with the idea that if craft brews are so popular, craft spirits can be too.

Continued page 7

#### **Broadcasting** the Monon **Bell Classic**

**DEREK MCDONALD '27** STAFF WRITER • The Monon Bell Classic is one of the biggest events of the Wabash school year, with its famously exciting atmosphere that comes with such an ancient rivalry. It is no wonder that thousands desire to witness and be a part of this event, a grudge match unlike anything else. With increasing technology and the ability to broaden the game's reach through broadcasting, it is also no wonder Wabash prioritizes televising the atmosphere of the Bell Game to as many people as possible.

Since the early days of mass-broadcasted television, the streaming of the Bell Game was right there with it. ABC network debuted the first broadcast of the Bell Game in 1977.

"In the early 2000s, Mark Cuban's company, HDNet, would be the first cable company to broadcast the Bell Game in high definition," said Athletics and Campus Wellness Communications Director Brent Harris.

High definition broadcasting of sporting events was rare during this time. While Division I schools were the first to get covered in high definition, The Monon Bell Game would be the first Division III game to be broadcasted in high definition. The excitement and atmosphere of the long standing rivalry would stand to be a prominent factor in the ability to broadcast the game, espe-

"Mark [Cuban], being an Indiana University graduate, knew about the Bell Game and was adamant on covering it," said Harris.

cially in the early stages.

Mark Cuban's insistence would create a somewhat long-standing relation with HDNet, now known as AccessTV, until it would focus more on radio. Following this, ISC Sports Network would take over the broadcasting and streaming in 2021, serving as the Bell Game's host to the present day.

With modern streaming being easily accessible, people all over the world tune in to watch the rivalry unfold.

"We have alumni that we hear from regularly in Sweden and other parts of Europe that tune into the stream of the Bell Game," said Harris.

ISC sports network streams the game to a number of social media outlets, as well as the official Wabash sports page. On average, the livestream 2,000-3,000 viewers, more than double the average of other Division III sporting events.

**Continued page 7** VOLUME 115 • ISSUE 35

**129TH MONON BELL CLASSIC** 

#### Wabash aims to reclaim Bell cont'd



Donovan Snyder '24 gets past the defense in the Little Giants' game against The College of Wooster on October 7, 2023 at Little Giant Stadium.

During the game, wide receiver Cooper Sullivan '24 set the Wabash record for career receiving yards, surpassing Mike Funk '89. Now in his fourth season, Sullivan has accumulated 2,875 career receiving yards.

"Cooper Sullivan's work ethic has set a standard for all wide receivers for the next 15 years," said Morel. "His whole body of work is just the reflection of the work ethic he's had. And I would say for every catch he has, he probably ran that route 150 times."

The enemy Tigers enter the Bell Game after a Week 10 bye. They're every bit as good as they were last season, and have handily defeated almost everyone in their path so far. The toughest matchup they've seen this season came in their matchup against Wittenberg, where they had to recover from an early deficit in a game that took them into overtime. Their conference-best defense. which has given up only nine touchdowns to conference teams and hard-hitting run game make them a consistent force that can smother weak offense and shatter unprepared defenses.

To bring home the Bell, Coach Morel says his team will need to play a consistent well-rounded game on offense, defense and special teams.

"We've lost two games this year to Denison and Butler," said Morel. "We embrace failure at this place. And I am hoping what we learned in those two games, in all three phases, are going to help us beat DePauw on Saturday. DePauw is a very good team. There's no hiding that. Defensively, they look like the '85 Bears. So we're going to have to play great offense, defense and special teams to have a chance to beat these guys."

The Wabash team returns the best offense in the NCAC against conference opponents. Their ability to move the ball on the ground and through the air has them entering this game with a real possibility of breaking through the tough Dannie defense.

Between Donovan Snyder '24 and Cade Campbell '24, the Little Giants' running game is a force to reckoned with, averaging 5.6 yards per carry and 227.7 total rushing yards a game. They'll be asked to stack up against the Tigers's defensive line that only allows an average of 1.7 yards per carry. This will be one of the matchups that determines whether this game turns into a hardnosed ground battle or a high-flying contest between the passing game and the Tiger's aerial defense.

Liam Thompson at quarterback is at the heart of the offense with his passing and scrambling ability. He leads the conference by a wide margin in attempts and completions. His conference-leading 70.6 completion percentage is five percentage points better than DePauw quarterback Nathan McCahill. He is second in the NCAC in passing touchdowns. But this is only because he is second in rushing touchdowns with 10 on the season, making his scrambling one of the best goal line maneuvers of any conference team. His offense leads the conference in first downs and converts at an impressive 57.1% on third down.

At wide receiver, Wabash has two historically great players on the team. All-time leader in receiving yards Cooper Sullivan is Top-10 in the NCAC across most receiving categories, despite sitting out two games earlier in the season. Derek Allen, Jr. '24 leads the conference in receiving yards this season and is first in yards per game, second in receiving touchdowns and third in total receptions. At tight end, Penn Stoller '24 is eighth in receiving touchdowns in the conference and has been utilized to great effect against several

good teams. Altogether the electric

passing game of Wabash should turn out to be the key that gets them past the Tiger's defense and into the endzone. And while DePauw has excellent third-ranked pass coverage, Thompson and Co. have been able to to score against teams that do it better.

Between Thompson and the Tigers D-line is Wabash's excellent offensive line. Led by veteran center Joe Mullin '24, the Scarlet and White Wall has been known to give Thompson an absurd amount of time to survey the field and pick out a target. This will be the toughest conference opponent they face this season.

"We've lost two games this year to Denison and Butler. We embrace failure at this place. And I am hoping what we learned in those two games."

- Coach Morel

"[DePauw] knows what's coming offensively," Morel said. "It's easy. Liam Thompson's been here for years. Cooper Sullivan's been here for years. Penn Stoller's been here for years. Derek Allen has been here for years. Donovan Snyder and Cade Campbell have been here for years. Joe Mullin and his crew have been here for three or four years. We've done it a bunch."

Gone are the days of Wabash's defense ranking near the bottom of the NCAC. Now second-best in the conference Wabash has allowed only 20 touchdowns to NCAC opponents, nine of those coming in the third and fourth quarters of blowout wins.

The run defense, which was second only to DePauw against conference opponents, gives up only 2.6 yards per carry. The team, which has suffered injuries all season, will return in full health for the first time in weeks. If they can keep DePauw from gaining first downs and chewing up the clock on the ground, the Wabash offense will have more opportunities to find the endzone. DePauw is third in third-down conversions.

The Little Giants are slightly behind against the pass, at fourth in the NCAC. However, they surrender only one more yard per game than the DePauw defense. What gets them is the average yield of a completion, which is 6.7 yards against NCAC opponents. This will be a crucial side of the game for Wabash, who will need to play at their best to avoid giving up the long play.

The Wabash defense is middleof-the-road in sacks and interceptions. Steven Thomas '24 is fourth in the conference in sacks and could break through for some big plays in the game. They also have a history of forcing fumbles and getting recoveries in big moments as they did to start the winning drive against Hampden-Sydney or in the third quarter against Denison and in the first quarter onslaught against Wittenberg.

"We are always expecting big plays to positively affect the game," said Defensive Coordinator Mike Ridings. "Being great at tackling and creating takeaways will help us win this game. DePauw's offense has been efficient with protecting the ball. We need to be aggressive at creating takeaways."

On special teams, Wabash has a lot to talk about. Brody Rucker '26 leads the conference in field goals, going 7-10 on the season with his three misses having come early, before a month-long streak where he's been 5-5 in five games. The team gives up on 1.3 yards per return on punts, something that will be tested by the Tigers, who are the best punt return team in the conference by a wide margin, compared to teams who tend to go for extra yards rather than signal fair catch.

This Wabash team lives on momentum. When the pendulum swings their way, the Little Giants have a propensity to force turnovers and burn defenses to the ground, as they did in the first quarter against Wittenberg.

This momentum might be the Little Giants' greatest weapon in this game. They have experience playing great teams in big games already. And against some of the better teams they've faced all season, momentum has made them look like an unstoppable team for entire quarters. They scored 14 points and got multiple stops against a Division I school in the second quarter against Butler in front of a massive crowd. They've played in more competitive games than DePauw has.

"The reason for scheduling Butler was to get us ready for the Bell Game," said Morel. "So I think that has gotten our team acclimated to that environment. We are going to be ready on Saturday."

While DePauw has been running up the scores on average teams and padding their record, they've only had the chance to play one close game all season. That came against Wittenberg, when the Wittenberg team had the game all but won until they choked, just as they did against Wahash

Wabash, on the other hand, has been focused on one thing all season. They've been in close games against teams, and when they have a big enough lead, they send in the reserves. They go to win against tough competition, not to destroy bad teams. There's no doubt the Tigers will be ready to play on Saturday. They expect to show up in the biggest game of the year. But when it comes to experience, Wabash has the edge.

The 129th Monon Bell Game will begin at 1:07 p.m. at Little Giant Stadium. Everything rests on this game, between the two best teams in the conference battling it out for the Bell and the NCAC championship.



Wabash football celerates their win against Oberlin College on September 23, 2023 at little Giant Stadium.

Wabash

Hampden-Sydney College
29-28 W
9/9
Week 2 BYE

Butler University
21-47

9/23
Oberlin College
59-6

W

9/16

Ohio Wesleyan University
31-13
W

10/7
The College of Wooster
45-35
W
10/14

24-28 L 10/21 Kenyon College

**Denison University** 

67-18 W 10/28 Wittenberg University

52-20 **W** 11/4 Hiram College

52-13 W

DePauw 9-0 (7-0 NCAC)

9/2 Rose-Hulman Inst. of Technology 33-21 **Anderon University** 68-19 9/16 Hiram College 49-0 Ohio Wesleyan University 28 - 79/30 **Oberlin College** 66-7 W 10/7 **Denison University** 17-6 10/14 The College of Wooster 53-7 10/21 Wittenberg University 41-35 OT

# McRoberts: Scouting the Dannies

10/28

58-7

11/4

Kenyon College

Week 10 BYE



COURTESY OF DEPAUW ATHLETICS
nningback in DePauw's game

Nathan McCahill checks down a pass to his runningback in DePauw's game against Anderson University on Septmeber 9, 2023 in Greencastle.

NOAH MCROBERTS '25 SPORTS WRITER • As the battle between the forces of good and evil approach, a look at the strengths and weaknesses of the enemy team is warranted. On the season, DePauw has forced 13 INTs and 10 fumble recoveries on 28 total sacks, numbers indicative of hardnosed defense. For comparison, Little Giants defenders have compiled 6, 5 and 19 respectively. In the Bell Game a year ago, Liam was constantly harassed, lacking open receivers, which influenced his 2 INTs and 1 team fumble.

The DePauw defenders looking to affect Liam's play this year are a talented, albeit dim, bunch. Linemen duo #95 Luke Nolan and #52 Ethan Lowry have combined for 12.5 sacks, 19.5 tackles for a loss, and 3 fumble recoveries, creating mayhem for opposing offenses, including our very own a year ago, were Lowry had three tackles for a loss in addition to two sacks. Creating further havoc for offensive coordinators, the Dannies claim a formidable linebacking corps. Leading the team in tackles is #8 Luke Marsh, who has posted 54 total tackles on the season, while also accumulating nine tackles and a fumble recovery against Bash this time last year. His fellow inside linebacker, #9 Jonathan Bruder, carries the second highest tackle number, 43, into the contest. On the outside stand #21 Jake Comer and #43 Brevon Gude, who have combined for 10.5 tackles for a loss and 4 sacks, and in last year's contest they both claimed pick-sixes, totaling 129 return yards. If you make it past the front seven, you have to face an established DB room that claims three upperclassman, #24 Ryland Irvin, #6 Cortez Stoudemire, and #3 Matthew Coons, who all have 3 INTs on the season. All told, an experienced, upperclassman heavy defense, one that returns all 11 starters from last year, has been a force to reckon with all season.

force to reckon with all season.
On the other side of the ball, stands a conservative and consistent offense that amounts 191.1 rushing yards per game and 272.33 passing yards a contest, with 22 and 30 TDs respectively. Their primary strong suit is that of

taking care of the ball, as they have

only six turnovers over the course of the season. The catalyst for such impressive stats is their imposing O-line, containing cornerstone seniors, #50 Blake Kaufman and #75 Adam Ammons. Following their sturdy frontline #20 Gus Baumgartner has plodded along at a healthy 5.7 yards per attempt to the tune of nine TDs. The facilitator for the offense is #16 Nathan McCahill, who sports a 27-4 TD-INT ratio, amassing 248 yards per game. The vast majority of those yards and scores are funneled through the WR trio of #84 Robby Ballentine #14 Jaylon Smith, and #13 Gabe Quigley, who each have accounted for at least 35 catches, 550 yards and six TDs a piece, with Smith and Ballentine topping the team in those categories.

All told, the Dannies seem to have put together a somewhat competent group of football players from their delinquent ranks. One team, the other, almost as ugly, Tigers of Wittenberg, almost managed an upset victory when DePauw traveled to Springfield. What Wittenberg shows us is that a major factor is in the turnover battle. Fielding an impressive defense in their own right, Wittenberg forced two turnovers to their own one-yard line, which allowed them to maintain an even time of possession and complete scoring drives. When they had the ball, they were wise to take to the air, throwing for 345 yards in the contest in a game where they averaged a meagre 2.6 yards per carry on 29 run plays. These are key indicators for Wabash success on Saturday. In frigid weather in enemy territory, the Little Giants vertical attack was slowed to a halt and, lacking an established run game, quickly lost momentum. And that is the key concept for the Wabash is momentum. Avoiding turnovers and making big plays facilitate Wabash victories, as seen in the stomping of the Ohioan Tigers a few weeks ago. If Wabash strikes early, with the help of clever play calling and a raucous home crowd, while minimizing mojo-deflating mistakes, the Little Giants can crack through the ruffians hailing from Greencastle and send them back home empty handed.

# Dueling predictions: 129th Monon Bell Classic

#### The Bachelor

ETHAN WALLACE '25 | SPORTS EDITOR •

When Wabash and DePauw enter the Monon Bell Game as the top two teams in the conference, predicting the outcome is like looking for a needle in a haystack of records, stats and head-to-head comparisons.

Unlike last year, where Wabash was the offensive favorite and DePauw was the defensive favorite, the 129th Monon Bell Classic will see two teams that are much more balanced.

Statistically these two teams look basically even. Against North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) opponents, the Wabash offense has slightly outperformed its DePauw counterpart. The Little Giants have accumulated a total of 330 points on 44 touchdowns and eight field goals against NCAC teams. The Tigers total 312 points from 42 touchdowns and five field goals. Wabash leads the NCAC in both rushing and passing totals against the conference. The DePauw offense has been the secondbest in the conference with a passing game that came just over 100 yards short of the Wabash total.

On the defensive front, DePauw looks to have a clear statistical advantage, as they have only allowed nine touchdowns to NCAC teams. At first, Wabash seems to have fared much worse, giving 20 touchdowns to conference opponents. However, a deeper look shows that nine of the touchdowns the Little Giants' defense allowed have come in the third and fourth quarters of uncontested

There's also the matter of experience and development that will play a part in the contest. The DePauw team will enter the 129th Monon Bell Game with the conference-best record of 9-0 (7-0 NCAC). And, apart from their overtime win against Wittenberg, they haven't seen many teams who can keep close for four quarters.

The Tigers' team is still built around a strong defensive core that takes pressure off their offense, while sporting one of the best run games in the conference. something the Little Giants struggled to contain last year.

The Little Giants hold a 8-2 (7-1 NCAC) record that puts them in second-place entering the contest. Their non-conference schedule was arguably stronger than DePauw's, as they lost to Butler University in their second game of the year. Their only NCAC loss came to Denison University, who were conference contenders early in the season.

Since last year, Wabash's defense

has developed into one of the best in the NCAC and has been able to shut down some impressive rushing teams. Their veteran offense returns as the top scoring offense in the conference. But instead of mainly relying on the arm of Liam Thompson '24 to get them into the endzone, they now have a balanced offense that can break defense on the ground or in the air.

While the better record definitely helps the Tigers' case for being the favorite to win, the Little Giants have more experience in playing close games this season and may be more prepared to play for such high stakes.

Probably the best point of comparison for these two teams is their respective matchups against Wittenberg. This year, DePauw is a consistent steady offense paired with their near-impenetrable defense that can be expected to put pressure on for all four quarters. This is exactly what they did against Wittenberg, who jumped out to an early lead, only to have the DePauw team work their way back and win 41-35 in

Wabash also beat Wittenberg, but in a completely different manner. The Little Giants, who, when the momentum swings their way, have shown the ability to quickly stack up points against any opponent. The Wabash team, firing on all cylinders, coordinated offense and defense to score 24 first-quarter points against Wittenberg on their way to a 52-20 blowout win.

The difference between consistency and explosiveness will almost certainly be what determines the outcome of the game and the winner of the conference. If DePauw can keep Wabash from getting too much at once, and use their consistency to out-last the Wabash momentum, they will have a good chance of winning.

However, in big games, where regular order is easily shaken, the ability to leverage momentum into quick points can make all the difference. On top of their experience in high-pressure situations, Wabash will have the impossibleto-ignore home field advantage at Little Giant Stadium. A big play early-on for the team could easily result in the Little Giants seizing the reins of this game.

**PREDICTION:** Wabash: 31 DePauw: 28

#### The DePauw

**ROBERT PASSARELLI | SPORTS WRITER •** 

On Saturday, Nov. 11th, the 129th rendition of the Monon Bell Classic will be played at Wabash College. The storied rivalry has showcased some of the best talent Division Three has to offer, and this year is no exception.

DePauw, entering the game ranked 23rd in the country (AFCA), will travel north to face unranked Wabash. The Tigers entered the season as the preseason favorite to win the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) after reigning supreme the previous two seasons. Six of the possible nine first-place votes went to the Tigers, and this prediction is coming to fruition. DePauw has steamrolled all conference opponents thus far with the exception of Wittenberg, in which the Tigers won by 6 in a tough conference game.

A 9-0 overall record including a 7-0 in-conference record is supported by the best statistical team in recent memory. With 45.89 average PPG, this explosive offense will likely see the end zone regularly, and the defense is holding opponents to a mere 12.11 PPG through nine games, and 240 YPG (13th in Div 3). Our Tigers lead the NCAC in both offensive and defensive efficiency.

The Little Giants enter the game with an overall record of 6-2 and a conference record of 5-1. With losses to Butler University and Wittenberg University<sup>1</sup>, they will likely provide a tough game. Wabash ranks second in offensive PPG and fourth in points allowed in the NCAC. The Little Giants' struggles stem from lackluster defensive play, allowing 24.38 PPG. Liam Thompson, the quarterback at the helm for the past few years, has turned the football over 7 times this season, forcing the Little Giants' defense to pay for the costly turnovers. However, he has had a quality season thus far, as he often does, making the defensive pressure DePauw gives him a point of

The team up north's offense is led by Thompson who leads the team in rushing yards and touchdowns as well as passing yards and touchdowns. While slowing him down is easier said than done, various supporting pieces like sophomore RB Xavier Tyler and senior RB Cade Campbell will be points of emphasis for the Tiger's defense. Also, senior WR Derek Allen Jr. has had a stellar season thus far, accumulating over 700 yards and 10 touchdowns

through 8 games.

The DePauw defense is led by 2022 NCAC Defensive Player of the Year, LB Brevon Gude '24, as well as junior LB's Jonathan Bruder '25 and Luke Marsh '25. While most of the pressure is on the secondary to shut off Wabash's weapons downfield, it will also be crucial for these guys to lock down the run game and Thompson's pocket.

Nathan McCahill '25 outshines many on the field, boasting numbers including 27 Total TDs and only 4 INTs. Putting the ball in his hands and giving him time to throw will be necessary for the Tigers as he can put the ball anywhere on the field. However, turnovers will absolutely be a factor as they are in any Monon Bell game. The team that commits the least turnovers will likely reign victorious. How can DePauw win? Simply play

the game they have been thus far. Do not let the aura of the Bell shape the narrative in favor of the Little Giants, as DePauw is the clear favorite for this game. They lead in every statistical category this season and have the talent to repeat the narrative of last year's game. DePauw comes in as the clear favorite, beats Wabash significantly and wins the conference.

As any rivalry should, this game will be close for much of the time. By half time the score could be close or even feature a Wabash lead. But I believe the Little Giants will not be able to keep up with the offensive horsepower and defensive prowess that DePauw has put on display week in and week out this season by the end of the game. DePauw will look to continue its dominance next Saturday while Wabash hopes to spoil the Tigers' perfect sea-

**PREDICTION:** DePauw: 35 Wabash: 17

**Editors Note:** 

<sup>1</sup>Wabash football's only loss in the NCAC was to Denison.

#### A reminder from the November 9, 2000 issue of The Bachelor

#### Forget Campus Divisions and Unify as Wabash

Adam Christensen

"Theft Threatens Wabash

Campus" "New Tensions Erupt in Irri-

tating Email fiasco" 'Is the Gentleman's Rule a Lost Tradition?"

These are just a few of the headlines that have been printed in The Bachelor in the last two months. These, and others like them, confront the issue of campus unity: a now seemingly foregone

ideal. Campus-wide theft, IMA vs IFC Chapels, and constant questioning of the Gentleman's Rule have many students on campus wondering where the Wabash brotherhood that they've heard so much about has gone. But, this is not the complete story.

Recent Bachelor headlines also

include "Wabash Gets the Halloween Spirit" and "Wally Wabash New Mascot." These headlines seem to show a Wabash that is in the process of coming back together. Wally can be viewed as an icon for the entire student body to asso-

ciate with the Wabash brotherhood, and the community service that required the cooperation of all of the campus living units was a great success. If one were to view Wabash from these headlines, he would see a campus that is striving to find itself as the century

This week, an article headline may sound something like "Wabash: Let's Win the Bell Off the Field." This weekend will be the test for our campus. If we can come together as one school, as one voice, for the Bell Game then maybe there is hope. Maybe there

is still something that we can cling

to as a campus. This is not to say that winning the Bell Game on or off the field will make all of these problems disappear. Winning a football game will not make petty thefts or campus break-ins cease nor will it keep bored and childish people from cranking out 20 !students emails a day. What it will do is, for at least a moment, show us how strong we could be if we only lived up to our rush brochures. If we were that close-knit group of young men who desire little more than knowledge, camaraderie, and the occasional

No campus can claim that its students get along all the time and agree about every issue. What Wabash does claim is a diverse group of young men who, through tolerance, intelligence, and gentlemanly actions form a 900-man bond that spans all other interest groups. We are all Wabash men.

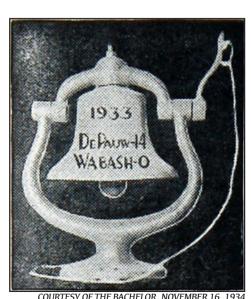
Free small drink when you

show your Wabash ID!

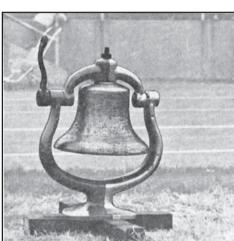
#### The Monon Bell through the years



COURTESY OF THE RAMSAY ARCHIVES



COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR, NOVEMBER 16, 1934



COURTESY OF THE BACHELOR, NOVEMBER 12, 197



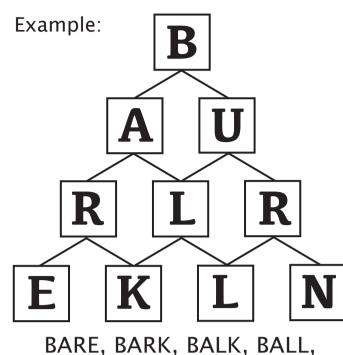


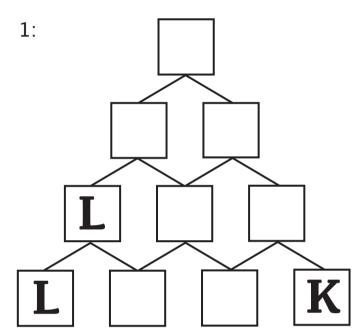
COURTESY OF THE RAMSAY ARCHIVES

Games by Logan Weilbaker '25

# **Word waterfall**

Place the letters given below each diagram into the squares to form eight four-letter words reading from top to bottom. The top letter is the first letter of all eight words, each letter in the second row is the second letter of four words and so on.



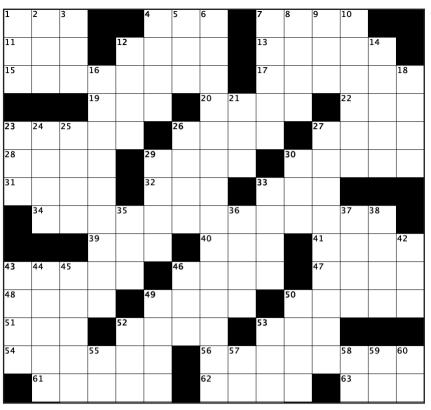


AEOOBRT

BULK, BULL, BURL, BURN

- 1 Celebratory emotion 4. Dash letters
- 7. Lenient, as on crime
- 11. Flabbergast 12. One with a character ark?
- 13. Puccini piece
- 15. Work at a university, perhaps
- 17. \*School on one side of a 34-Across-inspired rivalry with 54-Across, both in real life and visually in this puzzle
- 19. Fudge the facts
- 20. Dog command
- 22. One of many in a D&D set
- 23. Eye shade 26. She \_\_\_ (man cave equivalent)
- 27. "\_\_\_, \_\_\_" ("Listen!")
- 28. Agenda entry
- 29. Eponymous department store
- chain founder 30. Theater X-port?
- 31. Peeved, British style
- 32. Dentist's office sound 33. Kernel holder
- 34. \*Line that runs north-south, passing 17- and 54-Across both in real life and visually in this
- 39. Accessory for the Muppet Crazy Harry
- 40. Clock units: Abbr. 41. Came in horizontally
- 43. Pond scum

# 'I hear the train a-comin"



#### 46. "For the \_\_\_" (Indianapolis Colts tagline)

- 47. Buckle under pressure
- 48. Serum holder
- 49. Book that starts "In the beginning" 50. Cedes the Bell, so to speak
- 51. What a nationally-ranked alumni network may provide lots of
- 52. Net fabric
- 53. Unkempt hair 54. \*School on one side of a
- 34-Across-inspired rivalry with 17-Across, both in real life and visually in this puzzle
- 56. Adjective for peace around the holidays
- 61. Make \_\_\_ of
- 62. Amp, as a crowd
- 63. Cannon ammo at a sports game 64. Roald who created Willy Wonka
- 65. "\_\_\_ a Jolly Good Fellow"
- 66. Rare fall temp

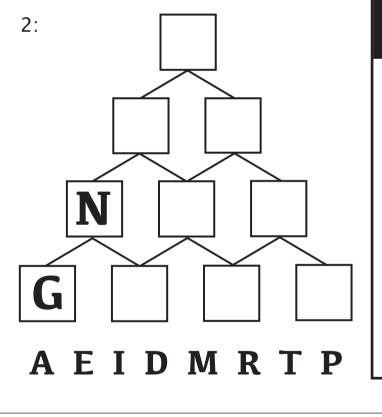
- 1. One full of "Hearts" or "Flies,"
- in the music world
- 2. Come up short
  - 3. "Indubitably"
  - 4. Greedy cry 5. \_\_\_-Man
  - 6. \*Visual representation of 34-Across
  - 7. Scattered, as seed
  - 8. Autumnal stone
  - 9. A 2 may stand for it: Abbr.
  - 10. Wall Street worker
  - 12. Do a bit of woodwork
  - 14. Indian, for example
  - 16. Illusory antagonist in "Spider-Man: Far From Home"
  - 18. Spider Man, e.g. 21. "Electric" fish
  - 23. What the "H" of H.M.S. may be
  - 24. DC Comics character with the ability to shrink to
  - microscopic size 25. Nothing 26. Use a glider
  - 27. Sign-reading site 29. Philosopher frequently
  - invoked by "The Good Place"
  - 30. Golfer's goal 33. "Who \_\_\_?'
  - 35. Extremely rare final football score
  - 36. Wrinkle-removing appliance
  - 38. Sport in which you compete high?
  - 42. \_\_\_ Moines
  - 43. Gung-ho

37. "Too bad"

- 44. Actors' tools
- 45. Fought for air
- 46. • - - • 49. "Who Will Save Your Soul"
- singer 50. Nothing, in tennis
- 52. Unappetizing cafeteria serving
- 53. Almanac illustrations 55. Santa \_\_\_ winds
- 57. Ogle
- 58. Degree in philosophy? 59. Zodiac beast
- 60. However



Scan for solution!



# The Mini

- Across
  1. "Ding, Ding" emitter
  5. "Hoosiers," e.g.

- 6. Mackey, for one7. Word before monologue o Mongolia 8. Quaint way to say "Sure!"

#### Down

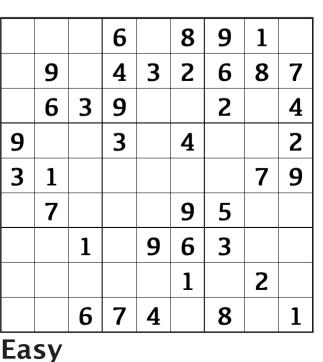
- 1. Carried, as a virus
- Sprint or high jump
   Yard markings, on a field
   Shakespearean king
   "You've got \_\_\_\_"

		1	2	3	4
r	5				
•	6				
	7				
	8				

# **Word waterfall answers**

(2) DINC, DINT, DIRT, DIRE, DART, DARE, DAME, DAMP (1) BELL, BELT, BEAT, BEAR, BOAT, BOAR, BOOK, BOOK

# Sudoku



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

3	3		3	3	1	
						9
					4	
3	0				4	
	0					
	7		2	7		8
	6	4				
2	5				9	
9				1		
	2	2 5 9	2 5 9	2 5 9	2     5       9     1	2     5     9       9     1

Complete the grid by entering one number in each square so that each row, column and square contains the numbers 1-9 only once.

# 'The Executive Branch'

Photo essay by Elijah Greene '25

Student leadership and governance has long been a hallmark of Wabash, with student-athletes being some of the College's best leaders. I wanted to capture the spirit of the student-athlete by shooting in the home of Wabash's student government, the Goodrich Room. Since it's Bell Week, it was only right that I bring three of football's best to the limelight. Liam Thompson. Derek Allen. Mark Caster. These three seniors enact the law, both in the classroom and on the field. They comprise Wabash football's "Executive Branch."















# Cousin Rick's Pick Three: Monon Bell Edition

RT HALL '24 | COLUMNIST •

Lines and odds provided by Wally, accurate as of now. Please gamble responsibly.

Last Week's Record: 1-2 Overall Record: 4-5

Liam Thompson (Anytime Touchdown Scorer) -140

Liam should need no explanation, but I was asked to provide one. Liam's 10 rushing touchdowns on the season is a higher mark than any DePauw running back has on the year. Naturally, the comparatively inconsistent Danny offense is anything but a safe bet. As a result, the third piece of your Monon Same Game Parlay should feature an Anytime Touchdown Scorer and I can see no better option than Liam.

DePauw ଉ Wabash O/U 55 (Over) -110

Recent history in this rivalry has yielded some high-scoring contests and this year's shouldn't prove too much different. To this point, each team is averaging in excess of 40 points per game. To fuel the fire, the forecast for Saturday currently calls for a dry and sunny high of 53 degrees. While I personally believe the Wabash defense has played well enough down the stretch to silence the Tiger offense, there's certainly enough offensive firepower on the Wabash side to justify the over.

DePauw බ Wabash at Even (Wabash ML) -100

Once again, we find ourselves in familiar territory; the two Indiana schools in an Ohio conference have run the table and meet each other fighting not only for the Monon Bell but a playoff berth. Some credit is due to the DePauw football team; a rivalry that appeared destined for its deathbed at least in terms of competitiveness during the 2010s has once again become competitive. Nevertheless, my compliments end here. While the bookmaker may be fooled, I am not. This pick should be regarded as the Lock of the Century. If you happen to feel the need, find you a willing Danny on Saturday and show him this article. While no sportsbook will likely allow you to gamble on Division III football, maybe some Danny will feel inclined to lose a straight bet to you.



vs.

# Wabash Club of Indianapolis



# Ramsay Archives, historians preserve Monon memories

**2 MONON BELL SPECIAL** 

#### **S**toried History of the Monon Bell Classic First Game Sets Stage for Rivalry

As the fourth quarter wore on, the Wabash offensive line began to control the game. With three minutes remaining in the game, the Little Giants faced a fourth down on the 1-yard line with the score tied, 0-0. They could smell the vic-

> Quarterback Stuart Smith called for the handoff to the half-back to hit the hole between the left guard and tackle. Smith called the cadence, took the snap and handed the ball to the Little Giant running back Red Varner. The hole opened as Varner took the ball into his arms. His

tory. It was a mere 36 inches away

took the ball into his arms. His eyes widened and his heart pounded as he saw the size of the hole. He could have casually walked through the hole like he was taking a walk in the park. However, Varner slipped and fell. The playing field was a com-plete disaster from the previous convergence which left II inches

now storm which left 10 inches of snow on the filed. Clean up crew tried to use scoop shovels, horses and hay wagons to clear the field in the subzero weather, but it only nade it worse. So had, that Varney lost his footing on the crucial play and the game ended in an 0-0 tie. It might not have been a huge

It might not have been a hugh deal if it were an ordinary game with little significance. But, it was no ordinary game. It was against DePauw, in front of 2,500 freezing fans in 1932—the first year that the two rivals played for the 350-pound bell, which the Monon Railroad donated for the traditional game

The Wabash-DePauw battle was already 30 years old in the 1920s when Wabas dominated the matchup with seven straight wins from '21-'27, including six sh

ned it up best:

on 231 by only 27 miles.

Varner slipped, and nobody won the Bell in its inaugural year. Yet, the storied history of the Monon Bell rivalry began that cold day in 1932. The rivalry, however, dates back to 1890 when the two dates back to 1890 when the two team met for the first time. DePauw won that game as well as DePauw won that game as well as the Monon Bell in 1933, as they became the first holders of the cov-eted Bell. While Wabash lost the first Bell game, the Little Giants hold an edge in the overall series, 48-47-9.

The Bell, painted half in Wa-bash scarlet and half in DePauw "Old gold," has changed hands 28 times since its introduction to the rivalry. Before 1932, the two football teams played for the simple prize of pride. This was enough to create an intense tradition, bitter re-sentment and indescribable emo-tions. The Bell stands as a symbol of these sentiments, and the game

of these sentiments, and the game has become more than a game. It is about two Division III schools playing in a game as if it were the Superbowl or perhaps for a national title. It is about athletes who play the game because they love it, not because they are going to make millions playing in the pros. It is about fans who care about the rivalry enough to brave the subfreezing temperatures to watch the first Monon Bell game. It is about the alumni who travel from the different corners of the world to watch the game. It is

"The depth of feeling is all the e remarkable when you conmore remarkable when you con-sider that this is NCAA Division III football. There are no athletic scholarships and no academic fascholarships and no academic favors for players. The teams practice about 7 1/2 hours a week (15 is the average for Division I schools), and players watch game films on their own time, not the coaches'. It is, in many ways, college football as the game was played a century aso." played a century ago." When Wabash met DePauw

When Wabash met DePauw
in 1890, the two teams wore moleskin uniforms. There were three
downs with five yards to a first
down, anybody could carry the
ball and the forward pass was obsolete. Since that time, things have
changed on the football field, but
the intense emotion and harred the intense emotion and hatred between Wabash and DePauw remains, and perhaps grows with valry west of the Alleghenies" will most likely be around as long as the game of football remains a part of the American society. The 105th same air of excitement, anxiety.

As the Monon Bell rings in beautiful harmony on the side-lines, everyone in Little Giant Sta-dium will feel the passion of the

on, and hatred that has cha cterized the grudge match for over



Price 10c

rivalry alive during wartime.



In the famous 1967 MudBowl, Wabash running back Wayne Monroe rushed for 143

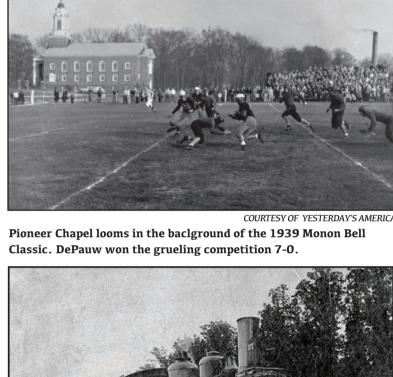
COURTESY OF THE RAMSAY ARCHIVES

. In 1998, *The Bachelor* issues a play-by-play and historical investigation of the 1932 Monon Bell Classic the first game in the series to feature the eponymous trophy. Included as well is the overall record from the series's inception.



COURTESY OF THE RAMSAY ARCHIVES

The 1951 Wabash football team poses with the Monon Bell after defending possession of the Bell at Blackstock Stadium, winning the game 42-12.



A flyer advertises the 1943 Monon Bell Classic. The patriotic flyer is a testament to the tenacity Wabash displayed during WWII, keeping the

DEPAUW vs. WABASH

BLACKSTOCK

STADIUM

Saturday, Oct. 16

1943

COURTESY OF YESTERDAY'S AMERICA

COURTESY OF HISTORIC INDIANAPOLIS

The Monon Railroad donated the Monon Bell to be used as a trophy in 1932 at the suggestion of DePauw alumnus Orien Fifer. Since the Bell's introduction in 1932, Wabash has led the series 44-40-6.



# Weglarz cont'd

# BEST CRAFT GIN IN THE U.S.

COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Cooper Jacks '24 poses with a bottle of Confluence American Gin, StilL 630's awardwinning craft spirit.Jacks interned with Weglarz '04 at StilL 630 in the summer of 2023, learning the ins and outs of the beverage industry.

Since its founding, StilL 630 has garnered the title of top awarded distillery in the State of Missouri, including Best Craft Gin from the American Distilling Institute for his Confluence

In a way, each spirit StilL630 releases allows Weglarz to tap into his creative side.

"The English major in me wants to write a story," said Weglarz. "I'm trying to add a little flavor to the historical lore of Monon Bell by putting out a bourbon every year."

Weglarz has been aging The Monon Bell Straight Bourbon Whiskey for the past four years to prepare for Saturday. Despite acknowledging the somewhat frivolous nature of the product, Weglarz still finds fulfillment in crafting such a personal spirit.

"It's whiskey, it doesn't matter," said Weglarz. "But the point is that some people attach some significance to it.'

The spirit was formed with a corn and rve base in coherence with other ingredients before going into the barrels. Similar to how no Bell Game is the same as any of its predecessors, the flavor profile of each year's spirit differs from the last. This is intentionally done by selecting different barrels each year, keeping a unique experience year-to-year. Weglarz's Monon Bell spirit is enjoyed by many in the Wabash community and beyond, because of the high-quality product that is released. The spirit often sells out in minutes, including both the 90 proof and cask strength variants.

Amongst all his awards and accomplishments, Weglarz is most proud of his contributions back to alma mater.

'One of the proudest things I've ever done is contribute to the Wabash internship program," said Weglarz.

StilL630 has hosted seven Wabash interns to date, with each leaving gaining valuable experience in the field of distilling and business operation. Most recently, Sphinx Club Presi-

dent Cooper Jacks '24 interned with Weglarz for two months this past summer. Jacks enjoyed the challenge presented by interning with a small business. Despite being far from Indiana, Jacks still felt at home with StilL630. "A lot of my hobbies ultimately boil

down to making something by hand, which made this internship feel more like a hobby rather than labor," said Jacks.

Both Weglarz and Jacks reflect on the summer experience as a positive

# **Broadcast cont'd**



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Brent Harris records player statistics at a basketball game in Chadwick Court. Harris' career in athletics coverage spans many different sports and responsibilities.

With people behind the scenes like Brent Harris and Broadcast Engineer Adam Phipps '10 helping with the technical side of streaming, people like long-time Wabash commentators Steve Hoffman '85 and Jim Amidon '87 provide interesting insight into the game.

"I show up at 12:30 and everything is set up," said Hoffman. "Brent Harris and Adam Phipps do an amazing job that allows me to focus on commentating."

Providing commentary over the broadcast isn't as easy as the smooth talking broadcaster makes it sound.

"What Jim Amidon does is really hard," said Hoffman. "He's the playby-play guy. He's got names, numbers and stats in front of him."

While Hoffman would humbly disagree, his job isn't easy either.

"I go into the game and think about

what the stories are," said Hoffman. "I like to talk to coaches and see what we are trying to do and what we are worried about. I focus on the backstories and other things going on with the players that need light brought to

Extending the reach of our beloved, eccentric rivalry takes a lot of preparation. Although it takes a lot of effort that may go unnoticed by the student body, the broadcasting work of this weekend is just as important for those that cannot make it to Crawfordsville as the Wabash men on the field and in the stands. The memories created this weekend will last a lifetime and all will appreciate being able to look back at this game through the efforts of the broadcasting team that make it all pos-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Steve Hoffman '85 has provided commentary for both Monon Bell telecasts and local radio broadcasts. His primary role for the College is Senior Major Gifts and Special Projects Officer, but he still finds time to give voice to Wabash athletics.

# This week at Wabash

## Saturday, Nov. 11

1 p.m. | Football vs. DePauw - Monon Bell Classic

## Monday, Nov. 13

12 p.m. | Humanities Colloquium

## Tuesday, Nov. 14

7 p.m. | Basketball vs. Anderson

## Wednesday, Nov. 15

7:30 p.m. | Wrestling vs. Albion

## Thursday, Nov. 16

11:15 a.m. | Chapel Talk

7:30 p.m. | Jazz Ensemble Concert

## Friday, Nov. 17

6:30 p.m. | Basketball vs. North Park Univ.



# 10% off entire order for **Wabash Students Wednesday & Saturday**

\*Must present Wabash Student ID at purchase





#### 'More than ever'

Photo essay by Will Duncan '27

# HOW GOOD DO YOU WANT TO BE?

The stands you've sat in, the scoreboard you've stared at, the end zones you've cheered and boo'd for, and the signs the players smack daily, mean nothing like they will this Saturday. These will be the locations of triumph and tragedy, glory or shame, and arguably the most important place you will be this year. Though the places are the same, the meaning is worth more than ever before.







# Different perspectives: Thoughts on Bell Week from a senior and a freshman



Saturday.

Thomas Joven '24
Reply to this opinion at tmjoven24@wabash.edu

As a senior, I have experienced the full spectrum of feelings that come with the Bell Game. From the elation of a comeback win to the despondency of last year's catastrophe, the last couple games have moved our hearts in opposite directions. Like any great rivalry, last year's outcome has little effect on our conviction that we will win on

Wabash men have this perennial belief in victory because this game is more than a football competition. It is the main clash between our Dear Old Wabash and the School Down South which represents all the evils we stand against. We maintain tradition. They have none. We raise the Bell high for all to see. They stash it away. We live by the Gentleman's Rule. They had to institute policies to ensure free speech.

Sometimes, though, we fail to act like gentlemen. Earlier this week, the Depauw Tiger was brutally vandalized. If that was, in fact, a Wabash

man, it left a true blemish on us. Acting like that stoops to their level. It enables them to call us barbaric and criminal, and unfortunately it makes them correct. "And spread the fame of her honored name wherever the breezes blow." Cowardly behavior does not honor Wabash's name. The Bell Game is not great because it allows us to be stupid. The Bell Game is great because it perfectly unifies Her loyal sons.

When we come together for Bell, nothing else matters. Not your house (if you have one) or your major. Not your class or your hometown. When the Bell Game arrives, the only thing that matters is that you are a Wabash man who sports the Scarlet and White. We all come together to will our team, our school, our Dear Old Wabash to victory.

We come together in a special way that cannot be replicated because of our brotherhood. This brotherhood is ever-present. Our brotherhood between every Wabash man stems from a commonality: each of us chose to attend this 800-person all-male school, and we have a love for all that it has given to us that those on the outside will never be able to truly understand. The Bell Game is the time that our brotherhood shines brightest. Let's unite as Wabash men, and let's win back the Bell.

Ding Ding.



Hutcheson Norris

Reply to this opinion at htnorris27@wabash.edu

As a freshman, Bell Week is a significant moment for rekindling school spirit and a sense of unity that brings the entire campus together in a shared brotherhood. In many ways, the spirit of Bell Week bears a resemblance to the excitement of Homecoming Week, with excitement pulsing through the student body as we all anticipate the beatdown that is to come on Saturday.

Nevertheless, there's a distinct difference in the atmosphere, as Bell Week seems to foster a more collective campus spirit, contrasting the heightened competitiveness among the fraternities during Homecoming Week. The infectious spirit of camaraderie is evident everywhere, whether through the distinctive Bell cuts or disparaging of Dannies on YikYak. This week stands out as a rare instance where the campus feels genuinely unified.

Having been present last year during Monon Bell Week, there is another level of excitement that currently

seems absent from the campus atmosphere due to the lack of the Bell's presence. The perpetual ringing of that 250-pound bell reverberating throughout the campus served as a constant reminder of what was to come on Saturday. This persistent chime not only creates a constant audible reminder but also fosters a buzz that permeates every corner of the campus, amplifying the collective anticipation and sense of unity building up to the grand event.

Despite this absence, Bell Week has still been thoroughly enjoyable. All the clamor, the sweet news on Monday morning, and seeing my fellow classmates with some awesome chops bring a renewed sense of joy and pride for this campus that can seem hard to find in the shadows of the final exams and papers looming large over all of us. So be sure to show up and show out and let's beat the hell out of D\*\*\*\*!

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.

#### Throwbacks or standard set?



Kai Warren '24
Reply to this opinion at kawarren24@ wabash.edu

he Monon Bell Classic should be treated as just any ordinary game. The Monon Bell game symbolizes the nearing end of the fall semester and is something each and every member of the Wabash community looks forward to every year. However, just because this is one of the biggest games of each season doesn't mean we should treat it any differently than other important days like Senior Day or Homecoming, especially when regarding the

Don't get me wrong; alternate jersey combinations are cool the majority of the time. But wouldn't you think that at a school like Wabash (let me remind you of which is founded, built and has prospered upon tradition while also having a few unique superstitions such as the Arch and Allen Center W), we would discourage alternate uniforms for one of our oldest traditions?

Let me put this into perspective for you: at the 123rd Monon Bell Classic at home (2016), Wabash debuted a new helmet decal for the game and lost 37-34 in the final seconds, snapping the longest consecutive Monon Bell Classic win streak of 7 straight years.

For the 126th Monon Bell Classic at De\*\*\*\* (2019), Wabash elected to keep the standard "W." on the helmet but wore white tops with red pants, eventually losing the bell to a final score of 17-13 on a last-second touchdown.

The Little Giants sported 70's inspired ice-white throwback uniforms (including a new helmet decal) during the 128th Monon Bell Classic at De\*\*\*\* in 2022, losing 49-14, one of the worst losses in the Bell Game in Wabash history.

What about the wins? Well, in 2017, Wabash wore an all-white uniform set, the standard uniform set for away games that season. The final score was 22-21, beating the Dannies and bringing the Bell back to its home.

Similarly, during the 125th Monon Bell Classic in 2019, Wabash sported the standard red-top and white-bottom set worn for all home games, resulting in a thrilling 24-17 victory for the Little Giants, ultimately keeping the Bell in Crawfordsville. In 2021, Wabash again wore the standard red-top and white-bottom set, the standard for home games; I think we all know how that turned out.

It's safe to draw the conclusion that based on speculation and superstition, alternating any aspect of the uniforms for this years game could be a bad decision, but what are superstitions good for anyway? I mean, after wearing the normal home uniforms for each Bell Game where the Dannies have their "best team in school history", only two years stick out. In 2010, the Dannies come into the game 8-1 while Wabash comes in 7-2: the final score, 47-0 in favor of the Little Giants.

In 2021, De\*\*\*\* (8-1) blows it and Wabash (7-2) wins 42-35. The Dannies are 9-0 and searching for another NCAC conference championship, if we play our cards (and wear our uniforms) right, we have a chance to make it 3-0 against the Dannies' "best teams in history."

## Staff editorial: Scarlet and Gold

 $\mathbf{I}^{ ext{f}}$  there's one thing Wabash men love to do, it's hate on DePauw. We call them Dannies, DePauL, FePauw (IYKYK), the School Down South, D\*\*\*\* and a barrage of names less fit for print. We at The Bachelor are no exception. Check out this week's Hi-Five section: we take shot after shot at them — done partially in jest, but shots nonetheless. Why? Mostly because that's the way it's always been done. Who knows what Wabash students did to pass the time before our rivalry officially began in 1890, but since then, it's fair to say Little Giants and Tigers alike devote lots of energy to inventing creative ways to hate on the other school. Out of all of Wabash's traditions. perhaps none define the culture of Wabash more than the rivalry with DePauw, represented by an annual clash of titans: the Monon Bell Classic.

Over the years, the hatred has fluctuated with the times and with the level of competition between the two schools. In the early 2000s, Wabash won the Bell Game every year for seven years straight. Before then, DePauw held the longest streak at five years from 1960 to 1964.

The rivalry hasn't always been pretty, either. From snowballs being thrown to fistfights over an alumni's pot, or even a Wabash fan streaking the field and ending up bruised and bloody in the DePauw stands, the Wabash-DePauw rivalry has had its fair share of heated moments. These are the parts of the rivalry that no one enjoys. When good-natured competition turns sour, both schools lose sight of the benefits that a strong rivalry fosters.

As much as we jest at them and they at us, Wabash needs

DePauw. No one on either campus wants to admit it, but a lot of what Coach Don Morel would call "Wabash magic" comes from our competition with the School Down South. Without them, Wabash wouldn't have the risk and reward of winning — not just the Bell Game, but pride and honor for the school, the student body and its alumni.

The two schools are inti-

mately linked at a level far deeper than mere sports rivalry. Despite notable differences in campus culture, at their hearts, Wabash and DePauw aren't terribly different. Both are small, liberal arts schools located in westcentral Indiana. Both schools draw from many of the same high schools. Most Wabash men have friends, family, even significant others that attend DePauw. Both institutions care deeply about their school pride and value the unique campus traditions built on them over centuries. Both schools rank highly in many of the academic and extracurricular categories that ranking institutions care about when it comes to rating colleges in the Midwest. Though it may be painful to hear, Wabash and DePauw are both excellent schools to attend.

The rivalry wouldn't be nearly as effective if the two schools weren't actively competitive. If we weren't nearly evenly-matched in a number of different fields, then the jokes at either school's expense wouldn't be worth making. Of course we want to win the Bell every year, but where's the fun in that? It's the pursuit that makes it worthwhile. The knowledge that sometimes they're good enough to beat us- and sometimes we're human enough to

lose — is what drives us, spurs us to continue on, to compete and to strive for greatness

and to strive for greatness.

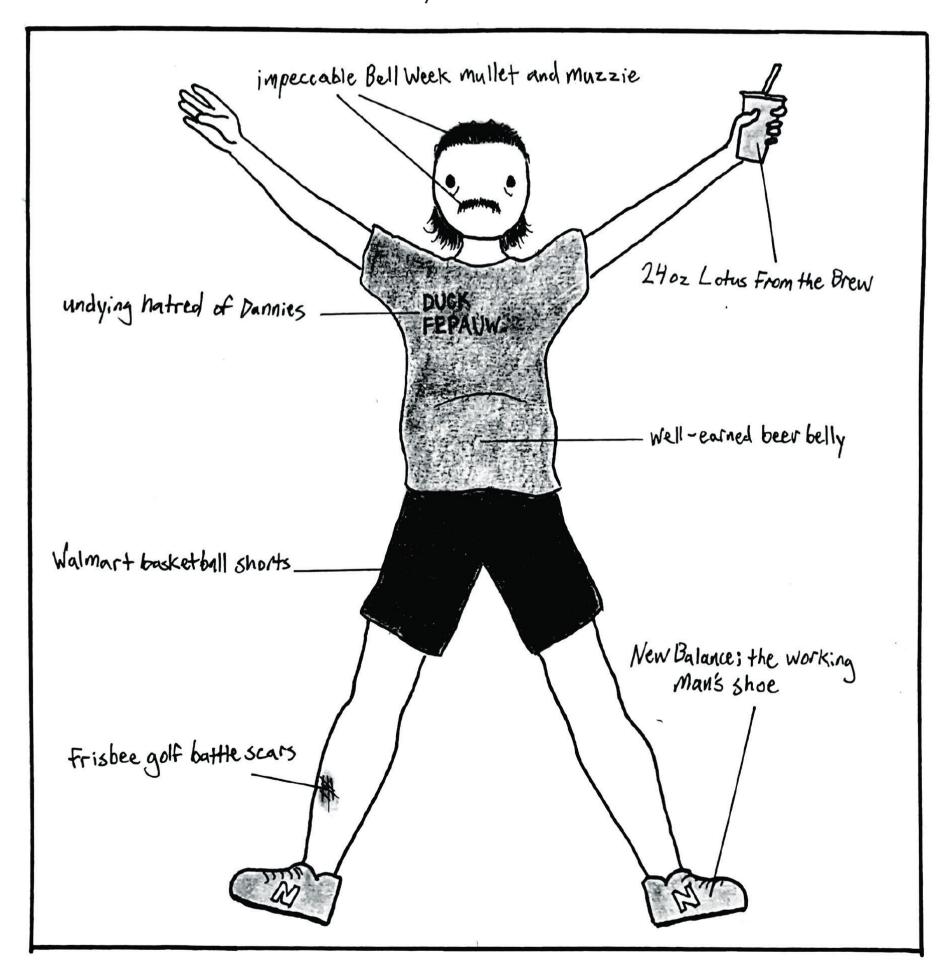
The cultural event that is the Monon Bell Classic has been a defining feature of Wabash campus life for over a century. In the week leading up to the Saturday matchup, the campus comes together to guard the Bell, get wacky haircuts, attend events solely for Bell Week and debate how much we will win by. Without this rivalry, we would be bereft of this rare week of total campus unity

And as divisive as a rivalry is by nature, Bell Week has historically had the ironic ability to bridge the gap between schools. Monons of years past have featured joint Glee Club concerts, jovial roast battles and competitive blood drives — all with the intention of giving Wabash and DePauw supporters the chance to oneup one another, while doing something beneficial for the community. We're able to engage in this banter only because it's based on a level of mutual respect.

Don't get us wrong, we don't expect the jokes and jabs to end any time soon. In fact, quite the opposite. When game day comes, we'll be chirping loud and proud in the student section, with the expectation — nay, the hope — that DePauw will answer our call with gusto. We at Wabash love the rivalry. We can only hope that DePauw continues to share in our enthusiasm. Only together can we preserve the spirit of the Monon Bell Classic

# 'Wally's Vitruvian Gentleman'

Cartoon by Preston Parker '26



#### **BACHELOR**

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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

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#### Out with the gold



Aidan Geleott '25 Reply to this opinion at amgeleot25@wabash.edu

'he leaves are falling, the days are growing shorter and the temperature outside is decreasing—but the enthusiasm on our beloved campus is rising in anticipation of perhaps its greatest tradition: the Monon Bell Classic. The 129th annual Bell Game will be taking place at the College's Little Giant Stadium for the first time since November of 2021, the nowinfamous face-off in which DePauw caved and blew a 21-0 lead. Heard of

Unlike most of you, I spent that day, my freshman year Bell Game, in a completely different mindset than the one I am enjoying this week: rooting for the School Down South. I attended DePauw my first year of college and transferred to Butler University for my second, then ended up here at Wabash this fall to begin my third year at yet another new school. I've done things a little unconventionally, but this has given me a unique perspective on many things college-related—most relevant to this week, the ways both Wabash and DePauw view and approach the Monon Bell.

As excited as I was to join the Wabash Brotherhood as a transfer student, I'd be lying if I said this transition didn't come with slight anxieties about my past affiliation with the "dark side" (well, the "gold side" if I'm being exact). I was quickly proven wrong upon arriving to campus in August. Brothers in my house, classes, and student organizations, as well as faculty and staff, have welcomed me with open arms into the Wabash community. As many new friends have put it, they're mostly just thrilled that I (finally) came to my senses and landed at the better of the two campuses. Third time's the charm and I'm happy to report that I've finally arrived at what I believe to be the perfect place for me.

I would argue that Wabash is, by design, the better of the two schools to spend Bell Week and the semester at large living at. Deeply rooted in tradition of all sorts, the College conditions its students early on to preserve

campus history through activities like guarding the bench and earning a 'W' at Chapel Sing. For these new students, the Bell Week feels like, in a sense, the ultimate initiation into the Brotherhood. Students have settled into their new homes and have established themselves in and out of the classroom and now they are given the opportunity to unite with the entirety of Wabash-student body, faculty and staff, campus workers, alumni, family and friends—as we root for Little Giant Football and support our school, which does so much for us. Although both Wabash's and

DePauw's student bodies rely on "trash talking" each other, I've found that the weeks preceding the Bell are, at Wabash, approached with a more positive, community-oriented frame of mind. Rather than focusing on the diminishing of DePauw's image, my Wabash brothers have remained, thus far, civil and have opted to keep things, for the most part, majorly "Pro-Wabash." This week serves as a celebration of our historic brotherhood and the long-lasting relationships cultivated amongst ourselves and, of course, with what I would call our "friendly opponent," DePauw.

DePauw has spent the past few weeks planning spirit days that, in my opinion, are reminiscent of a high school's Homecoming week. In addition to this, the Tigers have spent a week now facing internet difficulties. Students have been left without Wi-Fi and feel that they've been given insufficient guidance on campus procedures for dealing with such a misfortune. Something tells me that, if a similar situation were to happen on our campus, the Little Giants would have already fixed this.

In all seriousness, I have a cousin that graduated from Wabash, and I have a cousin that graduated from DePauw. Some of my closest friends are DePauw Tigers and are excitedly awaiting yet another face-off. I just wish for continued civility and goodold-fashioned fun between our two schools as we approach what is certain to be one of the year's best days: Bell Day. When all is said and done, Wabash and DePauw are two of the Midwest's most highly ranked liberal arts institutions. I urge you all to celebrate this fact and to remember some of the greatest facets of this week: connection, collaboration and the setting aside of differences. But, also remember... Wabash Always Fights! Let's make it a week to remember.

## **HI-FIVES**

FIVE THINGS WORTHY OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

#### SHOOT FOR THE STARS

Lo-Five to DePauw for setting the ambitious goal of raising \$100,000 in their 11-day "Day of Giving" (a quarter of what they raised last year). Additional Lo-Five for extending the deadline another week after receiving only \$50K from 200 donors in the first six days.

#### **ARE YOU NOW?**

Hi-Five to @dpucheerleading on Instagram for throwing Wabash students the alley-oop of the century. You can't write jokes that good... or apparently you can.

#### ALL THE NEWS THAT'S **UNFIT TO PRINT**

Lo-Five to The DePauw (the newspaper, not the daycare) for generally subpar journalism, publishing "most Wednesdays of the school year." As we sit in the office writing this Hi-Five at four in the morning, we hope you can at least respect our consistency.

#### "THEY EGGED OUR THING!"

Lo-Five to the Dannies for forgetting their mascot's name upon finding it vandalized by unknown assailants. In their defense, if our mascot's name was Tyler, we'd want to forget it too. #WallyForever

#### ONE MORE, JUST 'CAUSE

Lo-Five to DePauw.

#### The beauty of Bell Chapel



Chris Zimmerman '25

Reply to this opinion at cdzimmer25@wabash.edu

here are many moments throughout a given year for a Wabash student to exemplify pride for his institution, but undoubtedly none more important than the Monon Bell Classic. In preparation for this highly anticipated clash, Head Football Coach Don Morel and the team's captains will take the podium for the annual Monon Bell Chapel Talk. In addition to the immense sensation of hype and school spirit that we will all feel as we gather in the Chapel to support our team and our school, it is important to think about the significance of the Bell to our campus and the ways in which Bell Chapel reminds us of our identities as

members of the Wabash community. In a tradition that dates back in our archival records to 1994, the Monon Bell Chapel talk has created an opportunity to unite Wabash students, staff and faculty members during a time when it is most needed. As a fraternity-oriented campus, students sometimes forget their allegiance to the institution as a whole rather than particular fraternities, clubs or athletic teams. Sometimes this idea is difficult to remember, as many of the traditions we have and the events we hold are largely engrained in fraternal competition. However, with the assistance of the Monon Bell Chapel Talk, we are reminded of the fact that we are all one community when matching up against the dreaded School Down

Whether or not the Bell is in the Chapel with us after a successful previous encounter with our rivals, Bell Chapel is a further reminder of the significance that the Bell has to our campus and our students. While the Bell is locked away in a display case throughout its stay at the school down south, the Bell travels around campus and is placed prominently inside

the Allen Center entrance, able to be rung by those passing by at Wabash. This feat is a constant reminder of the freedom that is given to Wabash students, but also a reminder to act with integrity and protect what is ours. Throughout the week of the Monon Bell Classic, there is bound to be some antagonization between rivals, but Wabash students live up to this task and defend the prominent landmarks of this campus when the time comes. The Bell Chapel is a great opportunity for the Wabash community to prepare for the battle at hand and celebrate the sacrifices made by students, staff, faculty and community members to continue making this place special.

Although we may not always be able to hear the glorious chime of the Monon Bell in the heart of our campus, it is important to remember what the Bell means to us and the obligations we have to be supportive of the individuals around us. The Bell is a symbol of perseverance and accomplishment; not just on the football field, but in athletics, academics, occupations and extracurricular pursuits. Wabash is an institution designed to push its students beyond previous notions of academic, athletic and personal limitations, which can present harsh truths for students to face when getting back their first college exam, beginning fraternity pledgeship or being away from home for the first time. One's first Bell Chapel is an unforgettable reminder of the little sense of victory that the Bell instills within those of the Wabash community, a sensation that can motivate students to keep working hard and a focal point for all the hard work that Wabash students put in every single day.

Now, upon entering the Chapel on Thursday morning or the heavily awaited Monon Bell Game on Saturday afternoon, be supportive of your Wabash brothers and be a part of the overwhelming sense of campus unity around you. In addition to being a reward for success on the football field, consider the Bell a reminder of your hard work and the incredible person you are striving to become. Let's work together and bring the bell back this weekend. Ding Ding!

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# Rugby smashes DePauw in Monon Keg Game







TO EDITOR • The Wabash rugby

squad had an excellent outing on

Saturday, November 4, walking away from Frank Navarro Field

with the Monon Keg after defeat-

ing DePauw 20-5 and beating Taylor University to capture the Al-

legheny Rugby Union Conference

Championship Developmental 7's

win. In the past, these feats may

have come as a surprise to Wabash

fans, but Matthew Brooks '24 and

Co. have winning as their expec-

tation every time they step on the

After last year's stellar cam-

paign, seeing Wabash place third

at the National Collegiate Rugby

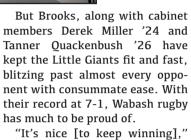
Championships, there was speculation that losing the likes of

Brayden Goodnight '23, Isaac Salinas '23 and the rest of the senior

cohort would find a depleted and

underperforming rugby team bat-

tling it out during this fall season.



said Brooks. "Even with half of our team being new, the fact that we're still competing at a strong level is super refreshing."

One of the only other seniors on the team, Lucas Budler '24 has played his fair share of rugby for Wabash as well. Hailing from South Africa, where rugby is almost more religion than sport, Budler doesn't take a single second of his last season for granted.

"The [Wabash rugby] program took huge steps last year with the seniors that we had," said Budler. "I know Brooks and I are grateful to them for the work they did.





We're lucky to continue to add and

For over half of the team, No-

vember 4 was their first Monon

Keg clash. A parallel with foot-

ball's Monon Bell Classic, the Keg

has stood as the trophy between

Wabash and DePauw rugby for

grow the program."

Wabash rugby won the Allegheny Rugby Union Conference Championships on November 4, 2023 at Little Giant Stadium.

taking the ball out of the ruck for another Wabash try. Brooks then bulldozed his way from 10 yards

over 30 years. "It was nice to play one last Keg Game with a lot of freshmen to show them the intensity [of the game]," said Budler. "To be here and exhibit how the Keg Game works before we hand over the reins to a huge number of freshmen and sophomores was really

The Keg Game started with a bang, as Budler scored from over 50 yards out on a breakaway run, splitting DePauw defenders like the Red Sea. Budler unfortunately missed the dropkick after the first miss of three on the day. Nate Powell '27 followed up Budler's scamper with one of his own, out in the second half, carrying four DePauw defenders into the try zone. With the score 15-0, DePauw scored their one and only try from a defensive breakdown after a ruck by Wabash. Isaac Gaytan-Reilly '26 scored a try in the final seconds of regulation after catching an immaculate assist from Budler, sealing the win 20-5 for Wabash.

Retaining the Keg yet again is a source of pride for every Wabash rugby player, young or old. And the younger generation understands that the level of play cannot retract, even for a semester.

"Brooks has done a great job leading this team so far," said Powell. "He's done a great job including people, especially since we are a younger team that retired a lot of seniors. There's been no other choice but for people to step

With Wabash's fall season closed after the Keg Game, the Little Giants will begin their offseason winter training to prepare for the ARU's spring 2024 season. Their hopes lie with a return berth to the NCR National Championships, but also with the fantastic memories made along the way.

"I don't think about individual tries or assists, really," said Budler. " You don't remember those. But rather [you remember] the environment that we were able to build over the past two, three years of rugby and how Wabash has learned [about] a game where the ball is thrown backwards."

# Getting ready for game day with Coach Morel

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26 | SPORTS WRITER • In a ant the football team stays on a consistent routine week-in and week-out. With the seaon approaching its end, it has all come down to their final game of regular season play, hosting rival DePauw in the 129th Monon Bell Classic. Despite the hype surrounding this game, the team's daily routine doesn't change.

As soon as a game is over, the schedule resets and the next week's game is the way forward for the team. This cycle begins on Saturday night after the game, when the players either get on the bus for the trip home or return to the regular Saturday night events on campus.

"I love that Saturday night after a home game, Wabash becomes a social place for me," said Head Football Coach Morel. "The players get to have some fun, then Sunday we're back at

The team's practice week begins on Sunday when the team has an opportunity to recover and learn from their game the

#### The players get to have some fun, then Sunday we're back at it."

- Coach Morel

While the players go about their Sunday morning routines, Morel is in the office with the rest of the coaching staff breaking down the game film to present to the players in their Sunday team meeting.

"The players arrive at one o'clock," Head Coach Don Morel said, "We hand out some awards for players. Then, we have a 30-minute special teams meeting where we look at kickoff and punt and all that stuff. Then we have a one-hour film session where we look at the previous

Morel says he likes to keep sport with a lot of technique and Sundays short for the players so attention to detail, it's import- they can focus more on academ- nine o'clock with breakfast in ics and social life, something many other great football teams don't give much attention to.

After recuperating on Sun-

day, the preparation for the next game starts on Monday with playbook implementations and practice. The team has a lunch meeting where they begin game planning for the upcoming com-

"On Mondays, I start working on the game plan along with the other coaches," Morel said. "Monday is really base offense 1st & 10, 2nd & 5, and we practice from 4-6:30 p.m."

Tuesday and Wednesday are mostly the same, involving more meetings, walkthroughs and game speed reps to get back in the flow of the physical aspect of the sport.

"Tuesday, we're looking at 3rd down most of the day," said Morel. "The players lift weights that day. We have more meetings than you want to know about practice, but we should have about 60% of the game plan."

Thursday is another light day with walkthroughs, a few game speed reps and a light lift for the players to get good neuromuscular prep for Saturday. And unlike many schools in the NCAA, Thursday is the team's last full day of practice before their game.

While there is no team practice on Friday, it is a vital day for the team's success. Players have the opportunity to spend time on school work and rest, so that they can come into Saturday's game recovered and with minimal distractions.

"We're really unique in that we do not practice on Friday," Morel said. "I don't know any other college team in America that does that. At Wabash College we have guys we can trust and it also allows them to get caught up academically, too.'

With Friday being an off day practice wise, the team wakes

up on Saturday feeling fresh and ready for competition.

"Saturday morning starts at the dining hall," Coach Morel said. "All of our players wear a tie to that event. We've done that forever here."

The team has the same pregame routine leading up to kick-

"At Wabash College we have guys we can trust and it also allows them to get caught up academically, too."

- Coach Morel

"There's an 11 a.m. walkthrough for the offense and the defense," Coach Morel said. "At 11:15, we get to go out on the field and walk around to get some air. The players can go back into the locker room around 11:35. The special teams come out 10 minutes later to start kicking for 15 minutes. After that, the punt catchers, kickoff catchers and defensive backs come out on the field. Fifteen minutes after that, the whole team comes on the field. We then have about a 10-minute warmup period. Then we head to the fieldhouse where chalkboards, chairs, bananas, pretzels and Gatorade are set up."

During this time Morel, emphasizes the game plan, keeping the players focused on the intellectual side of the game. He says preparation is the most important part of the game and he doesn't want the players to get distracted by the hype.

"We meet an offense and defense," Morel said. "But it's not as much 'rah rah' as people think. We want to know what we're doing."

After their final notes and speech, the team is ready for

# Don's trick plays

ELIJAH GREENE '25 | PHOTO ED-ITOR • Over the years, Wabash football has been no stranger to a good trick play. Head Football Coach Don Morel has a penchant for knowing exactly when and where a trick play can shift the momentum of a football game. Be it faking two field goals in a row against DePauw in the 2017 Bell Game or running a motion play just to throw the ball to a wide-open tight end against Denison in 2021, Morel has a near-prophetic sense of timing and momentous which has won Wabash more than one game in his tenure as head coach.

"You just feel it," said Morel. "I'm not afraid to call it, because I'm the

head coach. That makes it easy." Trick plays are finicky. On the one hand, they're incredibly fun to run. In a college offensive scheme that feels almost like a battle strategy, trick plays bring back the childlike impetus of football that is often lost at the higher levels of the sport. On the other hand, if they somehow fail, fans and players alike are outraged at the seemingly naive choice of playcall when something more sensible, in hindsight, would have been a better option.

'We practice [these plays] a ton," said Liam Thompson '24. "We feel confident in [them] and wouldn't call them if we weren't. If we're calling [a trick play], it's for a reason."

"[A trick play] does a couple of things," said Morel. "One, it steals a possession away from their offense, and two, it changes the momentum of the game. A couple of years ago, DePauw was just a better team than us. And we felt like we needed an edge somewhere. That was the year we faked two field goals in a row.

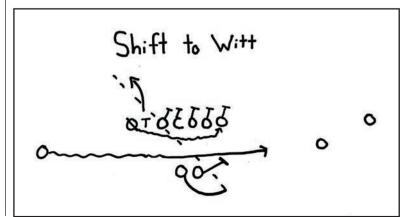
[Trick plays] are a great equalizer."

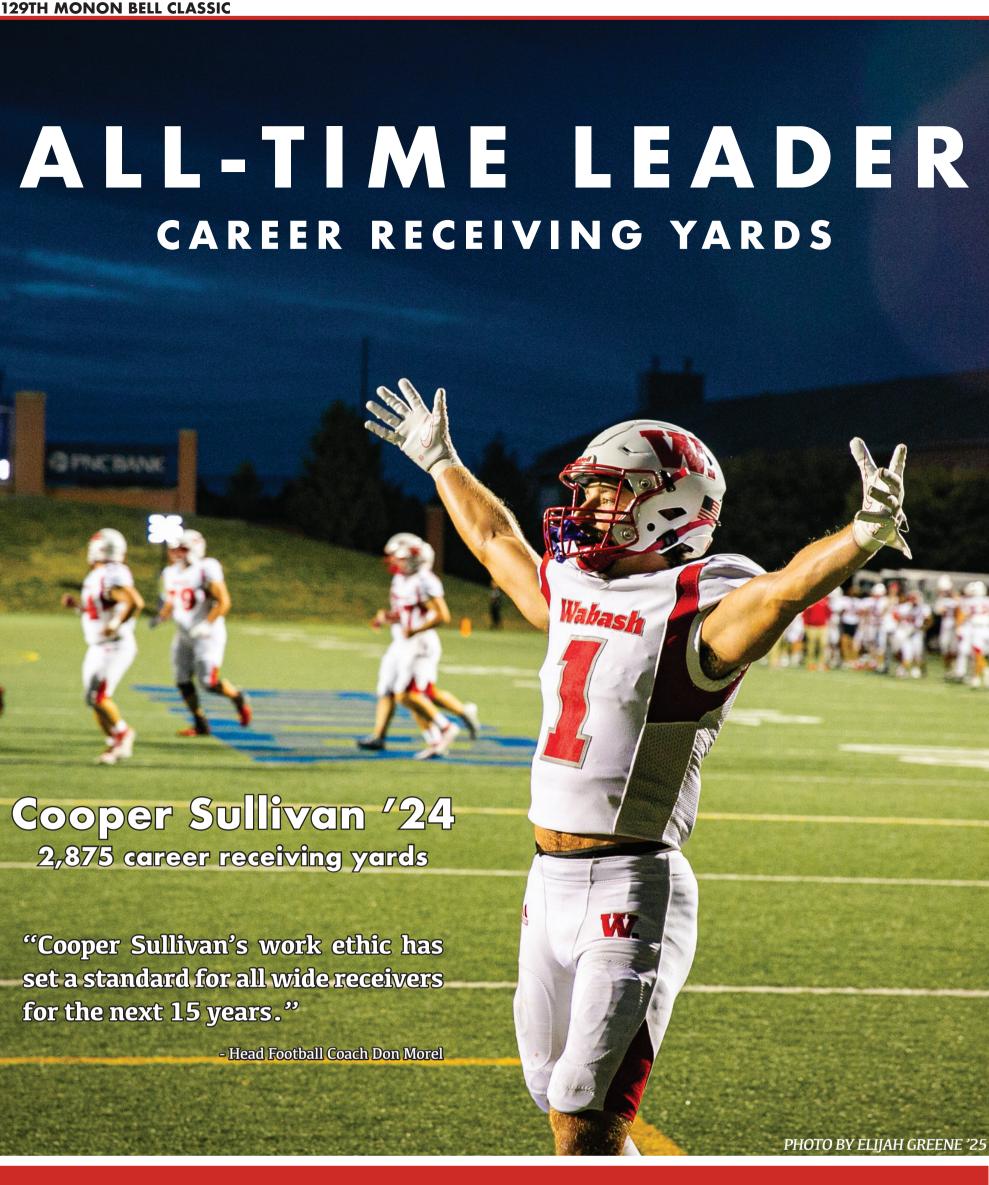
Morel takes almost no credit for originality, either. There are plenty of trick plays broadcast on every sports network during every week of the NFL and college football seasons, creating a plethora of options for him to "borrow".

"Honestly, most of [the trick plays] I steal off TV," said Morel. "The greatest tool I have is the record button. If you think about it, they only show you the trick plays that work on Saturday night on SportsCenter."

Trick plays utilize formations and personnel that are unique to that play and often allow an unexpected player to make an unimaginable impact on a game. The trick play in 2021 that Morel ran against Denison to win the game is a classic example. The play in question, "Shift to Witt" utilizes the motion of an offensive lineman instead of a skill position player, unsettling the defense and making them think a run play is coming. Then, a motion back comes racing across the formation, starting the eventual rollout pass play. All the action looks like it's going to the right, but the tight end, lined up on the left, slips away and is standing wide-open in the endzone.

"When we get an opportunity to [run a play] like that, it's a little unique, a little different," said Thompson. "Guys get excited about that. [Trick plays] make the game





WABASH: 52 **HIRAM: 13** 

WABASH: 20 **DEPAUW: 5** 

**BASKETBALL** 

**WABASH: 71 MOUNT ST. JOSEPH: 58** 

WRESTLING ADRIAN COLLEGE INVITE 2ND OUT OF 9 TEAMS

# This week in sports

Rivalries, broken records and season openers

HAIDEN **DIEMER-MCKINNEY** '26 | SPORTS WRITER • The promising first week of November is here. The fall sports are heading into their respective conference tournaments and battling for glory, while winter sports get underway with all the hope and promises of success that accompany fresh starts. This week in sports, Wabash football will take on DePauw in the Bell Game, the NCAC champions on the cross country team go to the Great Lakes Regional, Rugby wins the Keg Game and more.

#### Football:

Coming off a convincing win against Wittenberg, Wabash displayed their maturity against lesser competition on Saturday, November 4 when they beat Hiram, 52-13, to improve to 7-2 on the season. Wide receiver Cooper Sullivan '24 accounted for seven receptions, 168 yards and one touchdown as he surpassed Mike Funk '89 for career receiving yards in Wabash College Football history.

The victory puts Wabash in position for a possible share of the 2023 North Coast Athletic Conference title if the Little Giants beat and dethrone rival DePauw next Saturday in the 129th Monon Bell Classic.

#### Cross Country: The cross country team has had

plenty of time to rest and recover for their upcoming meet. Two weeks after Wabash took the NCAC by storm and won the Conference Championships at Denison, the team will travel to Norton, Ohio for the NCAA DIII Great Lakes Regional on November 11.

12 | BACHELOR WABASH EDU | THE BACHELOR

**Swimming & Diving:** 

The swimming & diving team traveled to the University of Chicago for the DIII Shootout on Friday, November 3 and Saturday, November 4. The invitational saw teams from all over the country with some

Nicholas Plumb '27 turned in the best finish in Saturday's competition for the Little Giants with a third-place effort in the 200-yard backstroke with a time of 1:53.35.

Despite the eigth-place finish, the team is sure to use their early season battle test to their advantage when they host the annual Gail Pebworth Invitational from Friday, November 17th to Sunday, Novem-

#### Wrestling:

Wrestling season is now active, as the wrestling team traveled to Adrian College to compete in the 2023 Adrian Invite. The team was picked to finish 10th-place in the nation by coaches in the NWCA Tournament Poll.

The Little Giants walked away with three individual titles and 13 top-eight finishes to place second out of nine teams. The three winners on the day were James Day '26 at 125 pounds, Daniel Uribe '24 at 149 pounds and Ray Arebalo '25 at 174 pounds.

The team looks to follow in the footsteps of last year's success when they finished 10th as a team at Nationals, yielded two All-Americans, and one National Champion in

Jack Heldt '23. But the journey is a long season, and the next step is to have another

impressive showing.

#### **Basketball:**

Wabash played the first game of their regular season on the road against Mount St. Joseph University on Wednesday, November 8. The Little Giants jumped out to an early lead and finished the first half up by 21 points. The second half was a struggle for Wabash as they allowed the Lions to cut the lead significantly. However Wabash was able to finish the game ahead 71-58.

Ahmoni Jones '24 led the team in scoring with 21 points on 9-13 shooting, while adding seven re-

bounds. "Coach emphasized that we have to bring our own energy today and that it started on the defensive end," said Jones. "If we communicate, rebound and finish off plays then we would set the pace of the game. I think we started off really well defensively and played unselfish. We took what coach said and acted on it. Moving forward we just have to finish games off a little better."

Rugby hosted a tournament this past weekend where they opened with the Keg Game against rival De-Pauw, demolishing the Tigers 20-5. They broke through for their first try just seconds into the game and didn't look back. Hopefully that is a sign of things to come at Little Giant Stadium on Saturday. In their semifinal, Wabash didn't back down and controlled Denison, 36-5.

The victory advanced them to the championship game, where they handled Taylor, 26-12 to win the

# Swim faces national powerhouses at University of Chicago

WILL MCKINZIE '26 | SPORTS WRITER • Wabash athletic teams have been no stranger over the years to pitting themselves against tougher competition to test their mettle. For the Wabash swimming and diving team, the two-day Division III Swimming and Diving Shootout at the University of Chicago proved to be more than they could handle.

Wabash struggled mightily during the competition, which was held from Friday, November 3 to Saturday, November 4. Wabash placed eighth of eight teams, scoring only 255 total points. They trailed the leading schools— the University of Chicago and Pomona-Pitzer College— by a staggering 204 points.

One of the lone standout performances of the meet was freshman swimmer Nicholas Plumb '27. Plumb placed third in the 200-yard backstroke event, the highest placing of any Wabash swimmer in any event. The freshman made it into the "A" final in the backstroke where he posted a very impressive time of 1:53.35. Also, Plumb's efforts in the 100-meter butterfly were good enough to earn him a spot in the "A" final in that event as well, where he placed eighth with a time of 52.71.

While this result isn't exactly praiseworthy, the team understands that they have the opportunity to put the meet behind them and focus on improving their day-to-day training.

This will translate into faster race times come meet-day. "As a team, we need to focus on implementing strategies that can improve our race times," said Connor

Craig '25. "And as a team, we need

to continue to push each other, mak-

ing sure that every day we are putting in maximum effort and getting better. I'm proud of the team this past weekend for focusing on ourselves and our events, showing the

other teams what we're made of." Other notable performances from the event include Quinn Sweeney '27 placing seventh in the 500-yard freestyle, with a time of 4:46.60. Ethan Johns '25 placed seventh in his 100yard freestyle final with a time of 47.39, and John Allen '26 was able to secure sixteenth place in the 100yard freestyle, clocking in at 49.44.

After a tough meet like this, the team has been preaching a positive team culture, reflecting on the outcome of the meet this past Monday. Open communication about strengths and weaknesses is how teams learn from each other and ultimately get better. Allowing teammates and coaches to reflect and set goals moving forward. A swim meet like this can truly serve as a valuable teaching experience, motivating the team to rededicate themselves in and out of the pool to transform into the best swimmers possible.

The Wabash Little Giants have a bit of a rest before they race again: they will host the annual Gail Pebworth Invitational beginning Friday, November 17. The swimming events will be held at the Crawfordsville High School Aquatic Center, and the diving events will be at the Class of 1950 Natatorium on Saturday, November 18 and Sunday, November 19. The team has high hopes to recover elegantly and reestablish their dominance against some more reasonable competition on November 17 in Crawfordsville.