

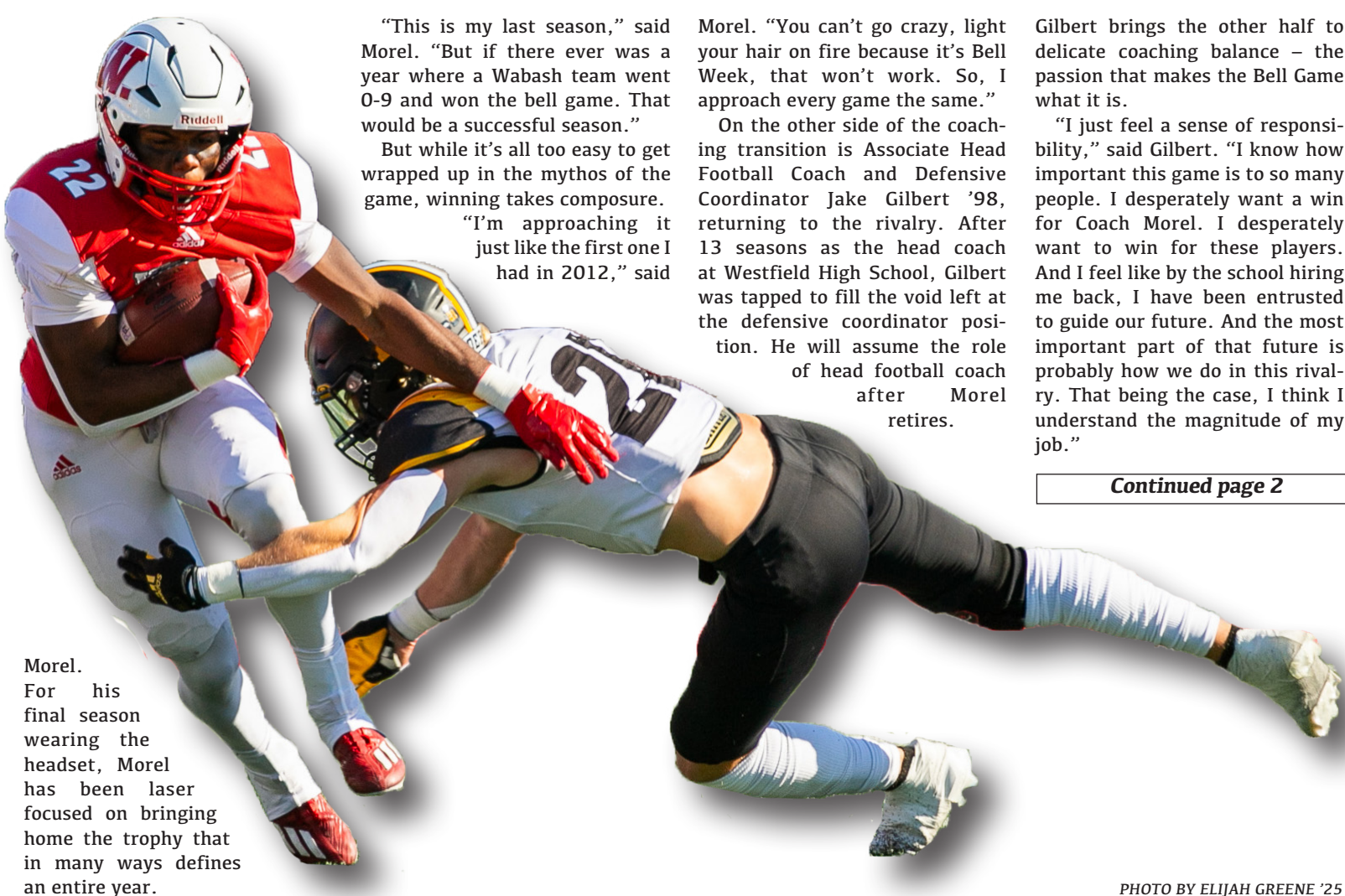
# ON TO GREENCASTLE

**ETHAN WALLACE '25**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The 130th Monon Bell Classic has arrived. The familiar contest needs little introduction.

From all the hopes riding on this game to the intricate traditions and unlimited possibilities that could unfold on the field, everything this rivalry means will be brought together on November 16 with one simple message: “Just win the Bell.”

Following the double-overtime shootout of the 2023 contest will be a tall order, but like every season, this iteration of the Monon Bell Classic carries its own unique story.



Morel. For his final season wearing the headset, Morel has been laser focused on bringing home the trophy that in many ways defines an entire year.

“This is my last season,” said Morel. “But if there ever was a year where a Wabash team went 0-9 and won the bell game. That would be a successful season.”

But while it’s all too easy to get wrapped up in the mythos of the game, winning takes composure. “I’m approaching it just like the first one I had in 2012,” said

Morel. “You can’t go crazy, light your hair on fire because it’s Bell Week, that won’t work. So, I approach every game the same.”

On the other side of the coaching transition is Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert ’98, returning to the rivalry. After 13 seasons as the head coach at Westfield High School, Gilbert was tapped to fill the void left at the defensive coordinator position. He will assume the role of head football coach after Morel retires.

Gilbert brings the other half to delicate coaching balance – the passion that makes the Bell Game what it is.

“I just feel a sense of responsibility,” said Gilbert. “I know how important this game is to so many people. I desperately want a win for Coach Morel. I desperately want to win for these players. And I feel like by the school hiring me back, I have been entrusted to guide our future. And the most important part of that future is probably how we do in this rivalry. That being the case, I think I understand the magnitude of my job.”

Continued page 2

## Deep dive: Why do fans at the Monon Bell Classic have separate entrances?

**ELIJAH WETZEL '27**  
STAFF WRITER

Sometimes we hate to admit it, but Wabash and DePauw share many qualities. Wabash and DePauw are both small, private liberal arts institutions. Both produce leading Indiana professionals and many families have sons, daughters, mothers and sons who attended DePauw and Wabash. The School Down South is only 29 miles away, and there is a fair amount of interaction between the schools’ students, both while courses are in session and back in hometowns over summer break.

Yet, on Monon Bell game days, loyalists of these respective institutions are largely separated by bike-rack fencing, distinct bleachers and security personnel. Such strict segregation of fans is unusual in American sports, especially at the Division III level. The Bell Game has many idiosyncrasies, but how did the separation of fans become one of them?

It wasn’t always so divided. In previous decades, security was kept to a minimum and fans intermingled inside and outside of the stadium. Wabash’s rivalry with DePauw never lacked for intensity though, and Wabash students still had their fun, often fueling their mirth by stealing the tail off of DePauw’s tiger mascot and staging other humorous pranks.

**“A lot of things come together to make it an intense and great rivalry. But I think what has changed is the behavior of fans.”**

- Wabash President’s Chief of Staff Jim Amidon ’87

“In the 70s and 80s, DePauw had a marching band, and they wore their marching band uniforms like marching bands did in

those days,” said Jon Pactore ’71. “We didn’t have a marching band, so a bunch of students got kazoes and they marched the other way, going through the ranks and the files of the DePauw band as they played.”

On top of the wry pranks, yes-teryear’s Bell games were often happy reunions for old friends, business partners and colleagues from Wabash and DePauw who did not normally get many chances to see each other. It was also a day to make new connections, rooted in mutual passion for one’s school and the rivalry with the other.

“Sometimes we saw the DePauw friend we hadn’t seen for the year because they’d show up at the Bell Game and that’s the only time, or we’d make new friends,” said Pactore ’71. “You’d look for people you knew were from the other school.”

Continued page 5

## Safety a concern for Bell Game

**JAKE WEBER '25**  
STAFF WRITER

With the 130th Monon Bell Classic set to occur this weekend, the thousands of fans from each institution who gather to cheer on their team can rest assured that the contest will be a safe and secure event. Planning for this year’s Bell Game began months ago with a meeting between Wabash and DePauw administrators on September 24. Members of both administrations discussed potential problems that could occur at the game, and walked away content with the combined safety plan for this year’s contest.

Saturday marks the second Monon Bell game for Director of Safety and Security Buck Waddell, and he has full faith in the Wabash student body to represent the Little Giants well.

“The thing that I am most happy about is honestly our students,” said Waddell. “They have fun, but they’re not menaces. Wabash guys are ready. They understand our expectations. They understand if you cause trouble, you’re going to leave and our guys don’t want to leave.”

However, Waddell did not share the same confidence in the student body from DePauw, citing multiple incidents from recent Bell Games that have caused him concern.

“I have no love for their student body,” said Waddell. “My first Bell Game, we had snowballs and other stuff flying out of the stands on the field. Absolutely unprofessional interfering with the game like that. There probably would have been an empty stand if it was me running the show. Absolute disrespect for the game and the tradition. It’s horrible.”

DePauw University has chosen to use a third-party contractor to provide primary security for this year’s Bell game rather than local law-enforcement officers like Wabash prefers to use.

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## Theft and vandalism: A new norm?

**JAMES WALLACE '26**  
NEWS EDITOR

In what seems to be a new yearly tradition, Wabash men traveled to Greencastle, Indiana, in an effort to prank the Dannies in the week leading up to the Monon Bell Classic. In the late evening of November 12, the students arrived at DePauw’s campus, bringing with them scarlet and white paint. The Wabash men then poured the paint on DePauw’s tiger statue near their athletic facilities, mirroring an event that occurred last year, in which Wabash students threw eggs and poured flour on the statue, finally adorning it with a scarlet candle.

**“The best way that we can stick it to DePauw is to win back the Bell. We cheer for our team, and we know that win or lose, we love our guys.”**

- Dean of Students Gregory Redding ’88

However, at a campus like DePauw’s – which is quite different from Wabash when it comes to security measures – the students didn’t take into account the Dannies response time to acts of vandalism. The students’ actions were caught on camera, and Greencastle PD was quickly notified of the incident. As the Wabash men began to start their journey back to Crawfordsville, their vehicle was pulled over and Greencastle police officers detained the individuals. The officers took the students’ information, but did not put them into custody, instead letting them return to Wabash’s campus.

Continued page 10



Wabash fans cheer from the Wabash section during the 129th Monon Bell Classic on November 11, 2023, in Little Giant Stadium.

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25



# On to Greencastle

Continued from page 1

Despite the imminent coaching change and elevated pressure of the conference title, the Bell Game ultimately remains mostly the same. Neither team really needs the extra motivation. While a win would secure a trip to the Division III playoffs, it just doesn't matter compared to the rivalry matchup.

"The honest truth is, regardless of what happens next week, we just want to beat this team," said Gilbert.

In many ways the game plan is simple: score touchdowns while keeping them out of the endzone.

The contest between the Wabash defense and DePauw's offense may be the defining feature of the game. The Little Giants have the second-ranked defense in the conference – behind DePauw – but lead the NCAC in forced turnovers and sacks. Late in October, the Little Giants achieved their first season with three shutouts since 2015. Everything about Wabash's defense is geared towards game-shaking plays.

But they will have their work cut out for them.

The Tigers are 10th in the nation for total yards, while

averaging 54 points per game.

The offensive engine of the School Down South is led by senior quarterback Nathan McCahill, who is ranked 20th-nationally in passing yards per game.

Holding DePauw below their average for four quarters will be vital to bringing the Bell back to Crawfordsville.

"Some teams have done a good job defending them in the first quarter," said Gilbert. "But then it's like an avalanche, and they just start scoring. So we're going to have to get off to a great start but then also stay vigilant, because they can score in bunches and they can score in one play drives. We need to make sure that we don't give them that."

On the other side of the ball, Wabash's offense – ranked second in the NCAC – will be tasked with clearing the defense that leads Division III for fewest yards surrendered at 177.6. After nine games the Black & Gold allow only 10.3 points per game. Adding to their merit, the DePauw defensive line has allowed less than a single yard per rushing attempt and only 26.4 per game.

It is very possible that the Little Giants will be marching into Blackstock Stadium to face the greatest team DePauw has ever assembled.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Head Football Coach Don Morel talks to the football team following their victory over St. Norbert College on September 7, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

But the Little Giants will bring an offense eager to make its mark on the historic rivalry. At quarterback, Brand Campbell '27, who assumed the role after the injury of Blake White '25, will have to continue his string of excellent performances.

Campbell leads the NCAC in completion percentage at 71.9 percent, while having thrown only a single interception in seven starts. With a last-minute drive to clinch a win over Wittenberg in their last game, Campbell proved he could be a clutch-time quarterback.

Campbell will have the support of a veteran offensive line who were named to the national team of the week earlier in the season, when they helped propel Wabash to a 55-19 victory over Wooster on October 5.

On the ground, Wabash has been a dominant force, averaging 181.8 rushing yards per game.

The conference-leading carrier, Xavier Tyler '26, will be handed the main responsibility of breaking through on foot.

**"The honest truth is, regardless of what happens next week, we just want to beat this team."**

- Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert '98

Making consistent gains on the ground will be vital to Wabash's success. Despite their impressive stats, the DePauw defense will have to prove that it really can stop the best running back in the NCAC.

"Every year I hear about how good their run defense is, and

every year we run the ball in the Bell Game," said Morel.

On the most important Saturday of the year, Wabash will make the 30-minute trip to face their archrivals DePauw. In a notoriously hard to predict game that will decide who gets the Bell and the NCAC title, fans can look forward to the wild momentum swings and usual antics that make the Monon Bell Classic what it is.

"Something crazy is going to happen, we just have to weather the storm," said Morel. "The Bell Game is weird, because just as often as not, the favorite team loses."



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

Associate Head Football Coach & Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert '98 talks to his players during the Homecoming Week football game against Ohio Wesleyan University on September 14, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

## Inaugural Monon Bell Luncheon aims to unite rivals

SAM BENEDICT '25  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

"When we play DePauw, we separate families and we separate friends. We never show our best selves and neither does DePauw... Each year, one of the teams wins a football game, but I fear that each year both institutions are losing because we are missing out on an opportunity to showcase two exceptional institutions of higher education."

Wabash College President Scott Feller's statement echoed through the Chapel on the morning of April 4, 2024 during his Chapel Talk titled, "Rivals." In this address, Feller asked the Wabash community to reflect on the current state of Wabash's rivalry with DePauw, imploring the audience to recognize the difference between rivals and enemies. The talk was one step in a movement towards eliminating the hostility that has plagued the Monon Bell Classic in years past.

On November 13, just three days away from the 130th Monon Bell Classic, administrators, alumni and students gathered at the Westin Hotel in Indianapolis, Indiana to translate words into action.

The inaugural Monon Bell Luncheon, hosted by Feller, DePauw University President Lori White, Clay Robbins '79 and Jennette Hill, honored the storied history of the rivalry while asking the audience to remember the friendship shared between the two schools.

**"When we play DePauw, we separate families and we separate friends. We never show our best selves and neither does DePauw... I fear that each year both institutions are losing because we are missing out on an opportunity to showcase two exceptional institutions of higher education."**

- Wabash College President Scott Feller

The event began as part of the continued effort to create a positive environment around the Monon Bell rivalry. Separate



PHOTO BY SAM BENEDICT '25

Alumni of both Wabash College and DePauw University gathered for the first inaugural Monon Bell Luncheon on November 13, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

entrances, intense altercations and annual turmoil have come to define the game in previous years. However, efforts have been made by both institutions to create a respectful atmosphere without eliminating the intensity and significance of the rivalry.

"I think it's been really valuable for us to bring Wabash and DePauw people together to share their love of their institutions and their respect for each other," said Feller. "This is what makes a great rivalry. It takes

Over 100 participants attended the luncheon, listening to alumni from each school discuss what the Bell means to them as well as what it could be. Aman Brar '99 spoke first, reminding the audience that the rivalry should bring out the best in everyone, but has recently brought out the worst.

"A rivalry like the Monon Bell pushes us to be our very best," said Brar during his speech. "Not our belligerent best, but our very best. Not our drunk best, but our very best. Not our violent best, but our very best. Not our xenophobic best, but our very best. Not our homophobic best, but our very best. Not our racist best, but our very best. Not our sexist best, but our very best. Not our Republican, Democrat or divided best, but our very best."

Following the speech from Brar was DePauw alumnus Matthew Hunt. Hunt graduated from DePauw in 2017 and is known as the quarterback that ended an eight-game losing streak for the Dannies in 2016. In his address, Hunt reminisced on his on-the-field moments, but talk-

ed at length about the shared experience that the Bell provides to generations of students from both schools.

A unique aspect of the event included each school honoring an alumnus of the other school.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

Clay Robbins '79 (left) and Sam Benedict '25 (right) talk during the inaugural Monon Bell Luncheon on November 13, 2024, in Indianapolis, Indiana.



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

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

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# My first Monon Bell Game



D.J. Finch Jr. '03

Reply to this opinion at  
dennisjfinch@gmail.com

One day after work, in the summer of 1997, in between my sophomore and junior years in high school, my grandfather asked me a question that forever changed the trajectory of my life. I lived and worked with my grandfather during the summer in the town of Ladoga, which was about 15 minutes from Crawfordsville. I had been to Crawfordsville countless times growing up and yet, the question he asked me was puzzling.

He asked, "Have you considered Wabash as a place to go to college"? The reason this question was so puzzling was that in all the times I had been to Crawfordsville, I never knew where Wabash College was located. A couple of days later, he drove me to and through campus and I discovered that the campus was nestled just off the main road that ran through Crawfordsville.

In the following year, I had visited Wabash, taken the campus tour, met with Coach Johnson (Robert H), sat in on a couple classes and talked with admissions. Fast forward to the summer of 1998, heading into my senior year and again, I was living and working with my grandfather. One afternoon, he asked how my college search was going and where Wabash was ranking. I don't recall the exact answer I gave, but his response was "Well, if you are not doing anything tonight, I'd like to take you into Crawfordsville to meet someone."

Unbeknownst to me, we were going to meet an alumnus of Wabash College who lived just a couple blocks from campus. We arrived at what I remember to be a big house on the corner of E Chestnut & S Green Streets and after introductions, I was peppered with questions about my qualifications, interests, aspirations, and goals. About two hours later, the interrogation ended, and my grandfather and I said our goodbyes and headed home. My head was spinning for some time and to this day, I still don't recall the alumnus' name, but my grandfather and I talked about Wabash for the rest of the summer.

A couple months later, in the fall of 1998, at Cascade High School, I was called down to the guidance counselor's office, where Mike Reidy from admissions was standing. He shook my hand, and we started talking about Wabash College and whether I saw myself coming to Crawfordsville the next year. After talking about GPA, my class rank, my tests scores, my aspirations and goals, he asked if I had ever heard of the Monon Bell and the rivalry football game that is played each November between Wabash and DePauw.

I had briefly heard about it during my prior visits to Wabash, and I told Mike that DePauw was the only other school I was considering, because it

was so close to home. Mike said it was one thing to hear about the Monon Bell game and another to experience it. He then said that the game was going to be at Wabash that year and asked if I would like to go? I said that I would love to go, but would it be possibly to get an extra ticket for my grandfather? Mike said, "There will be two tickets with your name at will call."

So, on November 14th, 1998, my grandfather and I showed up to Wabash College, got our Monon Bell tickets, and headed into the game. It was a perfect fall football weather game and even though the game itself was a lopsided affair, the Wabash fans constantly were

chanting "Wabash Always Fights, Wabash Always Fight". As the game continued, I joined in with the chant and began to feel a sense of belonging; a sense of family, in part because my family was there with me. Even though the evil Dannies from Greendingle (not a typo) had won, I enjoyed almost every moment of the day with my grandfather... until DePauw students and fans rushed the field and tore down one of the goal posts.

I remember seeing the first DePauw student scale the goal post, and then another, and then another, and so on shaking it violently, until finally it gave way. This was before multiple layers of fencing, strict separation between opposing sides, specifically color-coded ticket, and overwhelming police presence, so there were minimal barriers in place and fans were free to roam and view the game from either side.

I was in complete shock, as were most of Wabash's fans. I saw Wabash men running onto the field to protect their turf, met by police officers completely caught off-guard, detaining Wabash fans by using pepper spray instead of those that initiated the destruction. It was a moment that forever changed the future of security and protocols with regards to the Monon Bell game. In that intense moment, I looked at my grandfather, and he said, "Are we going down there?", because he knew at that moment, I had made my decision; Wabash College was my college choice, and it was soon going to be my new home.

Every year, Monon Bell is a reminder of that cherished time spent with my grandfather, without whom I would not have made the decision to come to Wabash. In my years on campus, I visited my grandparents in Ladoga often and my grandfather would ask from time to time "How's Wabash?" and "Are you guys going to keep/win the Bell?" And every time I would talk about Wabash, my TKE fraternity, how classes were going, or the outlook for the next Monon Bell Game, my grandfather's face would light up with a smile. It was pure joy in knowing I had made the right decision... with a lot of his guidance. I will forever be grateful to my grandfather, Danny L Gerald.

Since 1998, I have attended every Monon Bell game in person except one; this year I will watch it from Indianapolis with family, friends, and my fellow Wabash/TKE brothers, rooting the Little Giants to victory and remembering that Wabash always fights!

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## FREE SPEECH FOR ME, NOT FOR THEE

*Lo-Five to Micah Beckwith for threatening to shut down the Indiana Daily Student for citing real quotes shared about Trump by his own former allies. As fellow right-wing religious nut Ben Shapiro said, "Facts don't care about your feelings."*

## THY LOYAL SONS

*Hi-Five to our faithful campus guardians for protecting our campus from the Dannies down south. Lo-Five to the Dannies for outsourcing their guarding to Greencastle PD.*

## IF YOU ONLY HAD A BRAIN...

*Lo-Five to Mattel for accidentally listing an adult website on the Wicked doll boxes instead of the official website for the movie. Just like the Scarecrow, someone's definitely getting fired.*

## LOTUS LORD

*Hi-Five to a Rhode Island man (let's call him Kyle) for amassing the world's largest collection of over 1,019 energy drink cans. Maybe Kyle can hook us up for these late Bachelor editing nights.*

## "IF WE DON'T SUCCEED, WE RUN THE RISK OF FAILURE."

*Lo-Five to the Dannies who thought investing in a degree at D\*\*\*\*\* would be a good idea. Hi-Five to D\*\*\*\*\* for supplying Wabash men with a steady stream of employees.*



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Wabash College Bachelor

Undeclared  
DePauw seeks  
'22 repeat, third  
straight Bell victory

Dueling predictions:  
130th Monon Bell Classic

Don't let the stats  
fool you; Wabash is  
coming for the Bell

## ETHAN WEBSTER '25

THE DEPAUW DAILY WRITER

For the 130th time, DePauw and Wabash will face off on Saturday, Nov. 16, for the Monon Bell trophy, the NCAC crown, and the usual bragging rights. It is without a doubt the biggest and most exciting day on the sporting calendar for these two schools and fanbases. This year's game promises to be as thrilling and intriguing an encounter as ever, with both sides coming into the contest unbeaten in conference play.

DePauw enters the game enjoying what is surely the most impressive season in program history. The Tigers are at 9-0 and have beaten every team they've faced by at least three scores, amassing a remarkable overall point differential of +393. Their impressive resume has been well recognized, with the Tigers now ranked ninth at D3Football.com.

DePauw's success this season has been founded on outstanding performances and leadership from across their stellar senior class. Players from the Class of 2025 have been instrumental in bringing about a complete transformation in the program, taking them to three NCAC titles, three NCAA tournament appearances, two Monon Bell victories, and now the program's highest national ranking. A win at home against Wabash over the weekend would cap off an incredible four years of work in the conference. That victory would also secure the Tigers a spot in the national tournament, likely with a first round bye.

The key for Wabash's defensive unit will be finding a way to slow down quarterback Nate McCahill '25 and the incredibly efficient DePauw offense, something no one has really found a way to do yet. McCahill has a quite remarkable TD:INT ratio of 39-2 on the season, and with Robby Ballentine '26 and Gabe Quigley '24, has two extremely well established targets who pose a strong and constant deep threat. It's difficult to diagnose a particular weakness in DePauw's offense, with their run-game also conference leading on the year. Caden Whitehead '26 and Seth Mencer '26 lead DePauw's backfield which has averaged over 5 yards a carry on the year.

Wabash's defense will need to be excellent on Saturday if they're to keep this game close, but there are signs to suggest they're more than capable. The Little Giants are second in the NCAC

in most team defensive stats, and have tended to stiffen up exactly when needed in close games. Their run defense in particular has been impressive, allowing just 2.7 yards per carry. The hope for the Little Giants will be that they can maintain that number, and force DePauw to throw on longer to-go 2nd and 3rd down situations. Wabash has to somehow knock DePauw out of rhythm, finding a way to make big sacks or turnovers happen. However, the Tigers have hardly allowed either all season.

Wabash's offense is led by sophomore quarterback Brand Campbell, the starter since Week 3, and a stellar run game which has matched DePauw's mark of over 180 yards per game. Their success has been built on being physical up front and establishing the run early, with junior running back Xavier Tyler the main weapon. He's now over 1,000 rush yards on the year along with nine touchdowns.

Unfortunately for the Little Giants, they're coming up against one of the best defensive units in Division III, especially against the run. The Tigers have a menacing defensive front and linebacker group, conceding less than a yard per carry on the year, and no runs longer than 15 yards. The big difficulty for opponents is that the secondary is excellent too. DePauw have forced opponents into a completion percentage of under 50%, and have more interceptions than touchdowns allowed.

The stats, results, and rankings would certainly suggest DePauw should be able pick up another convincing victory, but there is a long running sports cliché that in rivalry games those things often hardly matter. One has to imagine that in many ways Wabash will relish the "underdog" tag, something they've rarely experienced in the recent history of the rivalry, and will energetically arrive in Greencastle believing they can force the upset.

Saturday's matchup really will be the Monon Bell Classic as it was meant to be: two undefeated teams playing for a conference title, at what is going to be a packed and animated Blackstock Stadium. It should be a fascinating and entertaining contest.

## Prediction:

DePauw: 38 - Wabash: 14

## ETHAN WALLACE '25

SPORTS EDITOR

The North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) once again comes down to the rivalry game between Wabash and DePauw. While many would say this game has a clear favorite, 129 years of history suggests that that means very little heading into the 130th Monon Bell Classic.

Ranked 10th in the nation, DePauw (9-0, 7-0 NCAC) needs little help arguing that they have what it takes to win the Saturday clash. The real question on everyone's mind will be: can Wabash (8-1, 7-0 NCAC) keep up and possibly win? A look at comparative stats against NCAC teams, leaves a wide window for a Wabash victory.

The Tigers will be stepping into a game against the best defense they have seen all season – one that is arguably the best in the NCAC. While DePauw boasts the league low for yards allowed, Wabash tops the conference in yards from sacks and combined takeaways.

Quarterback Nathan McCahill, who has only been sacked six times this season, will have to play his first game against consistent pressure, while throwing into the defense that is second in interceptions. How he responds will be the difference between a trip home and another year abroad for the Monon Bell

The game will most likely come down to the turnover battle, where the team who is able to hold on to the extra pick or recover their own fumble will come out ahead.

Where the Scarlet & White needs to find consistency is on the offensive end. After the ridiculous numbers from the 2023 team, the Little Giants have been somewhat underappreciated in their ability to march up the field this season. Wabash was second in scoring in the NCAC, averaging a more than modest 37.6 points per game.

After Denison, the third-ranked conference offense, scored 34 against DePauw, the Little Giants should expect to find themselves in the endzone multiple times during the game.

Recapturing the rushing success of last year's Bell Game will be vital to Wabash's game plan, as doing so will both burn time off the clock and improve the Little Giants' passing prospects. Fortunately, one of Wabash's best advantages over DePauw has been the run game with the Little Giants leading the Tigers 193 to 191.6 in rushing yards per game against NCAC teams.

Wabash will be running into the teeth of a defense that has only allowed 26.4 rushing yar-

ds per game, but DePauw has yet to face the best running back in the NCAC. Xavier Tyler '26 has averaged 111.3 rushing yards per game and has seven touchdowns; a strong start for Tyler will be an important indicator for the rest of the game.

Quarterback Brand Campbell '27 hasn't put up dazzling numbers this year but has been remarkably efficient. And while the games against Denison and Wittenberg weren't the runaway victories Wabash fans hoped to see, they gave Campbell a chance to prove he could wake up a stagnant offense when the game was on the line.

The biggest strike against the Little Giants' ability comes from their only loss to eighth-ranked University of Wisconsin-Platteville. In a tale-of-two-halves-style game, the Scarlet & White held their own through the first half scoring and allowing 14 points before losing the second 28-7. It was also a game where Wabash was navigating a change of starting quarterbacks.

What matters most from the Platteville game is which half was the better representation of Wabash's talent level. If after a lucky first, the Little Giants showed their true colors in the second, then they will have a tough time winning in the Bell Game. But if Wabash comes into the Bell Game looking more like that first-half team, this contest is going to be a thriller.

The Little Giants' pathway to victory will be in bringing chaos into the mix. So far, DePauw has had a very smooth season, winning every game by at least three scores. Obviously, that is a testament to their ability, but it could leave them unprepared if the game remains close through four quarters.

If the Bell Game goes down to the wire, like last season, Wabash has more experience to lean on. Back-to-back close wins against Denison and Wittenberg gave the Little Giants a chance to test both their offense and defense in game-on-the-line scenarios. Both proved that they could handle the pressure.

This game will not be as straightforward as many DePauw fans hope. It will be counted as an upset if the Little Giants shock the Tigers in Blackstock Stadium. But Wabash has known what it will take to win this game from the first day of August. If there's ever been a perfect team to end the Tigers' perfect season, it's these Little Giants.

## Prediction:

DePauw: 24 - Wabash: 28





# Winner take all:

*A three-year reflective on a game to decide the conference and the rivalry*



HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

The 130th Monon Bell Classic between Wabash and DePauw will add another year to the historic rivalry. This marks the third year in a row that the winner of the Monon Bell will also secure a spot in the NCAA Division III playoff tournament. Adding to the stakes, this is the first year in which both teams are undefeated in conference play heading into Bell week.

Two years ago, the Little Giants faced a challenging trip to snowy Greencastle, where they struggled against a high-powered DePauw offense that seemed unstoppable from the opening kickoff. The Tigers' attack was overwhelming and it led to a tough 49-14 defeat in a game that left the team in a tough position heading into the 2023 off-season. It was a humbling experience that fueled a desire for redemption, setting the stage for a dramatic rematch the following year.

Last season, Wabash returned to their home field determined to bounce back from the loss a year prior. The 129th Monon Bell classic quickly turned into one of the most memorable matchups in the history of this rivalry. With both teams trading blows in a back-and-forth affair filled with big plays and clutch moments, it became the first-ever Monon Bell clash to reach double overtime. Although the Little Giants showcased their resilience by fighting until the end, DePauw delivered the final blow and outlasted Wabash 33-30 in a gut-wrenching finish. This loss left a bitter taste for the team and Wabash faithful, but it proved how thin the margins can be in this fierce rivalry.

As both programs prepare for the 130th Monon Bell game, the stakes are higher than ever. With the School Down South riding an undefeated season and the Little Giants

carrying the weight of two consecutive losses on their backs, the added excitement and pressure of this year's matchup are immense. The Little Giants will head into Greencastle with an underdog mentality and a desire to crash DePauw's perfect season and alter the Division III football postseason landscape. This year's showdown will be a true test of Wabash's perseverance and grit in a matchup for a right to pride and a playoff appearance.

"The game is already enormous, but now the implications are for even more, as it decides things people outside of the rivalry covet and understand as well," said Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator Jake Gilbert '98. "If we tell a recruit we won the Bell game, they'll think, okay you beat your rival, but they don't really understand the magnitude. Externally, everybody understands we go to the playoffs, we're the conference champion and we get a ring, which is a big deal."

This game has usually had massive implications for the postseason race, but with football powerhouse John Carroll University joining the conference in 2025, the path to the playoffs may become more challenging. As Wabash and the School Down South prepare for another battle, this year's game could be the last time the Monon Bell victory serves as a direct ticket to the national stage.

John Carroll football has been a historically dominant program, going 23-6 in their last three seasons, with each loss coming to a nationally-ranked team. Given their success, John Carroll entering the NCAC will make it tougher for the rest of the field to win the conference title. However, the excitement and significance of the Monon Bell game will not deteriorate even if the path to the playoff comes with obstacles.

"The old saying in the Bell game has always been, if you're 0-9 coming into the matchup and you win, your season was successful," said Athletics and Recreation Communications Director Brent Harris H'03. "In 2010, we were not going to win the conference, but we blasted DePauw 47-0 to ruin their playoff hopes. The guys on that team finished the year saying, 'we are the greatest football team ever'. And what did they do the next year? They won the conference and made a run to the final eight in the football playoffs, bouncing off of that Bell game victory."

On top of John Carroll joining the NCAC in 2025, Hiram will be leaving the conference simultaneously. The teams' schedules will

become more challenging and, as a result, the likelihood of earning an at-large bid will increase ever so slightly due to a tougher strength of schedule.

Regardless of what the NCAC's future holds, this weekend's Monon Bell game is all about the present. While the disappointment of the past two matchups against DePauw still lingers, the Little Giants are ready to change the narrative in chapter three. With the Tigers entering the game undefeated, Wabash has the chance to deliver a monumental win for their program by marching into Greencastle, reclaiming the Bell, ruining DePauw's perfect season and securing a bid to the Division III playoff tournament.



## The Bachelor

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BY FREDERICK KNOTT

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# Recalling the vulgar camaraderie of the Monon Bell Stag

## Ashton Moore '25: Reflections on a tradition lost

It might be hard to conceive of now, but the Monon Bell rivalry used to be a little bit friendlier. The Bell Game used to be an event that united Wabash and DePauw students and alumni. Does that sound impossible to you? I would ask you to look no further than the Monon Bell Stag.

You may have never heard of “The Stag.” That’s not surprising, as the last one took place in 2013, over a decade ago. The Stag was a gathering of Wabash and DePauw students and alumni that took place every year on the Thursday prior to the Monon Bell Classic from 1965-1993 and from 2001-2013. It would begin with a nice dinner, and an award would be presented: “The Spirit of the Monon Bell.” This award was given from each college to a person on the other side of the rivalry. What a sweet and loving event, right? Well, not entirely.

The main course was a roast. Jokes were thrown from one side to the other as laughter would break out. Each college would choose a roaster and the two would go after each other’s alma maters. The jokes could range from lighthearted to raunchy. Hugh Vandivier ’91 recounted a particularly memorable joke delivered by Jake Knott ’03, a former Wabash quarterback who threw “The Catch” in the 2001 Bell Game.

“Jake gets up to the podium... he bows his head and he says, ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the lord is with thee.’ And he looks up at us and he goes, ‘hell, it worked the first time.’”

For a more vulgar joke, take this faux-toast that was given in jest from Lee McNeely ’62.

“Men of Wabash, raise your glasses. Those Dannies you see aren’t horses’ asses. Though slow of wit and low of station, they’re the product of a third-rate education. But on the gridiron, they will do their best. They will struggle and strive to meet the test, but when they slink home as evening falls, they’ll find we have not only the Bell, but also their balls.”

While those examples may seem tame, there were many jokes that pushed the

line of acceptable comic material. Was this event usually run by recent graduates, still full of youthful rage from four years of bitter rivalry? No, this was backed by both institutions, and was often sponsored by the administrations of both colleges. And the roasters? Only some of the most legendary names that you can find. Legendary Wabash Professor of Religion Bill Placher ’70 took the reins in 1991. In 1976, Ben Rogge was the roaster for Wabash. This event was led by some of the most distinguished and respected Wabash and DePauw alumni to ever exist.

Jon Pactor ’71 is another name that cannot be overlooked. If you have seen themed pins being passed around before and during Bell Week, he had something to do with it. He also, quite literally, wrote the book on the Monon Bell Stag. So many of the iconic names and moments of this event might be lost without his record keeping in *The Monon Bell Stag: Its History and Humor: A Story of Friendship and Rivalry Of Men Of Two Great Indiana Schools*. It’s an event he clearly loved and was attached to. Here’s how he talks about one of his favorite Stag attendees, Tommy Mont.

“DePauw had a coach in the 60s who everyone liked, Tommy Mont,” said Pactor. “He was really funny, and a skillful comedian. Of course, we [Wabash attendees] would make fun of him ...”

Pactor writes *The Monon Bell Stag* about as unbiased as he can. It’s evident that he holds great affection for the event and for the men who made it as great as it was, even if their stripes were black and gold. It’s also nearly impossible to miss the pain in his voice as he recollects the “bad humor” that killed the Stag in 2013. A DePauw roaster used a litany of homophobic jokes while DePauw’s president at the time, Brian Casey, who is openly gay, was present. It’s no wonder that DePauw declined the invitation to the 2014 edition. There hasn’t been an attempt to reunite the Stag with both Wabash and DePauw alumni since.

This lost tradition irks people like Vandivier, a passionate alumnus who wants to see less distance between Wabash and DePauw alumni, especially when there is such precedent for closeness between the two after graduation.

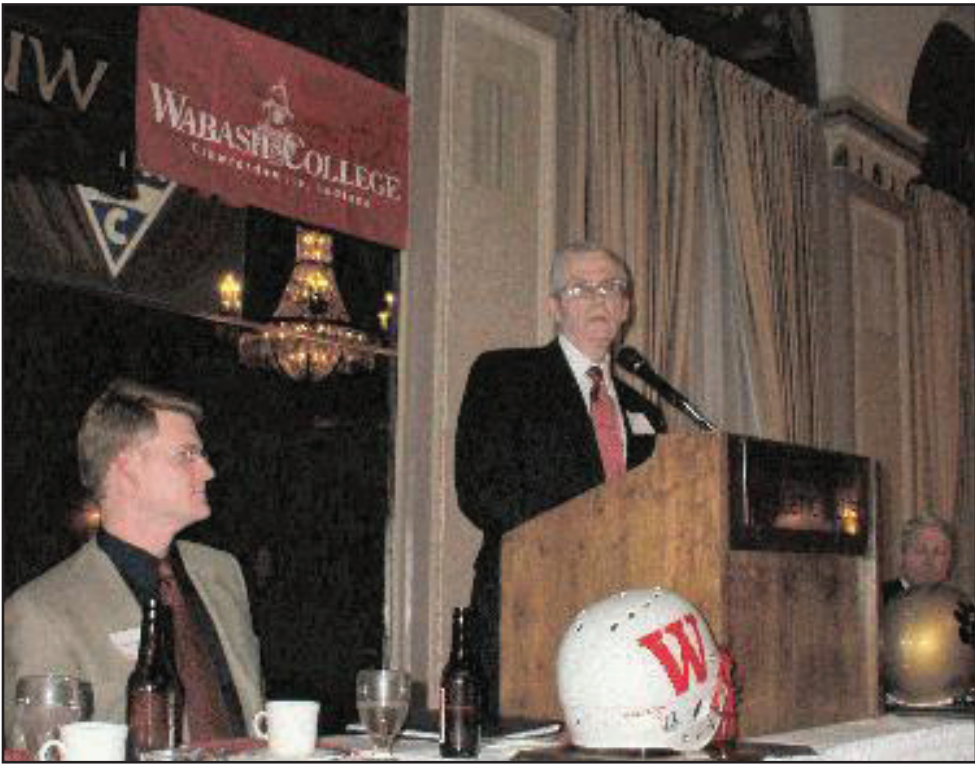
“There are all these fun things we used to do with them... When I graduated in ’91, the Stag was huge,” said Vandivier. “It used to be a big administrative thing, and the coaches of both teams would attend. ... [Jim Amidon] would do the preview.”

Vandivier spoke about the Stag longingly, and expressed frustration with how difficult it can sometimes be to get alumni events restarted. He believes events like the Stag enhance the Bell Game, and has grown concerned that leaving joint events filled with good-natured teasing

in the past leaves an opening for vitriol to creep into the rivalry.

“That was all really good fun,” said Vandivier. “I really wish we would do more things with DePauw. As an alum, I’m frustrated, and I’m sure that some of the Wabash Club of Indianapolis guys are as well.”

The Stag is an example of what the Monon Bell rivalry used to be. Even through, and maybe because of, the vulgarity and humor, the relationship between Wabash and DePauw alumni was strong. It’s easy to hate DePauw, but maybe there is some space for reconciliation. It will be up to the next generation of Wabash and Depauw students, alumni and faculty to decide where the relationship between the two colleges goes.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
Andy Ford H'03 presents remarks at the 2003 Monon Bell Stag as National Association of Wabash Men President Hugh Vandivier '91 prepares to take the stage at the Indianapolis Athletic Club.

# Tiger Hunt

Comic by  
Drake Green '28

# Why do Monon Bell Classic fans have separate entrances?

Continued from page 1

Despite the relative peace that Monon Bell game day enjoyed during previous decades, the 1990s was a turning point in the rivalry, leading to changes in how gameday operations were managed.

“A lot of things come together to make it an intense and great rivalry,” said Wabash President’s Chief of Staff Jim Amidon ’87. “But I think what has changed is the behavior of fans.”

No single factor caused the uptick in security and separation. The increasing media coverage the game garnered meant violent fan outbursts would negatively affect both schools more; the increasing prevalence of tailgating, especially with harder alcohol, likely also played a role by making it more likely a group of especially passionate fans may turn belligerent; and a more divided culture overall are all factors which raised security concerns for both schools.

Perhaps most importantly, two Monon Bell games in the late ’90s exacerbated security risks to the point where action was unavoidable. In 1996, Wabash had been in possession of the Bell for four straight years, but fell to DePauw 31-13 in the season’s penultimate game.

Thousands of DePauw fans stormed the field at Little Giant Stadium, tearing down the goalposts as Wabash fans threw projectiles at them. Destruction of that magnitude was unheard of in Division III at the time, and left an ugly mark on the game.

However, just two years later, history re-

peated itself. Wabash entered the 1998 Bell game with an undefeated, 9-0 record and hopes of a NCAA playoff berth. But the Little Giants were trounced at home 42-7, and once again, DePauw fans stormed the field, and promptly ripped down the goalposts.

And as if having an undefeated season and playoff berth spoiled by your biggest rival wasn’t enough, the Bell returned to Greencastle after having been stolen by eight Wabash students from DePauw’s campus two weeks prior to the game in the infamous “Halloween Heist.”

“It had not been unusual in the ’80s and early ’90s for fights to break out after the game or at some point late in the game,” said Amidon. “But it had gotten just bad enough that the goal post came down twice. That just doesn’t happen in Division III, but they did it in ’96 and ’98. So the next time we hosted, in 2000, we created the [security] situation that’s a lot like what you see today.”

The current arrangement that two decades of Wabash and DePauw students have known is not cheap and requires months of planning and coordination between administrators from both schools to pull off.

“It costs us somewhere in the ballpark of a quarter of a million dollars to \$350,000 to host the game,” said Wabash Athletic Director Matt Tanney ’05. “Bleachers alone account for 65% to 70% of that.”

Reducing the security risks of the game would save tens of thousands of dollars each year, but efforts to change the fan culture have to come first before either school can consider relaxing security and bringing

a return to a long gone era. A change like that, Tanney believes, cannot come solely from administrators.

“It has to come from student leadership and alumni leadership,” said Tanney. “It must be a collective decision that this game, as great as it is, can be better. This thing is a gem; it’s a special event, and I think we’re missing out on some of it.”

Ultimately, the future of the Monon Bell Game’s security is in the hands of its attendees. The current iteration is now the norm, but it is not what the game once was. For better or for worse, fans will remain segregated by school for the foreseeable future.



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
Liam Thompson '24 rushes past the 25-yard-line as a sea of black and gold looms behind during the 129th Monon Bell Classic on November 11, 2023, at Little Giant Stadium.



# 130th Monon Bell Classic Chant Guide

Courtesy of the Sphinx Club

“DePauw to hell, let’s get that bell!”

“Blood makes the grass grow greener, greener”  
(repeat)

Caller: “Sko Bash!” Crowd  
Response: “Sko Bash!”

In case of a bad play/call:  
“Wabash Always Fights!”  
\*clap\* (repeat)

Offensive 3rd down:  
“Let’s go Bash!” \*clap\*  
(repeat)

In response to Danny slander: “We love Wabash, yes we do! We love Wabash, how bout you?”

Gilbert ’98 says: **OUT** with Hard Hat D!  
It’s not high enough energy!

## Safety a concern for Bell game

Continued from page 1

Waddell expressed concerns with this choice, saying, “When you’re hiring kids that might be 16, 17, 18-years-old to play security at a rivalry football game like this, that doesn’t work.”

While a third-party company may be logistically easier and potentially less expensive, Wabash has used law enforcement officers as the primary security to provide a more robust security presence and keep the Bell Game running smoothly when on their home turf.

While third-party contractors will act as the primary security for the event, attendees should still expect a robust law enforcement presence. Multiple different law enforcement agencies will be represented, including local law enforcement from Crawfordsville. Crawfordsville police officers will be stationed on the Wabash side

of Blackstock Stadium, which Waddell feels is a benefit to fans. Regardless, Waddell expressed that the law enforcement presence will not have a negative impact on the fan experience.

“Their whole job is safety,” said Waddell. “It’s not to arrest anybody, it’s not to throw anybody out of the Bell game. It’s just to make sure that everybody is in those guardrails. Have fun and be a great fan. Be loud, be rowdy, but don’t do dumb [stuff].”

DePauw University has also outlined several rules for the Wabash tailgate area in the Olin parking lot and the accompanying grass lot across the street that attendees are expected to follow. Prohibited items include fire pits, generators, hard alcohol, kegs and glass bottles. It is also against tailgating guidelines to carry open containers of alcohol on City of Greencastle property, which includes the

streets and some sidewalks.

Tailgaters are permitted to have grills, tents with a maximum size of eight feet by eight feet, chairs and tables. Students can look forward to the Interfraternity Council (IFC) “Megagate,” which has been a staple of recent Bell games.

“Be smart – If you are told something from an authority figure, listen to what they say,” said IFC President Matt Lesniak ’25. “And if you need motivation, know that the Dannies aren’t going to be following the rules, so it’s just another way to make Wabash look better than they are.”

Of special note for many students at the game is the potential for excise officers to conduct enforcement at the game and tailgates. Excise officers are a special division of the Indiana State Police who conduct intensified patrols at major events across the state to ensure compliance with alcohol

and tobacco laws. They are often wearing plainclothes to blend in with event attendees and make their enforcement efforts more effective.

While Excise operates on their own rules, Waddell made note that we should expect them to be present at tailgates and in the game.

“Our folks should always carry their ID with them, and if you are stopped by an Excise officer or any officer, they have the opportunity to go ‘Hey if you’re drinking, can you show me some ID?’” said Waddell. “Be compliant, they’re just doing their job. If you’re under 21 you shouldn’t be drinking anyway, but if the officer asks you for ID, be compliant and be polite. Just give them your ID and let them make sure that everything’s above board.”

“The plan is that when we win the Bell, we get that Bell to our side,” said Waddell. “We let the

team celebrate, because it’s their Bell first, they’ve earned that. Give them their time with it, then family, friends and our student body can join the crowd. I am absolutely not a fan of field rushing, be it from our fans or theirs. It’s one of those high-risk events, and that’s when bad things happen. There is serious potential for bad things to happen in a field rush event from a security standpoint, fan standpoint and team standpoint.”

While the safety and security plan put in place is meant to ensure that this year’s contest provides a positive experience for all fans, it is not the end of the fun. Lesniak echoed this sentiment.

“As Bryce McCullough ’23 once said, let’s get active,” said Lesniak. “This Saturday, let’s go down there and get active safely and smartly.”

## Be better than the Dannies



Sphinx Club  
President Luka  
Difilippo ’25

Reply to this opinion at  
ladifili25@wabash.edu

It is no secret that we have an intense rivalry with the School Down South that is in full effect this week. We need to make sure that we are putting more energy into cheering on our own guys than hating the other school. As a senior here at Wabash, I share the same feelings as many of the other students. This also happens to be the same sentiment many DePauw students share towards us. This is why we shouldn’t express that sentiment against them, and instead use it to fuel our love for our own school.

We have all heard many great sayings during this week throughout the years. These being from other students, football players, football coaches, staff, faculty and anyone associated with the College. Some are about the dislike our two schools have for each other, but most are about how we are better than they are. Notice the focus of that statement: “we.” This is how we should frame our rhetoric during this time. Don’t put any effort into the other side. Use it instead to build up our own, which takes them down in the end.

The more we put an emphasis on them, the more we build their image up, even if

we are using imagery that would put us above them. The more we build them up, the mightier they look. The mightier they look, the more intimidating they seem. This is what we do not want. We do not want to be intimidated by them. We want them to seem like nothing, like the Dannies they are. We do this by building up our own side.

I do not say this to attempt to diminish the massive rivalry that we all love. I rather bring this to the table to try to get everyone on our side, cheering for the same thing: our own team. I am not saying to throw away your disdain for them. I am rather suggesting that we redirect that energy to our own team, using it to help them on the field.

The more we root for them during the good, the more likely they are to stay hot. The more we bring them up during the bad plays, the more likely they are to bring themselves out of the rut they are in. The louder we are, the quieter the other side is. The better we talk about ourselves, the worse they sound talking about us. Overarchingly, the better we do at rooting for our own team, the worse they will look.

In the end, isn’t that what we want to do? Be better than the Dannies. We should be doing everything in our power to do this. These suggestions are just one thing we can do to make ourselves look better than them. This should not change anything except the outlook on us, Wabash. Let’s have a great day Saturday and as always, as a wise man once said, “I’d rather be 6 feet under than 26 miles down south. Ding Ding.”



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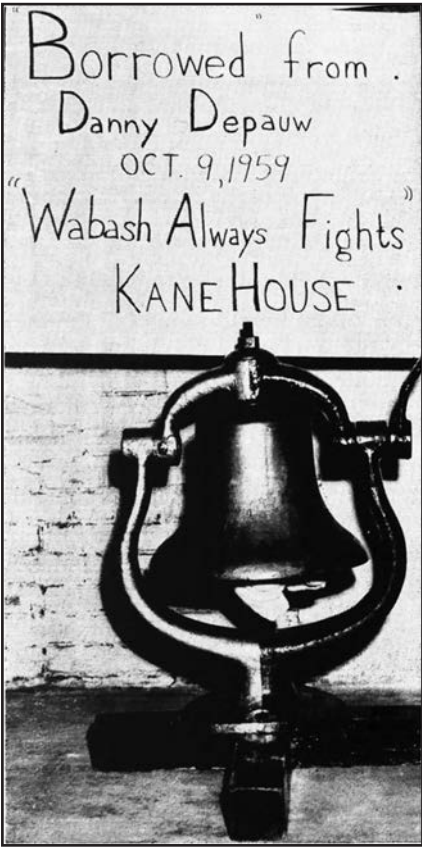
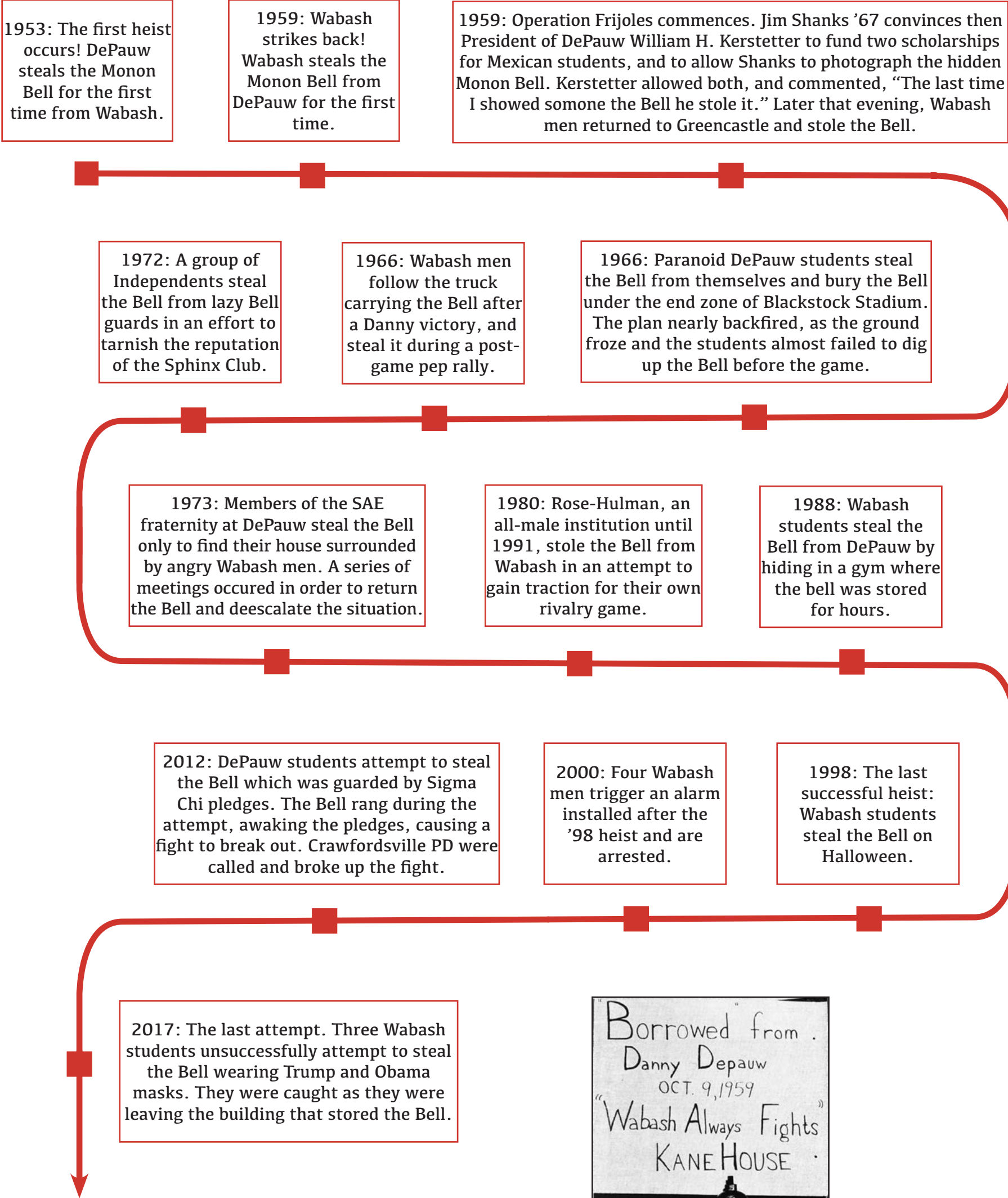
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# MONON BELL HEISTS: A BRIEF TIMELINE

The Monon Bell is by far the prize most coveted by Wallies and Dannies alike. But of course, only one group can lay claim to the trophy at once. However, this hasn't stopped the losing side from attempting to regain possession of the scarlet and gold bell. Since its introduction in 1932, there have been 15 documented attempts to steal the Monon Bell, burning both the successful and would-be thieves names into the history books of Wabash and DePauw.



COURTESY OF THE RAMSAY ARCHIVES  
An image of the stolen Monon Bell on October 9, 1959, the first time that Wabash students stole the Bell from DePauw. This image was ran in the October 16, 1959 issue of The Bachelor.

THE SPIRIT OF THE BIG COOKIE SAYS:



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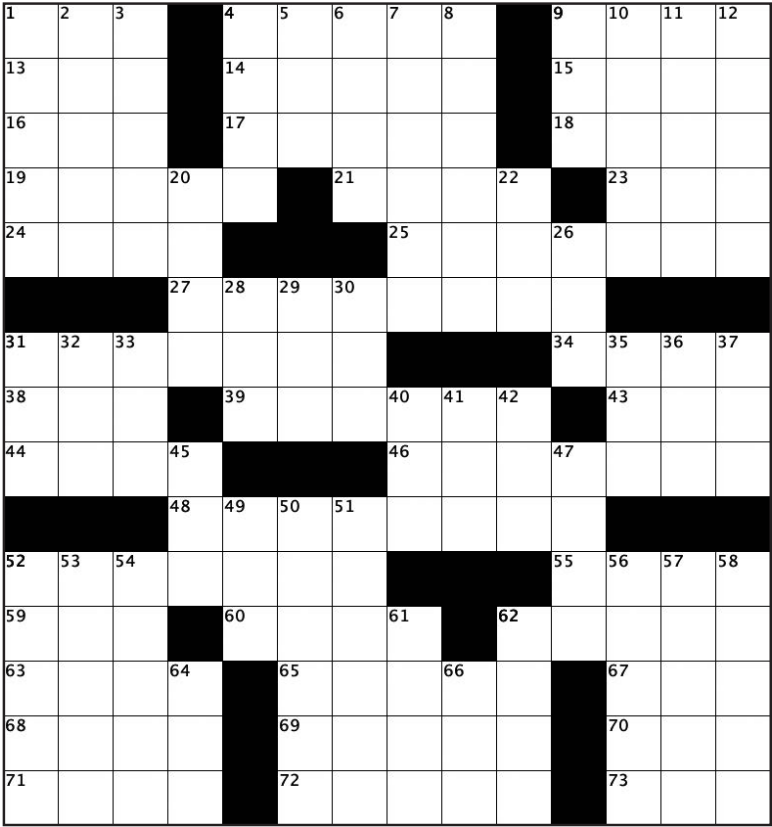






# 'Win or lose'

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



- Across**

  - 1. Many '90s music sales
  - 4. Alps or Andes
  - 9. Agony
  - 13. Smash success
  - 14. [See 52-Across]
  - 15. "What's more..."
  - 16. Musical gift
  - 17. Tandem twosome
  - 18. Final, e.g.
  - 19. "One Piece" genre
  - 21. Start of a Nietzsche title
  - 23. Saint-Dominique or Crémieux, in Paris
  - 24. At the ripe age of 546, he's the oldest of The Smurfs
  - 25. Pitched, as a tent
  - 27. It floats in a float
  - 31. Cake named for a Russian ballerina
  - 34. "Survey \_\_\_\_..."
  - 38. Part of IOU
  - 39. Winner of the 2024 Monon Bell Classic
- 43. Only three-letter sign of the zodiac
  - 44. Scooby and Snoopy, for two
  - 46. Averse to mixing
  - 48. Japanese director whose work heavily influenced George Lucas
  - 52. With 14-Across, it's surrounded by a Ring of Fire
  - 55. "Stubborn thing," per John Adams
  - 59. Brouhaha
  - 60. Womb, idiomatically
  - 62. Nametag greeting
  - 63. Who lent their names to all the planets (save Earth)
  - 65. How solitaire is played
  - 67. Curtsy counterpart
  - 68. Surveyor's measure
  - 69. Paramour
  - 70. Put to the test
  - 71. Line at the BMV
  - 72. Misery or Missouri
  - 73. Degree not held by a doctor, ironically

- Down**
- 1. Like a sharp-smelling perfume, maybe
  - 2. Divine huntress
  - 3. Cartoonist's work
  - 4. Valentine's Day symbol
  - 5. Part of a royal flush
  - 6. Iceless
  - 7. Round up
  - 8. Nutrition drink brand
  - 9. McAfee with a show on ESPN
  - 10. Word following "red" or "high"
  - 11. Newspaper edition
  - 12. Took down
  - 20. Focus of much 2020 election coverage
  - 22. Briny expanse
  - 26. There are 91.44 in a yd.
  - 28. Animal that provides high-protein meat
  - 29. Woman's name
  - 30. It's often taken at the end of the night
  - 31. The way the weasel goes
  - 32. Feeling of reverence
  - 33. Doc for 44-Across
  - 35. "Rumble in the Jungle" fighter
  - 36. Congressional vote
  - 37. Our star
  - 40. Small-sized batteries
  - 41. Govt. grp.
  - 42. "Really?!"
  - 45. Bit of Winter Olympics equipment
  - 47. Java joint
  - 49. "Lilo & Stitch" carrier, for short
  - 50. Many teams in an end-of-season football game
  - 51. Spotted wild cat of Central and South America
  - 52. Like the ancient festival of Saturnalia
  - 53. Have heart-eyes for
  - 54. Ancient manuscript
  - 56. "The Dark Side of the Moon," e.g.
  - 57. Glenn of "Hillbilly Elegy"
  - 58. Like many cars parked in the yellow
  - 61. Stellar blast
  - 62. "I'm open!"
  - 64. Cal. ender
  - 66. Tennis divider

# Sudoku

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

Courtesy of puzzles.ca

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

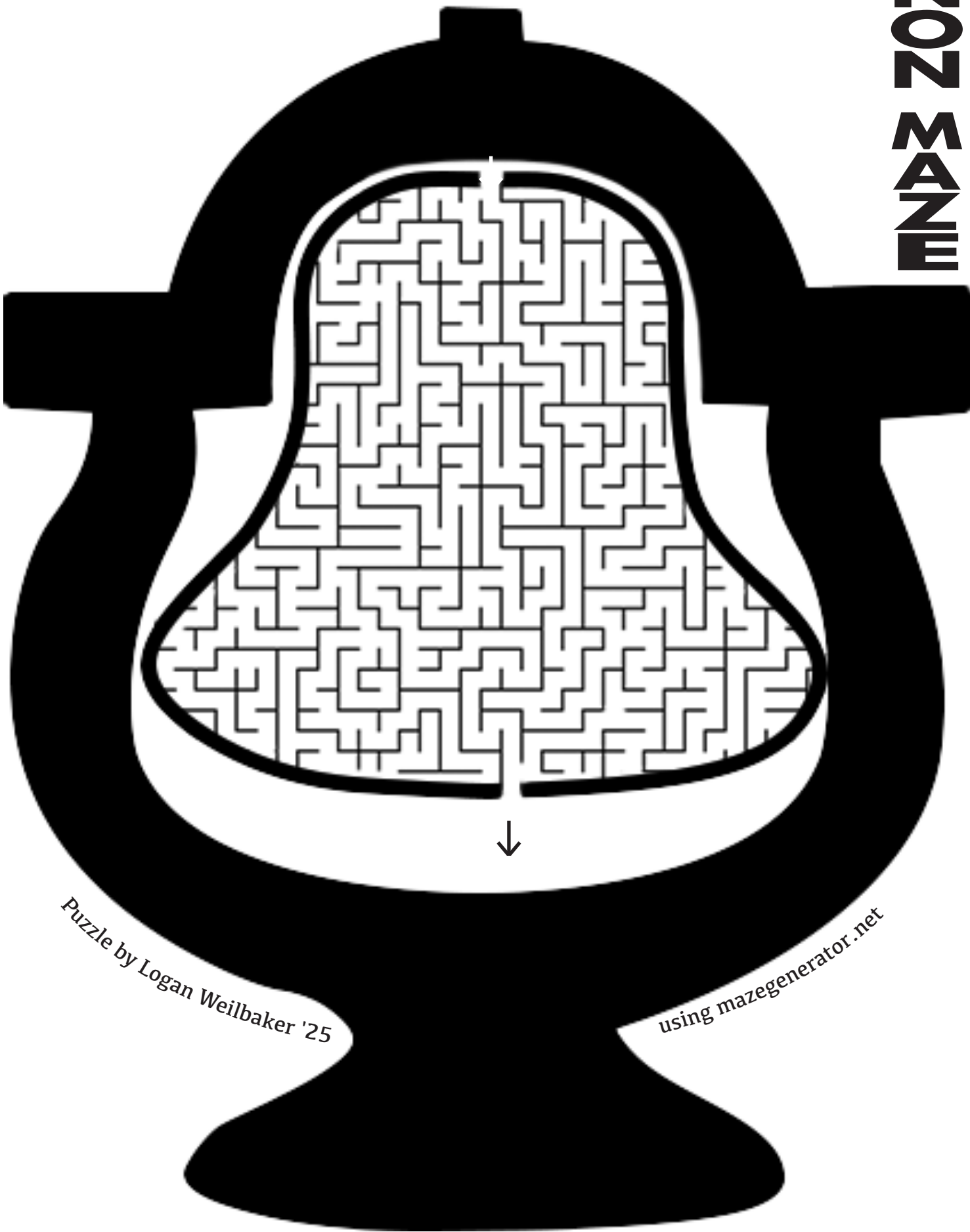
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# Theft and vandalism: A new norm?



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Continued from page 1

The poorly-timed actions occurred the evening before the inaugural Monon Bell Luncheon, an event in which leadership from both Wabash and DePauw gathered to honor the history of the two institutions' rivalry and promote respect between the communities

"We always like to have the moral high ground here at Wabash, because we know we're better," said Dean of Students Gregory Redding '88. "Actions [like these] that are designed to hurt DePauw actually end up hurting Wabash. If we can help our students understand that, of course, we are rivals, but let's not do anything that's going to hurt Wabash, then we're going to be okay."

Not only was the reputation of the College damaged by the act of vandalism against DePauw, but the students themselves are no longer only under the umbrella of Wabash administration when it comes to discipline. This leaves administration in a difficult spot.

"In the past, DePauw has forwarded these kinds of incidents to the Putnam County Prosecutor, who can decide whether or not they want to press charges," said Redding. "One hope that we have is that if we can make it clear that we hold Wabash students accountable for these kinds of things, then they don't feel like they have to hold them accountable. I've reached out to my counterpart at DePauw, and I have some ideas that I have already shared in the hope that they will realize that we are taking this seriously so that they don't have to go to the maximum level – hopefully that'll protect our guys."

While the Dean of Students office has the complication of both protecting the students of Wabash, while ensuring that they discipline the wrongdoings of vandalism, both students and campus security alike have another challenge ahead of them – guarding Wabash.

"I've already reached out to the Sphinx Club leadership, along with everyone else who is guarding

campus," said Director of Safety and Security Buck Waddell. "Now we have to worry about retaliation on our part. So we've had to step up our game, and we've reached out to Crawfordsville PD."

However, while Wabash men and Crawfordsville PD are remaining vigilant during Bell Week, the incident opens up an interesting conversation about the conduct of Wabash men in the Monon Bell rivalry.

**"Actions [like these] that are designed to hurt DePauw actually end up hurting Wabash."**

-Dean of Students  
Gregory Redding '88

In recent years, it has been Wabash men stealing equipment and vandalizing parts of the counter-parts campus, rather than students from DePauw. While it is true that football goal post pads were recovered early this week from DePauw's campus – something that was stolen last year – the incidents between the two schools, particularly ones that have caused damage (such as paint on the statue) have largely been executed by Wabash men.

"I can't think of, in my time here, any acts that have been perpetrated on this campus by DePauw students where they've created damage here," said Redding. "I'm sorry to say, but I think it's a little bit asymmetrical."

Even though retaliation is something that Wabash men may be concerned with, they must first consider that retaliation can only come after some Wabash men cross the line first.

"The best way that we can stick it to DePauw is to win back the Bell," said Redding. "We cheer for our team, and we know that win or lose, we love our guys."

## If history repeats itself: Remembering the 2010 Monon Bell Classic

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

In the history of the Bell rivalry, DePauw has only ever entered the Monon Bell Classic 9-0 on two occasions. The most recent was last season when Wabash fell 33-30 in double-overtime. The first was the legendary blow-out in 2010.

Heading into the 2010 Bell Game, it was clear that 21-ranked DePauw was the favored team. Across from the undefeated DePauw team, entered a 7-2 Little Giants squad that had just taken a 34-17 loss to Wittenberg.

What ensued was something that no one expected. The Little Giants posted a 47-0 victory.

"I had confidence that we could win," said then Head Football Coach Erik Raeburn in the November 19, 2010, issue of The

Bachelor in an article titled "Bell Game Blowout." "But I thought they were good both offensively and defensively, so I never envisioned a 47-0 victory."

The contest was also the final game in which Head Associate Football Coach Jake Gilbert '98, then defensive coordinator coached before leaving Wabash to coach at Westfield High School.

"It was just a really special day, pretty magical," said Gilbert. "It's like, everything I called didn't matter. I could have called anything and it would have worked. I've just never been in a game that went that well. That was my last game here. So, that was a pretty good one to leave on."

Under Gilbert, the Little Giant defense held their rivals to 95 yards of total offense and just seven first downs. Meanwhile,

Wabash found themselves in the endzone six times, while adding two field goals.

**"I could have called anything and it would have worked. I've just never been in a game that went that well."**

-Associate Head Football  
Coach Jake Gilbert '98

Since then, the game has gone on to symbolize the unpredictability of the Monon Bell Classic. It reminds every team that the next great upset is just 60 minutes away.



PHOTO BY ALEX MOSEMAN '11

Taken from the November 19, 2010, issue of The Bachelor, the photo was originally captioned, "Once again the Bell will remain in Crawfordsville for another year after Wabash's big win."

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# Greene: “From Blake to Brand”



**ELIJAH GREENE '25**  
PHOTO EDITOR

One of the tales of the tape for Wabash’s 2024 season has been of heartbreak and triumph at quarterback. Blake White ’25’s senior campaign was to be his victory lap, a culmination of three years’ dedication backing up legendary Wabash quarterback Liam Thompson ’24. But, after a

season-ending pectoral injury , White would never again play for the Little Giants. He continued to contribute by mentoring new QB Brand Campbell ’27. Campbell, having never played a snap as the first-team QB, quickly became a star under White’s tutelage, leading the Little Giants to a 6-1 record and an undefeated conference record. Wabash is now poised to take both the Bell and

the conference title away from DePauw on Saturday, November 16. This photo essay was made to both honor White’s four-year commitment to his school and his team, as well as highlight the exciting development of Wabash’s QB of the future, Brand Campbell.

## This week in sports: Changing of the seasons

**MALACHI MCROBERTS '27**  
STAFF WRITER

Bell Week may have taken hold of everyone’s attention, but the show must go on for the rest of Wabash athletics. This week in sports, catch up on basketball’s and wrestling’s season openers and get ready for the cross country to take on the regional championships.

**Basketball:**  
November 8 at Trine University  
Wabash: 78 Heidelberg: 82

Little Giant basketball nearly scraped their way to a 2-0 start in their weekend road trip to the Trine University Classic.

Unfortunately, Wabash fell short, losing to Heidelberg University. Heidelberg erupted from behind the arc, going 12-16 for an astonishing 75% three-point percentage. This three-point shooting excellence enabled the Student Princes to hold a 20-point lead with six minutes to go in the second half.

But Wabash soon began firing on all cylinders, going on a 19-2 run across five and a half minutes. This left Wabash down three with 32 seconds left in the game. Then, the foul game began. Even with the Little Giants capitalizing quickly, converting two quick layups, it unfortunately was not enough. Heidelberg drilled five out of six free throws in the final minutes, barely avoiding a historic comeback.

**“In sports, there are no moral victories. So, we need to get back to work and get the first win of the season.”**

-Vinny Buccilla '25

November 9 at Trine University  
Wabash: 68 Trine: 78

After the nail-biter against Heidelberg, Wabash had to quickly redirect their focus because the very next day they had to face Trine University, currently ranked first in the nation. Fresh off a national championship, Trine was not going to be beaten easily. Unfortunately for Trine, Wabash seemed

**Wrestling:**  
November 9 at Albion College  
Wabash: 14 Albion: 25

Wabash went into Albion confidently, with victory in their sights. Unfortunately, the Little Giants were unable to secure their first dual meet victory. Only three Little Giants were able to score in the meet. Firstly at 133 pounds, All-American James Day ’26 scored

to have other ideas. In the first half, they shot well from the field, from three and the free throw stripe. This gave them the edge, finishing the first half up 40-36. But the Little Giants’ offense suddenly came to a crashing halt in the second half. After briefly building a 12-point lead in the opening minutes of the half, Trine began to chip away at the Little Giants’ lead by getting to the free-throw line.

In the second half alone, Trine took 19 free throws and converted 16 of them. Free throws and defense led to them taking the lead with seven and a half minutes to go, and they kept their lead the rest of the way. Even with the loss, Wabash can keep their heads up, knowing they were nine minutes away from pulling off an astronomical upset.

“It definitely helps with our confidence going into the bulk of our season,” said Vinny Buccilla ’25. “We think we are the best team to step on the floor every game, and we have to continue to play like that. Obviously, we as a team continue to work towards that.”

At the same time, Wabash isn’t content with a 0-2 start, no matter the quality of the loss.

“In sports, there are no moral victories,” said Buccilla. “So, we need to get back to work and get the first win of the season.”

November 9 at Millikin University

In the Millikin University Open exhibition, there were several stand-out grapplers. At 149, Carson Fettig ’28, placed seventh after claiming two wins on a major decision and technical fall, he fell into the consolation bracket, where he proceeded to win out. While Fettig placed seventh, his fellow 149-pound teammate Grant Brewer ’28 lost in the finals on a 4-3 decision, which earned him 2nd place. After getting bounced in the first round of the 174 weight class, Jaylen Young ’28 cleared the consolidation bracket earning his place at 5th. Sammy Saunders ’26 and Zach Wagner ’27 placed 6th and 8th respectively at 184.

Upcoming: November 15 at Chadwick Court

Wrestling will host their first home meet.

**Cross Country:**  
Upcoming: Saturday, November 16 at Blue River Cross Country Course in Shelbyville, IN

After a fifth-place finish at the North Coast Athletic Conference Championships in November, the Red Pack will head to NCAA Division III Great Lakes Regional. The runner-to-watch will certainly



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27  
**Vinny Buccilla '25 drives to the basket in the Little Giants’ game against Trine University on November 9, 2024, at Trine.**



PHOTO BY DIEGO BANUELOS '27  
**Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 runs in the NCAC Championships which were held on Sunday, November 3, 2024, at the LaVern Gibson Cross Country Course in Terre Haute, Indiana.**

ly be Brayden Curnutt ’25 who claimed first place at the conference championship and will be looking for a ticket to nationals with a strong finish.



# Wabash drops Wittenberg 31-28

Last-second touchdown seals comeback win in Springfield

**ETHAN COOK '28**  
STAFF WRITER

In their final game before the 130th Monon Bell Game, the Little Giants picked up yet another close victory. They traveled to Springfield, Ohio to take down Wittenberg by a final score of 31-28 on Saturday, November 9. With another conference opponent down, the Little Giants remain undefeated in the North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC), now sitting at 7-0.

The Little Giants victory over the Tigers did not come without getting past multiple obstacles – most of those obstacles being self-inflicted wounds, especially early in the game. Despite this, Head Football Coach Don Morel was able to make the necessary adjustments and got his team back on track.

“We had a play that we felt we could hit a touchdown on and we missed it, then another one later that we missed,” said Morel. “We also had two personal foul penalties on the same drive, so we just needed to get out of our own way. We changed the tempo of the game in the second quarter and we got going from there.”

Big, momentum flipping plays were the name of the game for the Little Giants on defense and special teams. Following Wabash’s first score of the day, Michael Hegwood ’26 forced a fumble that was recovered by Ayden Salpietra ’27. This quickly put them back in scoring range, allowing Brody Rucker ’26 to connect on a field goal.

Then, on Wittenberg’s first drive of the second half, Jerry McBee ’26 blocked their fourth punt. This again put the Little Giants in scoring range immediately, leading to their second touchdown of the game.

Yet again, Xavier Tyler ’26 led the way for the Little Giants offensively. He rushed for 199 yards and two touchdowns on the afternoon. He also added two catches for four yards through the air. With Tyler’s performance in this game, he has now eclipsed the 1,000 rushing yards mark for the season. He also remains in first place in the NCAC in rushing yards and is tied for first in rushing touchdowns.

“I think confidence is the biggest factor,” said Tyler. “Having the ability to come into any situation during the game and knowing that at any point you could turn a game on its head with one snap all stems from confidence.”

Tyler’s impact has been immeasurable all season long. His progression has been the biggest contributing factor to the success of the Wabash offense this year and will continue to be in the future.

“I think that we are really starting to see Xavier Tyler emerge as a dominant player in

this conference,” said Morel. “He continues to grow and get better so we are really building our offense around him.”

Tyler’s success has been great for the Little Giants’ passing game as well. The respect that opposing defenses are being forced to show Tyler has made the job easier for quarterback Brand Campbell ’27.

“The run game has been huge for us,” said Campbell. “What they have done has been huge for the passing game in terms of opening up the field and getting the receivers open.”

Campbell continued to be efficient on Saturday, as he has been since he took over the starting job back in September. Campbell completed 17 of his 24 passes for 142 yards. He also had two touchdowns and zero interceptions on the day. Campbell remains the second

most efficient quarterback in the conference and has a 17-1 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

“Coach Morel, [Assistant Football Coach] CJ Ramsey ’20 and Blake White ’25 have been the biggest factors in my development,” said Campbell. “Going up against our defense everyday led by [Associate Head Football Coach and Defensive Coordinator] Jake Gilbert ’98 has helped me grow a lot as well.”

Late in the third quarter the Tigers running back once again coughed up the ball. This allowed Sam Ringer ’26 to recover the fumble and the offense was once again able to score points following a turnover.

Similar to their win against Denison, late-game heroics got the job done for the Little Giants against Wittenberg. They got the ball back following a touchdown by the Tigers down by four with 1:56 left in the game. Then, Brand Campbell led them on a seven-play, 75-yard drive and capped it off with a go-ahead 16 yard touchdown pass to TJ Alexander ’26. This score came with just 45 seconds left in the game and the Tigers were unable to respond fast enough, as the Scarlet and White defense held strong to secure the victory.

The Little Giants once again got the job done when it mattered the most. The offense and defense continuously look more cohesive each week and their ability to make adjustments in game has been crucial to their success. Now the Scarlet & White looks to carry their momentum forward into the biggest game of the season.



WABASH		WITTENBERG	
142 PASSING YARDS	186 RUSHING YARDS	245 PASSING YARDS	128 RUSHING YARDS
328 TOTAL OFFENSE		373 TOTAL OFFENSE	

PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25  
Enrique Ruiz '25 hoists TJ Alexander '26 to celebrate a touchdown in the Little Giants game against Ohio Wesleyan University on September 14, 2024 at Little Giant Stadium.

## Greene: The four horsemen of the DePauw-calypse

**ELIJAH GREENE '25**  
PHOTO EDITOR

Ladies and gentlemen, the time has come. From being blown out in Greencastle two seasons prior and losing in heartbreaking fashion during overtime in 2023, the Wabash football team is back for the 130th Monon Bell Classic with nothing but revenge on their minds. The Dannies are as tough as they have ever been, but Wabash has the recipe to spoil the Tigers’ undefeated season. Here are four key features of this year’s Wabash squad that will prove instrumental in orchestrating the Dannies’ downfall. These are the four horsemen of the DePauw-calypse.

### Xavier Tyler '26 and a dominant run game

If Wabash wants to win this year’s Bell Game, success in the run game will be critical in establishing a foothold offensively; it all starts with Xavier Tyler ’26. The Little Giants’ running back has been electric all season, rushing for a conference-leading 1,002 rushing yards and nine touchdowns. Tyler’s excellent field vision, patience at the line of scrimmage and explosive front-end have solidified him as the best running back in the conference this season.

Since Week 1, the Little Giants have been utilizing Tyler’s 5.9 average yards per carry to keep the chains short and give quarterbacks and skill players breathing room. They have moved the ball constantly forward and had incredible success in the run game, especially against quality NCAC opponents. During last week’s matchup against Wittenberg – who is ranked third in the conference in rushing yards allowed per game with 94.8 and has only allowed 2.5 yards per carry all season – gave up 199 rushing yards to Tyler alone.

The Little Giants have proven they are capable of moving the football on the ground against tougher teams, but DePauw’s defensive front seven will be the hardest challenge yet. Giving up only 0.9 yards per carry in the NCAC (yes, less than a yard) and holding opponents to under 30 yards per game, the Tigers are a formidable threat. So, it is all the more important for this year’s Bell Game that Wabash



comes out early and establishes a run presence, winning this phase of the contest and setting up the passing game.

### Jake Gilbert '98 and Wabash's ballhawk secondary

DePauw’s offense has been a tough nut to crack by NCAC defenses all year. They rank first in almost every offensive statistic, including throwing an eye-watering 41 touchdown passes and only two interceptions. For reference, the next highest teams – Wittenberg and Wooster – have only thrown 34 passing touchdowns combined. The Tigers will look to strike through the air early and often on Saturday, unless Wabash can convince them otherwise.

One of the best improvements Associate Head Coach Jake Gilbert ’98 has brought to this year’s Little Giant defense is an emphasis on creating defensive turnovers. Coming off a paltry

2023 season where Wabash only secured seven interceptions and six recovered fumbles, this year’s defensive squad is second in the conference in both categories, with 13 interceptions and seven recovered fumbles. Several of these turnovers have come in clutch moments, including Sam Ringer ’26’s 100-yard fumble return touchdown against non-conference opponent St. Norbert College and Mike Holsclaw ’26’s game-sealing interception in the fourth quarter against Denison only two weeks ago.

To turn the tide of this year’s Bell Game, Wabash will have to make the Tigers cough the ball up, at least once, but hopefully more. Despite being the best team in the conference at not turning the ball over, DePauw has yet to face the best defense in the NCAC, other than themselves. The Little Giants will have chances to make plays in the secondary and deliver bone-crushing hits to jar the ball

loose at key moments throughout the contest. Coming up with one or two turnovers could make all the difference when the game clock hits zero.

### Brand Campbell '27 and offensive momentum

One of the major stories of Wabash’s football season thus far has been the injury of senior quarterback Blake White ’25, which occurred in week two at home against Ohio Wesleyan. A torn pectoral and fractured collarbone sidelined White for the rest of the season, leaving room for sophomore Brand Campbell ’27 to take the reins. Campbell has played exceedingly well thus far, leading the Little Giants to a 6-1 record as the starting QB and is currently second in the conference in offensive efficiency with a rating of 187.7.

But the Bell Game requires more than raw talent to succeed. It takes maturity and poise

to handle the pressure of commanding the offense in the most popular DIII football game of the year, with rabid fans screaming and the intense expectation of needing to win weighing heavy on the mind. It’s enough to make even the best players crack under pressure, but Campbell will need to remain calm and collected in his first Bell Game start. You can be sure his counterpart will be. DePauw quarterback Nathan McCahill is a fifth-year senior with two Bell wins under his belt as the Tigers’ starting QB. With DePauw’s experience and a seemingly superior offense to work with, the pressure will be on Campbell to start and maintain Wabash’s offensive momentum, keeping the Little Giants in the game for all four quarters. Wabash has struggled at times throughout the season with maintaining this momentum. Against a dangerous DePauw squad, Wabash will have to find its rhythm quickly and keep the pressure on the Dannies to produce points. There will be no room for error come Saturday.

### Gavin Ruppert '26 and constant D-line pressure

One of the most consistently devastating facets of Wabash’s defensive squad this year has been the defensive line and linebacker play. Gavin Ruppert ’26 has been a one-man wrecking crew at middle linebacker, with tackles, pass defenses, interceptions and forced fumbles. The man can do it all. Paired with an eight-man rotating defensive line that relentlessly pressures quarterbacks and comes up with sacks, this Little Giants front seven could be the difference-maker in this year’s Bell Game. DePauw has been excellent this season at keeping McCahill’s pocket clean, giving up only six sacks in nine games. If Wabash’s front seven can pressure McCahill often – throwing him out of rhythm – there is a greater likelihood of him making a mistake and turning the ball over, giving the Little Giants a needed leg up in this contest. Since McCahill hasn’t been pressured much this season, a healthy dose of Jerry McBee ’26 or Jordan Cree ’27 in his face may be enough to turn the tide late in the game, granting Wabash the victory.