

## IFC turns March Madness into fundraising event

SAM BENEDICT '25  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

As the round of 64 approached, students across campus hotly debated their picks for the March Madness tournament, and productivity came crashing to a halt. The Interfraternity Council decided to make this year's March Madness meaningful by organizing a bracket challenge amongst fraternities — with all proceeds going to the Animal Welfare League.

The contest is part of the IFC's greater initiative to develop engaging, effective philanthropy events for fraternity members on campus to participate in. The IFC March Madness Bracket Tournament invited each fraternity to submit one bracket from their brothers — with the submission costing \$100. The IFC will provide a prize to the fraternity with the most points and will celebrate with a unity-focused event on March 29. The event involves the collaboration between the Sphinx Club, IFC, MXIBS and La Alianza as well as representatives from the Animal Welfare League who will bring dogs for participants to interact with.

"To this point, \$900 has been raised for the Animal Welfare League solely through the bracket challenge," said IFC President Lucas Carpenter '26. "However, other houses are giving additional donations on the day of the event, so total fundraising for the Animal Welfare League will be upward of that number."

The Animal Welfare League

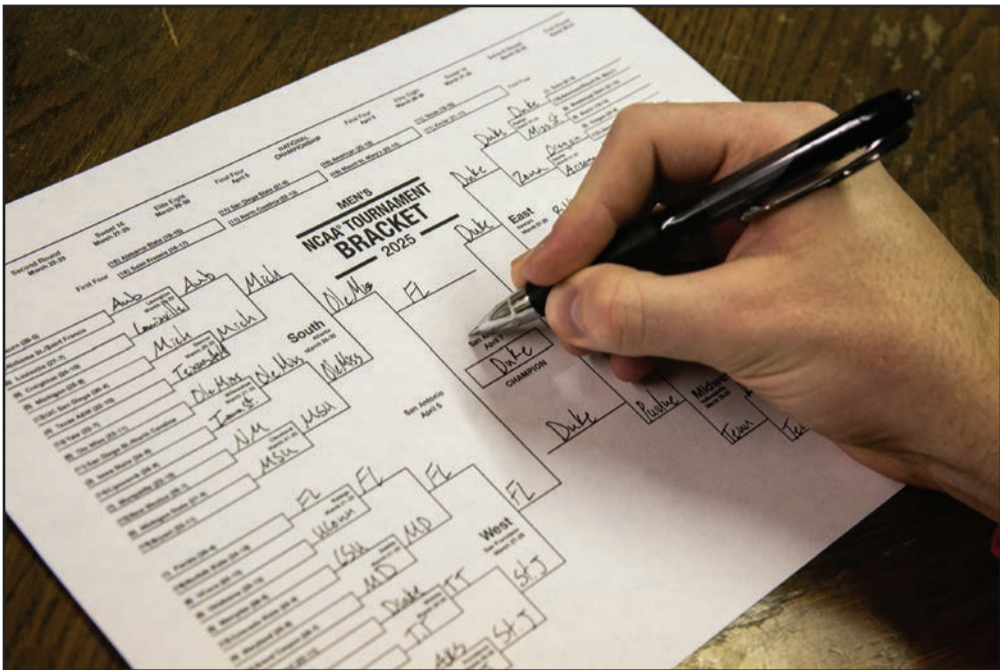


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**A student fills out a hand-written NCAA Tournament Bracket for March Madness.**

of Montgomery County works to improve animal welfare through spay/neuter services, community education and the sheltering of local animals. The organization often partners with animal shelters and other local animal welfare groups to support and work towards their mission.

"We selected the Animal Welfare League because we feel they're an organization that often gets overlooked from a donation standpoint," said IFC Philanthropy Chair Aidan Mason '26. "We wanted to do something beyond just walking the dogs and show the shelter that Wabash is committed to helping in more ways than just one... These funds will make an impact by allowing the shelter to pur-

chase much needed items like dog and cat food, cat litter and cleaning supplies. This will allow the shelter to not only keep the animals there happy and healthy, but also maintain their no-kill status."

The fundraising initiative is one of the first completed by the IFC and is poised to make a meaningful impact on the Animal Welfare League. Aside from the financial success, participants have enjoyed taking part in the bracket challenge with talk of it hopefully being an annually recurring event.

"Making the bracket as a house was great because a lot of guys came together since we all love March Madness," said Phi Gamma Delta IFC Representative Colton Cooper

'27. "There were definitely some controversial game picks and people left in disagreement, but taking a break from the busy week and hanging out with my brothers and talking ball is always a good time. From the outside it may have looked a bit confusing, but the yelling and debate while making the bracket made it so every brother who wanted could get involved and have fun."

On top of the proceeds raised through the bracket competition, individuals can continue to make donations to the Animal Welfare League during the March 29 event. Cash donations as well as supplies like litter, food and cleaning supplies are welcome.

## News around the world

EVAN BAKER '27  
STAFF WRITER

South Korea

This past Friday, fires broke out in the southern city of Sancheong located in Gyeongsang province in South Korea. Reportedly started by a spark from a lawn mower, the wildfire has spread rapidly, burning almost 43,000 acres of land as of this Wednesday. Despite more than 10,000 firefighters, police and civil servants being deployed to the province, strong, dry winds have hampered the efforts of the workers to contain the fire, and South Korean Prime Minister Han Duck-Soo declared a state of emergency in Gyeongsang.

According to Korean authorities, at least 24 people have been killed — including four civil servants helping fight the wildfire — and another 26 have been injured from the flames. Additionally, a 1,300-year-old Gounsa temple, a sacred Buddhist landmark in the region, has been turned to rubble. This temple, located in Uiseong County, housed numerous sacred Buddhist artifacts, statues and treasures for the Buddhist people.

Canada

Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stepped down from office in Canada earlier this month after leading the Liberal Party for the past decade. Trudeau — along with his party — has been heavily criticized for the past few years, with many claiming he has fallen out of touch with the Canadian public opinion and has been unable to adjust to changes around the world.

Although new Prime Minister Mark Carney was elected to lead the Liberal Party in a landslide election following Trudeau's announcement of his resignation, many worry about his lack of experience in government, since he has never held a seat in parliament. Previously, Carney served as the governor of the Bank of Canada and the Bank of England. Freshly sworn into office, Carney's top priorities are to protect Canadian workers in the face of the trade war with the United States and to cut government spending to allow the housing market to flourish.

Russia and Ukraine

This week, Russia and Ukraine agreed to a naval ceasefire agreement in the Black Sea, the sea that borders both of the countries. U.S. officials negotiated the deal with both sides in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, this week; however, the two countries have yet to meet directly over the deal. Shortly after the White House announced the ceasefire agreement, Russia stated that the Black Sea ceasefire would not begin until the West's sanctions on Russian banks and exports and imports of international food and fertilizers were lifted. The Trump administration stated they do not know when the agreement will come into effect and that they are considering the demands of the Kremlin.

In response, President Zelenskyy of Ukraine has accused Russia of lying that the Black Sea ceasefire depended on the sanctions being lifted. He continued claiming that Ukraine would push for more sanctions to be placed on Russia if they were to not hold up their end of the ceasefire. Additionally, both sides have begun to discuss implementing a ban on attacking energy infrastructure. However, both sides have recently launched attacks on nuclear power plants, military infrastructure and power supply sites leaving many people on both sides of the border without heat in the unforgiving winter.



COURTESY OF AP

**Two firefighters attempt to put out a factory fire on March 22, 2025, in Uiseong, South Korea.**



COURTESY OF CNN

**Former Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announces his resignation on January 7, 2025.**



COURTESY OF REUTERS

**Ukrainian patrol boats sail in the Black Sea amid Russia's attack on Ukraine on February 7, 2024.**

## La Alianza plans for annual Spring Festival

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28  
STAFF WRITER

Mud Hollow — the sacred field in which tailgates are held, athletes practice and of course, where La Alianza hosts their annual Spring Festival. The Spring Festival is set to start on Friday, March 28, at 4 p.m., and La Alianza is striving to draw out members of the Wabash community for an afternoon of charity soccer and food trucks.

"Our new motto is just uniting people on a sunny day," said La Alianza President Christian Cantu '26.

The Spring Festival will have many activities throughout the afternoon — namely, a philanthropy soccer tournament. The philanthropy soccer tournament features teams of five competing for various prizes, a trophy and of course, bragging rights. However, unlike last year's tournament, which had a team buy-in of only \$50, particular organizations such as fraternities now have a team buy-in of \$100.

This year marks the first Spring Festival that La Alianza is using to fundraise money — this year, they have chosen the charity Pam's Promise, a local organization that supports homeless mothers.

"This is the first time that we made the Spring Festival have a philanthropy side to it," said Cantu. "Our main goal is to raise at least \$1,000. What they

do is take this money and [Pam's Promise] is able to use it for housing or buying supplies for homeless mothers."

La Alianza also foresees

**"Our new motto is just uniting people on a sunny day."**

- La Alianza President Christian Cantu '26

the Spring Festival as a mini club fair to promote involvement on campus among those who are not in many clubs. This also gives clubs a great opportunity to spread information on their clubs.

"I think by having all the other clubs there, the people that are there that normally are not part of those clubs will take this opportunity to walk around and visit everyone," said La Alianza Vice President Juan Calvillo '26. "We asked all of [the clubs] to have a little bit of information about their club or their fraternity."

La Alianza hopes the Spring Festival has a positive impact on campus by giving people a break from their work and encouraging them to go back outside for events after winter, by pushing people to interact with those that they don't regularly interact with.

**Continued page 2**



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25 & WILL DUNCAN '27

## Spring Festival

Continued from  
page 1

Additionally La Alianza wants to promote their club and push those that would want to be in La Alianza to get involved. “I think with the Spring Festival arises a new opportunity to not only be outside, but also to interact with those people that you don’t normally interact with,” said Calvillo. “I think that the Spring

Festival is a big way for guys that don’t necessarily know much about La Alianza to get a little taste about what we like to do and who we are.” With a goal of raising \$1,000 and uniting people on a sunny day, campus can expect a lot from this year’s Spring Festival.

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page 1


The Stephenson Institute’s early stage success has been credited to student and faculty support over the past three years. “This is our third year of operations,” said D’Amico. “And the buy-in from students and faculty support as well as the broader academic network beyond Wabash has been beyond any expectations that I had before arriving.”

## \$15 million gift continues to fund Stephenson Institute

The renewal of the Stephenson Institute’s funding brings a lot of questions of what will be done with it. Dever ’25 had some ideas of what he would like to see from the Stephenson Institute. “I know a lot of faculty members hold different views from Stephenson and some of the members of the Stephenson Institute,” said Dever. “I would love to see a debate between great minds on both sides involving the Stephenson institute.”


The Stephenson Institute is looking to expand their area of involvement. D’Amico has elaborated on some of the long term ambitions he has for the institute. “Research is an ongoing project that the institute sponsors that leverages students’ hands-on experience,” said D’Amico. “I’d like to build an ongoing research project where students could get their hands dirty and gain experience working with data and tracking institutional

dynamics to showcase the rich intellectual tradition of classical liberalism.” The additional funding to the Stephenson Institute is a testament to a lot of success. This success is due to excellent programming and opportunities that the Institute continues to provide, but it’s also due to the support and engagement of the students and staff.




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## This week at Wabash

Friday, Mar. 28	
4:30 p.m.	La Alianza: Spring Festival @ Mud Hollow
Saturday, Mar. 29	
12:00 p.m.	Baseball @ Goodrich Ballpark
Sunday, Mar. 30	
3:00 p.m.	Volleyball @ Chadwick Court
Monday, Mar. 31	
4:15 p.m.	J. Harry Cotton Lecture @ Center 216
Wednesday, Apr. 2	
7:30 p.m.	MXI Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz @ Salter Hall

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

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

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

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

*The Bachelor* is printed every Thursday at the Purdue Exponent in West Lafayette. It is delivered freely to all students, faculty, and staff at Wabash College. All advertising published in the *Bachelor* is subject to an established rate card. *The Bachelor* reserves the right to deny requests for publication of advertisements. Student organizations of Wabash College may purchase advertisements at half the listed rate.

*The Bachelor* is a member of the Hoosier State and Indiana Collegiate Press Associations (HSPA and ICPA).

# Wally’s wall: National Act 2025

## The Prompt:

What are your National Act reactions? Did it live up to your expectations? What are some standout moments?

### Nicholas Green ’27

I thought National Act was fine. The performances were entertaining and the food at the tailgate was pretty good.

### Ethan Wallace ’25

BigX was the biggest and the largest, but he wasn’t the best. For me, National Act just proved that Wabash can have fun whenever it wants if we just decide to.

### Thomas Oppman ’25

My favorite part of BigX’s performance was when he started crowd surfing! Those in the front row will be dearly missed...

### Miles Goss ’25

I really really really really really really really really really really really really liked Deacon and the Loosey Goosey Experience.

### Gino Park ’28

“Cracked performances for both WAM and DLGE fr fr” – The Top Lobster

### Carson Wirtz ’26

I played with Ska Punk headliners Deacon & the Loosey Goosey Experience, and I think we did great!

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## “NOTHING EASY.”

*Lo-five to all the Wallies who struggle to make it to class in the morning. All you have to do is wake up at 3:52 a.m., drink five bottles of Saratoga Spring water and rub a banana on your face and you’ll be able to “get it to at least 10,000” before your 10 a.m.!*

## REVERSE LAND RUSH

*Hi-five to the OSU wrestler who pulled off the greatest upset in the history of wrestling in the DI NCAA championships. The things people will do to get out of Oklahoma...*

## “LOCK HIM UP!”

*Lo-five to the Trump Senior officials who accidentally added The Atlantic’s editor-in-chief into their Signal group while discussing classified military information. To quote Hillary Clinton on X, “You have got to be kidding me.”*

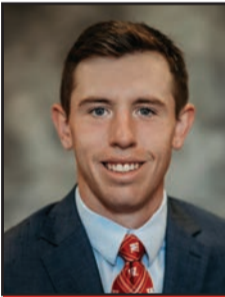
## CLONE WARS

*Lo-five to 23andMe for going bankrupt and potentially putting sensitive information at risk. Who would have thought sending your DNA to strangers could end poorly?*

## KEEPING OUR SQUIRRELS SAFE

*Hi-five to everyone who showed up after National Act to help the Enviornmental Concerns Committee clean up campus. There’s nothing a gatorade and a protein bar can’t fix.*

# Creative problem solving



**Brayden Weiss ’24**  
  
Reply to this opinion at  
braydenweiss@gmail.com

Wabash has always posited itself as a financially stable institution. One would be right to call us successful stewards of a significant per capita endowment, a statement largely attributed to the College’s commitment to balancing its operational expenses against that endowment’s annual returns. This careful planning by Wabash over its centuries-long history has placed the institution on significantly more stable footing than some comparable small liberal arts colleges with whom we’ve become intimately familiar over countless NCAC matchups (ahem: Wittenberg).

It seems in the early months of 2025, however, that no amount of careful planning can prepare an institution for the whims of the new Trump administration. The implementer of the original 1.4% endowment tax and his supporters are looking to kick things up a notch in their pursuit of “woke” higher learning institutions by proposing an increase of that rate to 21% in a bill sponsored by Rep. Troy Nehls (TX).

As mentioned in the wonderful piece by Elijah Wetzel in this paper’s March 20 issue, a situation where the bill passes will leave the College scrambling to carve its endowment to fit through this oppressive tax scheme’s loopholes. Elijah’s writing focuses on one piece of that puzzle by looking to keep the tuition-paying students under the 500 student threshold, but I want to look at the other side of the coin. Wabash currently remains under the \$500,000 per student endowment requirement to trigger this tax rate, at least temporarily leaving the College some options to look into.

One of those options I’d like to explore utilizes a small portion of those endowment funds to develop an additional revenue stream that would fundamentally enhance the experience of students at Wabash, in addition to the standing of the College in the surrounding community. I’m talking about Crawfordsville Country Club.

I think it is only fair to confess that Wabash owning what I both affectionately and disdainfully call “the CCC” became a dream of mine not long after I first began walking those fairways each day for golf practice. While I tried my hardest not to, I am nearly certain I have mentioned the historically poor quality of those facilities in at least one post-tournament Bachelor interview. Time and time again, the Wabash golf program has put in hours upon hours of work, only to be blindsided by conditions we could never have prepared for on the shaggy crabgrass of Crawfordsville.

designed golf course. Perfectly manicured, I could envision myself wandering the course after class, honing my craft in scenarios I would face in tournaments that mattered. Ultimately I chose to stay, but Wabash has lost and will continue to lose talented athletes to schools with better facilities.

I should mention that as a college, Sewanee is far from alone in their possession of a golf facility. In fact, Wabash’s home state of Indiana has universities public and private that boast four of Golf Digest’s “25 Greatest College Golf Courses.” Those four local examples are owned by mas-



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING  
**Brayden Weiss ’24 sends a shot down the fairway at the Crawfordsville Country Club.**

Unfortunately, that has never been an issue that myself, my coaches, or even the athletic department could fix without having any stake in the club where we practice. This problem became so pressing that I pondered leaving Wabash after my sophomore year.

The school in question that pulled me was Sewanee: The University of the South, a small Division III liberal arts college perched upon the cliffs of Tennessee’s Cumberland Plateau. A solid academic institution with many of the same values as Wabash, the biggest selling point to me was their school-owned 9-hole, Gil Hanse-

sive Division I enterprises, but Sewanee is among a good cohort of small liberal arts colleges with the amenity. Williams College (who we beat along the way in our 2022 Final Four run) owns the gem that is Taconic Golf Club — 84th on Golf Digest’s “100 Greatest Public Courses” list. Even Denison, another NCAC school, owns a Donald Ross design that helped the Big Red push their way to a conference championship my freshman year.

These courses are certainly an asset to the golf programs at the schools that own them, but they’re also part of a diversified portfolio of student amenities, commu-

nity outreach opportunities and financial investment that owning a golf course provides. Golf has been booming globally since the pandemic, with the number of golfers in the US growing 9% in 2023 alone. Crawfordsville has seen some effects of this, with outside investment interest taking a role at the Crawfordsville Municipal facility, but not nearly enough to reflect the growing number of players or potential impact the game can provide. As one of multiple Wabash alumni who now work for or with the PGA of America, I will be the first to go to bat for the positive influence golf can have, particularly through the work we do with youth, military and diverse communities.

At a Wabash-owned CCC, students would benefit from the countless physical and mental health benefits of golf while gaining exposure to a growing industry and common tool of business, yet I see the school’s connection with the Crawfordsville community being the primary beneficiary of this kind of investment. The purchase would further entrench Wabash as a leading employer in Montgomery County. for positions of all types, while providing a bridge for the college and its students to interact through a game many view as an embodiment of the world we ought to live in. What better way is there to expose the community to Wabash’s ideals of gentlemanly behavior than through a game long-lauded for its commitment to honesty, respect, perseverance, and critical thinking?

At the end of the day, for this to be a reality would require a substantial amount of buy-in, both in planning and financing a project of this nature. But if the stars have ever aligned for such a move to make sense, now is that time. As our endowment races downstream toward the looming tax cliff the Trump administration provided, it has never been a better time to invest in the student experience in ways that both make fiscal and strategic sense.

President Feller, Director Tanney and all those Wabash men in love with this stupid game, give me a ring when it’s time to make my dream come true — I’ve been bought in for years.

# Leeper’s lunch: A-plus at A-SecondCity Cafe



**Jackson Leeper '25**  
  
Reply to this opinion at [jcleeper25@wabash.edu](mailto:jcleeper25@wabash.edu)

What up, bozos? It’s your big buddy, Jackson Leeper. I come with great tidings, as I have reviewed another restaurant. This week, I did things a little bit differently. I normally go on a crusade and demolish all the food by myself. However, such an approach can get lonely, and when it’s just me and three plates of food, I get stares. Since I haven’t done a review with anyone, I decided to call upon my pledge brothers and fellow gluttons, Preston Reynolds '25 and Richard Balletine '25. This trio, affectionately called “The Fat Donkeys” (I mean another word, if you pick up what I’m putting down), gets food together on Sundays. With this in mind, let’s get into the review.

This week was A-SecondCity Cafe. To be honest, I was not expecting it to be a full-on restaurant. I thought it was going to be a coffee shop with pastries, so I was pleasantly surprised. It’s a cute little cafe with sandwiches, soups, salads and daily specials. It’s right on Washington Street in downtown Crawfordsville, so it’s within walking distance. When walking in, I noticed all the cool pictures and paintings on the wall. I then immediately realized that I might not have been properly dressed, my “Straight Outta Crawfordsville” shirt only partially covered by my Wabash jacket.

My crew was seated and we looked at the menu. The menu is nicely priced with most things priced between \$12–\$16. You

get to choose a side or salad with your sandwich (half or whole) and they do have a pick-three for a cheaper price. I got their special, which was a Cuban sandwich and a side of steak fries. Ricky got their chicken-bacon-ranch wrap with a side of chips. Preston got their Monte, which is a sandwich with roast beef, pepperoni, ham, bacon, mayo, cheddar and jack cheese, toasted on french bread along with a side salad.

It didn’t take long for our food to come out. My Cubano was yummy. I really enjoyed the ham and pork combination along with the melted cheese; however, the pickles and mustard were a bit too much (I usually go light on condiments and pickles). My friends were nice enough to let me get a bite of their sandwiches. Both were scrumptious, but I definitely preferred my sandwich, mainly because I ate all of mine so I was able to review it better.

The steak fries were unique as they had the skin of the potato on them, which was nice. It added another layer of texture. The seasoning was maxed out, which elevated the fries. It was a solid meal for my comrades but they couldn’t finish their meals (losers). I cleared my plate and could have gone for round two, but I didn’t feel like paying for more food. With a check of \$16.58, I was happy with the food I paid for.

With the data collected and reviewed, I give A-SecondCity Cafe a 8.1/10. If you are looking for a nice, quiet cafe with good sandwiches and a cool environment, this is a place to check out. I can totally see this as a nice place to take your partner out instead of them complaining of going to Applebees for the 10th time, which is uncalled for, because we always eatin’ good in the neighborhood. Nothing wrong with balling out on a budget with a two for \$25 meal deal (I do that but for myself).

Join me next week as I go for a change in scenery that I haven’t touched in a bit!



COURTESY OF VISIT MONTGOMERY COUNTY  
(right) A-SecondCity Cafe is located at 117 S. Washington St.



COURTESY OF ERNIE. A. ON YELP  
(left) Monte sandwich with spinach bacon salad from A-SecondCity Cafe in Crawfordsville.

## ‘Carpe Diem’



**Derek McDonald '27**  
  
Reply to this opinion at [djmcdona27@wabash.edu](mailto:djmcdona27@wabash.edu)

“Carpe diem,” Latin for “seize the day,” is a phrase made famous by Robin Williams’s role as Mr. John Keating in the 1989 film “The Dead Poets Society.” When embodied, this phrase can change even the worst days into something positive, productive and reflective. We, as Wabash students, need to consider this phrase a call to action.

Distractions, doom scrolling and unhealthy escapes are taking up more and more of our generation’s time. Too often are Wabash men sitting inside their rooms playing video games, sleeping the day away or isolating themselves in some fashion, wasting precious days away. We need to be reminded that there is a whole world out there waiting to be discovered and conquered. What does that mean for Wabash, though?

It means that next time you are lying in bed scrolling through your phone, use it to reach out to someone and ask them to meet up and spend some time together. It means getting out and joining clubs like La Alianza, Student Senate, the MXI, ’shOUT, the ping pong club, and the dork club. It doesn’t matter which one; just get out and get involved. It means reaching out to alumni instead of doom-scrolling on TikTok. Put your name in the pool to be the president of a club or fraternity. Apply for that internship you are worried you might not get. It

means sometimes staying up until 3 a.m. having those tough conversations with a Wabash brother. Seize these moments that Wabash has presented us with.

The beauty of Wabash is that it sets students up to live a life that would make Mr. Keating proud. Our generation is in a time of complacency, and it is our job to combat that. While it is easier said than done to put yourself out there, it changes lives for the better. Wabash is a place of relationships that is developed from individuals seizing moments to have a conversation or try something new, and these relationships are the foundation for everything we know and love at Wabash. It is obvious that it isn’t the small town of Crawfordsville that makes this place home, it is the result of the Wabash community living by carpe diem that makes this place special. It is on us, as students, to make sure this long tradition stays alive.

Carpe diem isn’t only about the positives we see on campus. Seizing the day also means seizing moments to hold each other accountable. Whether that means correcting a brother’s actions or calling out someone for using marginalizing language, it is our responsibility as Wabash students to hold each other accountable and seize every moment that presents itself.

Carpe diem is something that I have tried to live by, but this type of vulnerability truly is very difficult. However, with some intention, it can go a very long way in having new interactions and opportunities and discovering new things about yourself. We all have desires, ambitions, hopes and needs. Carpe diem will allow us both to discover new ones and to conquer the current. Wabash needs men who live by carpe diem, and it is our time to step up, keep the Wabash tradition alive and continue to make this campus successful. So ask yourself, how will you seize the day today?



# The Bachelor

## Request for opinions

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# The ‘Madness’ of March



Carac Johnson '27

Reply to this opinion at  
cajohnso27@wabash.edu

Ah yes, March. The most wonderful time of the year. A month full of holidays, celebrations, good weather (except in Crawfordsville it seems) and of course, March Madness. March Madness is special; it is the only single-elimination tournament compiled of 68 teams vying to win the championship trophy and have their names etched in the history books forever.

Whether you call yourself a “ball knower” or a casual fan, the annual NCAA Men’s Basketball Tournament will keep you on the edge of your seat. From creating endless

“perfect” brackets destined to bust to watching as your favorite team loses on a buzzer beater, it has it all. However, this year’s tournament seems to not include the characteristics that makes March, well... mad.

First off, there are no “Cinderella” runs currently happening. There is no 11-seed Loyola Chicago, powered by the one-and-only Sister Jean, or 15-seeded Florida Gulf Coast, known by real ones as “Dunk City.” The 12-seeded McNeese State, led by their manager Amir “Aura” Khan, had the most Cinderella-like run, beating the 5-seed Clemson Tigers in the first round. They then unfortunately had their glass slipper broken against Purdue, losing by 15. Yes, this does mean that the most talented and higher seeded teams are winning, but I would say that we would expect them to perform how they are. The best stories come from unexpected sources and there are unfortunately none that match that criterion this year.

Another aspect that feels off is the NCAA’s lack of accountability towards one of the

largest issues affecting collegiate basketball: the transfer portal. I believe that the deregulation within the transfer portal has affected The Big Dance. In fact, on Monday, the transfer portal opened up for all of college basketball, even while their most prized tournament is still going on. I believe that this lowers the integrity of the game that many across the nation love. How are you going to ask guys to continue to compete for a team when they may be recruiting the top transfer target to replace their position? This places an extreme amount of pressure on those who are competing to stay focused on the prize, especially those still in the Sweet Sixteen.

The reason that players are switching teams could be from lack of playing time, fit within the culture or a coach leaving for a new job. Speaking of McNeese State, their coach, Will Wade, had taken the NC State job offer while they were in the tournament. As a student athlete myself, I would be confused and distraught if I had a coach take another offer while I was competing with my team

in something that only 67 other teams get a chance to, especially at a non-Power 4 conference team like McNeese. As a result, who knows what will happen to the McNeese program now? Will they retain their players and continue to grow, or will they fall into mediocrity and be unable to achieve the success they had this year? This aspect affected not only McNeese State this year but has followed a trend in past years. I love the NCAA Basketball Tournament, truthfully, but I do not appreciate this trend within the game itself.

Wabash, I tell you this: Keep integrity in all that you do. Do what you say, do not just say what you will do. Be about it and live it out to the fullest. As we see in collegiate basketball, the integrity of the game is faltering, leaving impacts across the sport at this level. I ask you to be true to who you are. We are all at Wabash for a reason: to become leaders of men with integrity. Be that person today, tomorrow and for whatever may come next in your endeavors.

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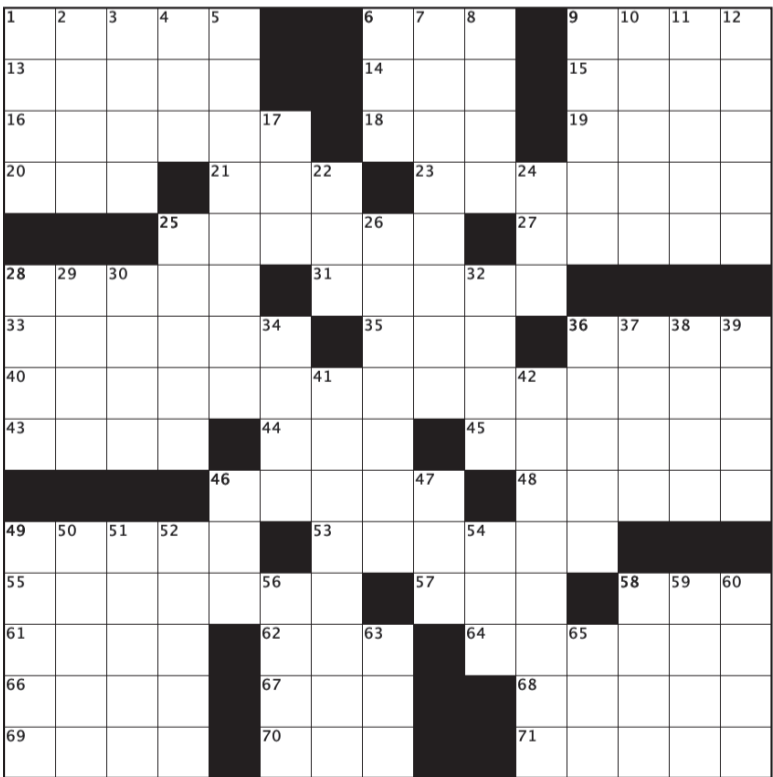
# FEATURES

## ‘Themeless #7’

Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25

ACROSS

- 1. Taken notes, say?
- 6. E-tailer’s address
- 9. Language devised in 1990
- 13. Combat site
- 14. Letter in 6-Down
- 15. Kent State locale
- 16. J (in "Men in Black") and P (in "Phineas and Ferb"), e.g.
- 18. Place to get a mani-pedi
- 19. Actress Headey of "300"
- 20. Angry 12 in classic film
- 21. Hoo preceder
- 23. Sacrificed, e.g.
- 25. "Full House" surname
- 27. Manual consultants
- 28. Ruby or diamond
- 31. Key above Shift
- 33. "I've got it!"
- 35. "\_\_\_? Yes please" (Austin Powers quote)
- 36. And others (Lat.)
- 40. Bogeymen touted by Trump due to a misreading
- 43. Gets every last bit of sauce
- 44. "Kill Bill" co-star Thurman
- 45. Canvas button
- 46. Like Chewbacca and Cousin Itt
- 48. Acts of derring-do
- 49. Capital near the equator
- 53. Tamper-resistant, in a way
- 55. Subjects of some software pop-ups
- 57. "Jeopardy!" host Jennings
- 58. A little bit on the nose?
- 61. Mimics
- 62. Archaeologist's project
- 64. Like winter in Buffalo
- 66. Posterior
- 67. Slimy stuff
- 68. Evil incarnate
- 69. What some new cars don't do in traffic
- 70. Terminal
- 71. Place for a witness



DOWN

- 1. Respectful address
- 2. Hard-to-ignore impulse
- 3. "I feel \_\_\_\_"
- 4. Holiday, e.g.
- 5. Paths from which confetti might be released
- 6. FedEx rival
- 7. Covered, as a news story
- 8. Rifle
- 9. Golf course's 18
- 10. "After him!"
- 11. Forty-niner
- 12. Packs, as a truck
- 17. Luke, to Anakin
- 22. Word on a penny
- 24. Boot material for Flo Rida's "Shawty"
- 25. Rebellious years, often
- 26. Suck in
- 28. Jacuzzi features
- 29. Capital of France
- 30. Finish a shoot
- 32. Love-letter letters
- 34. Tijuana water
- 36. Fix (in)
- 37. It's not absolute, per Einstein
- 38. Low-pH substance
- 39. "We shall!"
- 41. Paris Agreement concern
- 42. Lack of manners
- 46. Recent, as an escapee's trail
- 47. Shaggy beast of burden
- 49. "Sorta" prefix
- 50. Raised, as stakes
- 51. Utopian
- 52. It can be in good or in bad
- 54. French "the"
- 56. Microsoft browser that succeeded Internet Explorer
- 58. Zeus's beginning?
- 59. Farsi-speaking country
- 60. Work the bar
- 63. Word on a penny
- 65. Brewer's tub



Scan for solution!

## Sudokus

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 Sudoku.com

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

### Easy

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

### Hard

# Tatum '03 and Barton '00 recognized for service to Indiana

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

Before he left office in January after eight years as the state's highest executive official, former Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb bestowed one of the state's highest honors on two Wabash alumni. Josh Tatum '03 and Todd Barton '00 each received a Sagamore of the Wabash, an award that recognizes individuals who have rendered a distinguished service to the state or to the governor.



Crawfordsville Mayor Todd Barton '00 (right) accepts his Sagamore of the Wabash from Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb (left) on January 8, 2025. Barton has served as Crawfordsville's mayor since 2012.

The Sagamore of the Wabash was first awarded in 1946 and has been bestowed upon astronauts, teachers, artists and public officials who have excelled in service to the state and its citizens. The Sagamore is conferred solely by the governor, and though there is no comprehensive record of all the award's recipients, it is reserved for those who go above and beyond in their service.

Tatum's reception centered on his service rendered to Gov. Holcomb in a 2022 state constitutional challenge, *Holcomb v. Bray*. Tatum, a partner and appellate lawyer at Plews Shadley Racher & Braun LLP in Indianapolis, was the lead counsel on an amicus brief to the Indiana Supreme Court supporting the Holcomb administration's position that Indiana's Constitution does not allow the state legislature to call a special legislative session without gubernatorial involve-

"I got an email from Governor Holcomb's general counsel, and it was a little odd, because I initially thought I was being invited to celebrate someone else getting a Sagamore of the Wabash," said Tatum. "Then Joe Heerens [Gov. Holcomb's general counsel], who is a DePauw graduate, called me and confirmed that it was, in fact, an award to be given to me."

Barton, who is serving his fourth term as Crawfordsville mayor and formerly served as the city's fire chief, received his award in early January of this year. Barton had a strong relationship with Gov. Holcomb, on several occasions joining the governor on international travel to seek economic investment and receiving opportunities to represent the whole state of Indiana — not just Crawfordsville. Barton, like Tatum, was caught unaware when he initially received word he would be awarded the Sagamore of the Wabash.

"It was after hours on a Friday evening when I found out," said Barton. "My first thought was that they [the governor's office] were asking me to come to the presentation of someone else receiving a Sagamore award. I get that request sometimes, so I thought it was something like that. It took me a little bit to figure out, 'No, they're actually wanting me to come because they're presenting me a Sagamore.'"

Though Tatum and Barton work in the private and public sector, respectively, they share a high esteem for service. Both men have oriented a large part of their lives around giving back to the communities that shaped them. Service requires sacrifice, but a servant reaps personal benefits from their service too.

"Service gives us an opportunity to interact with people we may not otherwise agree with and learn from them," said Tatum. "As I reflect on the different groups I've served — through the Bar Association, YMCA Youth and Government, Scouting, Wabash and the Church — these relationships help me see the world through different lenses, and I think it's important for people who have any kind of influence on society



Josh Tatum '03 (left) receives his Sagamore of the Wabash from Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb (right) on December 31, 2024. Tatum assisted the governor in a defense of the Indiana Constitution before the Indiana Supreme Court.

to be able to put themselves in the shoes of somebody else."

Whether private or public service, young people especially should jump in as soon as they can, in Barton's opinion. It will not only benefit them, but also their community and future generations.

"You don't have to go and set the world on fire right out of the gate," said Barton. "But just be involved in boards and commissions and nonprofits and things like that. Our communities are absolutely starving for people who want to serve and people who want to lead."

Tatum and Barton both expressed gratitude to Gov. Holcomb for the award and satisfaction that they had been able to be useful to their communities in many ways, but neither sees his reception of the Sagamore of the Wabash as a

reason to rest his efforts.

"It's also a challenge," said Tatum. "I cannot in good conscience accept an award like this and become less active in my service. This is a recognition for what I have done and am doing, but it's also an encouragement to keep going."

"It's very humbling," said Barton. "It pushes me to work even harder. It's like being mayor. People say, 'It's your fourth term, you probably could let off the gas a little bit and start to coast,' but that's not me. I'm going to work as hard in the fourth term as I did in the first, maybe harder, and if I do a fifth, I'll work even harder there."

## 'I Said I Love You First' review: A disappointing underperformance



"I Said I Love You First" is the first dual album Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco have released together.

TY MURPHY '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

Taking inspiration from Jay-Z and Beyonce, music power couple Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco have released their own collaborative album titled "I Said I Love You First." The recently engaged couple are no strangers to smash hits, and are both known for their massive Billboard success. Their new joint album had the chance to be something really special in the couple's huge discography. And it certainly starts that way.

The album opens up with the voice of Gomez in "I Said I Love You First" as she nods to

her Disney Channel roots, "The Wizards of Waverly Place," and she promises to make her cast mates proud. It then transitions into "Younger and Hotter Than Me," detailing the singer's struggle to fit in. It's sweet, emotional, profound and really sets the album off strong.

Then the duo flips the script on listeners. "Call Me When You Break Up" is upbeat, fast and features the pop star Gracie Abrams to make it a very fun track. Then listeners get something new again with "Ojos Tristes." We go back to a very sad moving song that reveals the vulnerable side of Gomez and Blanco's relationship but this time fully in Spanish.

Songs like "Sunset Blvd" and "How Does It Feel To Be Forgotten" shine as some of the more memorable projects on the album. Features like J Balvin on "I Can't Get Enough" help bring the excitement to the latter half of the listening experience. There are definitely moments that will excite listeners and make us want more.

But there are also moments that do the opposite. "Scared Of Loving You" is lackluster and some songs, like "You Said You Were Sorry," are forgettable. The production and vocals are good, but they just do not stand out and that is true for the whole album when comparing it to the duo's discography. It's not anything new and is far from their best work.

"I Said I Loved You First" is interesting because it provides a view into the life of one of the music industry's power couples. Their engagement was unexpected to many fans, and this album would have been a cool way to dive deep and explore their relationship. The idea of the album is very rare and intriguing. A producer and a singer fall in love and come together to make an album. The chemistry should be incredible when two superstars come together and produce art. But it falls short of what it could have been.

Overall, the album is more confusing than anything. Neither artist has released a project in several years, and this had the chance to be something really special. But instead, it lacks its own distinct sound, sounding eerily similar to basic pop projects that have already been done, and done better. It lacks a hit, not letting any song in particular stand out. The project seems confusing and

has a lack of direction.

It is just an OK album. It's not that it was a bad listen, but it really did not move me in any way. I do not regret listening because Gomez's vocals still shine and Blanco's song writing and producing abilities remain

top-notch; I was just hoping for more. The track is a waste of an opportunity to come back strong and show how deep and meaningful their relationship truly is.

### FINAL VERDICT: 3/5 WALLYS





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## This week in sports: Back to normal

**HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26**  
STAFF WRITER

After a week of representing the Scarlet & White across the country, our spring sports are back to their usual schedules and nearing conference competition. Here's a rundown of the highlights from this week.

### Baseball: Best-of-3 advantage over IWU

The baseball team challenged Illinois Wesleyan University in three matchups over the weekend, starting with a doubleheader at Goodrich Ballpark on Saturday, March 22 and a game in Bloomington, Illinois on Sunday, March 23.

It took four lead changes to determine a victor in the first matchup, but designated hitter Will McKinzie '26 swung the game-winning run in the bottom of the ninth to secure the 8-7 victory. Every Wabash starter reached a base safely in the win, but bases were harder to find in the second game. Consecutive four-run innings for the Titans were too much for the Little Giants to overcome, falling 11-4 to split the doubleheader.

In the final game on the road, Wabash found themselves down 5-4 with one inning to go. However, a strong rally of four runs in the ninth innings and a scoreless bottom of the ninth pitched by Braeden Bryant '26 assured the win and 2-1 series victory.

The baseball team is now 9-6 on the season and will be back at Goodrich Ballpark to host Hiram College in a doubleheader on Saturday, March 29.

The team continued its momentum on Wednesday, March 26 when they defeated Eureka College for the second time this season, 12-1. McKinzie took over once again with three runs, the team jumped to an 8-0 lead three innings in and never looked back.

The Little Giants are now 10-6 on the season and will be back at Goodrich Ballpark to host Hiram College in a doubleheader on Saturday, March 29.

### Lacrosse: Opening NCAC play

The lacrosse team kicked off North Coast Athletic Conference play on Saturday, March 22 with a home match against Kenyon College. The Little Giants knew they'd be up for a fight, as the Owls only losses on the season have been against nationally-ranked Dickinson College, Swarthmore College and Grove City College who received votes in the USILA Preseason Coaches Poll.

Although the team's goal is to consistently outshoot their opponents, Kenyon made that virtually impossible, as they outshot the Little Giants 48 to 27. However, goalkeeper Colin Krekeler '27 made 21 saves with 32 shots on goal. Unfortunately, strong early offense from the Owls was too much to overcome, as the Little Giants dropped their first NCAC match, 11-2. The lone two goals from Wabash came from Sam Santiago '26 and Quinn Fitzgerald '26 in the second and fourth period, respectively.

At 6-3, the lacrosse team sits sixth in the NCAC and will challenge Ohio Wesleyan University on the road on Saturday, March 29 to move up in this highly competitive conference.

### Track & Field: Outdoor season begins

The track and field team opened its outdoor season on Saturday, March 25 in Terre Haute, Indiana at the Rose-Hulman Early Bird Invitational. Although not everyone competed, this was a great opportunity for athletes to transition to the 400-meter oval and the new field events in spring conditions.

The Little Giants accumulated six podium finishes, with Kannon Chase '26 achieving the lone second-place finish on the day in the high jump. Pole vaulter Nate Joven '26, javelin thrower Ryan Papandria '25, high jumper Morgyn Clark '28, hammer thrower Quinn Sholar '26 and the 4x100-meter relay squad all scored third in their respective events. Wabash racked up 82.5 points on the day to finish fifth place out of 10 teams, with Rose-Hulman winning the meet with 135 points.

The team will divide and travel over the Midwest region this upcoming weekend on March 29-30. Select distance runners will compete at the WashU Distance Carnival in St. Louis throwers will head to the Hanover College Invitational and the majority of the team will go to Normal, Illinois for the Illinois State University Invitational.

### Tennis: Nearing NCAC slate

After its spring break trip to California, the tennis team returned to the Collett Tennis Center on Saturday, March 22 to welcome Marian University. Although this was a junior varsity match and the usual starters didn't play, this was still a great opportunity for the underclassmen to face strong competition from the NAIA. This was also the first time the Little Giants have faced the Knights since 2013, with their matchup history spanning back to 1962. Despite a valiant effort, Wabash came a clip short of Marian, falling 4-3.

Fortunately, the loss doesn't contribute to the overall record, which currently sits at 8-6. Wabash ranks fourth in the NCAC behind Denison, Kenyon and Ohio Wesleyan. According to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) national poll, the Owls and Big Red are respectively ranked 17th

and fourth in the country. Denison also advanced the quarterfinals in last year's NCAA Tennis Championship Tournament.

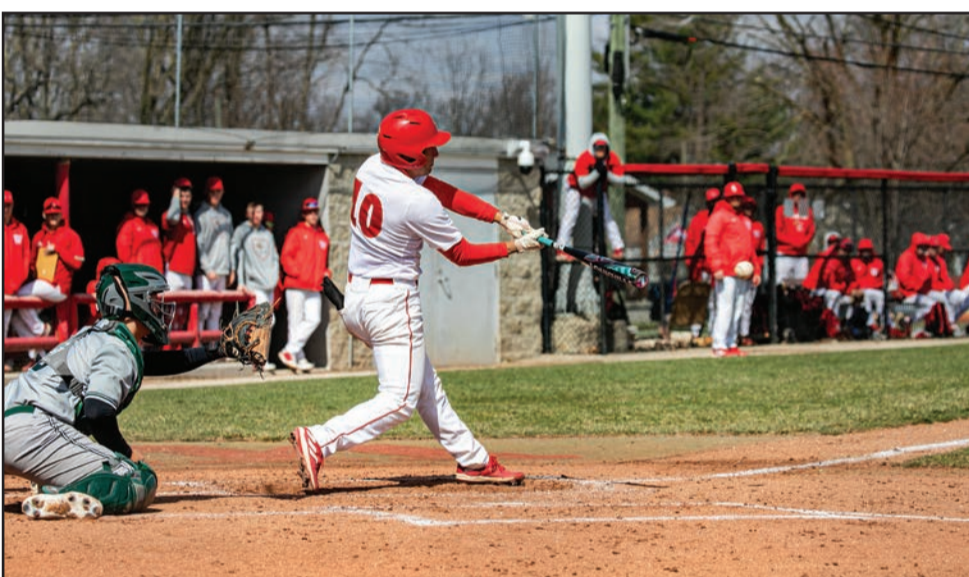
Wabash is a week out from its NCAC slate and will conclude non-conference play on Saturday, March 29 at Rose-Hulman in Terre Haute, Indiana.

### Volleyball: Splits trip to Missouri

The volleyball team headed to Missouri for matchups on March 21-22. Their first stop was Fulton, where they challenged Westminster College for the second time this season. Although the Little Giants swept the Blue Jays in their first matchup, the team faced more obstacles this time around, deadlocked at 2-2 even after claiming the first two sets. However, a decisive 15-10 advantage in the fifth set sealed the 3-2 victory. Zev Wolverton '27 recorded a career-best 20 kills in the match.

However, kills were harder to accumulate in their second game against Maryville University, an NCAA Division I Independent program. After dropping the first two sets, the Little Giants pushed Maryville past 25 points in the last set, but ultimately fell 28-26 to conclude the 3-0 loss.

Wabash (14-8, 2-2 MCVL) now has four more games left in the regular season, all in the MCVL. The team sits at fourth in the conference and only four teams can make the MCVL Tournament. This upcoming weekend will be crucial for the Little Giants, as they'll be facing the top two teams in the conference. On March 29-30, the team will welcome Mount Union and Baldwin Wallace to Chadwick Court, competing to lock up a spot in the postseason.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

(Top) In the second game of a double header, Nick Wangler '26 warms up in the top of the fourth inning. (Bottom) Ben Henke '26 swings at a pitch. The Little Giants played two games against Illinois Wesleyan University on Saturday, March 22 at Goodrich Ballpark.

## It's Coming Soon Enough, Seniors.



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## Baseball by the numbers: Early season analysis

**ETHAN WALLACE '25**  
SPORTS EDITOR

With the season well under way and conference competition in the near future, it's time to take a dive into the stats to see the ins and outs of Wabash baseball.

In their last week of play, the Little Giants closed out two series, including beating Illinois Wesleyan University in two out three games between March 22 and 23. The series, which has been a competitive highlight of Wabash's calendar over the past few years, saw the Scarlet & White sluggers pull off two ninth-inning rallies to win from behind.

On Wednesday, March 26 Wabash traveled to Eureka, Illinois to play the later half of a two-game series against Eureka College. The Little Giants won 12-1 in seven innings.

### Pitching:

The center of attention for Wabash baseball so far has been the pitching staff. After Wabash brought in Pitching Coach Mac Lozer, fans have been eager to see how the change would affect the bullpen.

So far, the Little Giants hold a 5.31 ERA (108th nationally), down from a 5.50 in 2024. An accompanying shift in B/AVG to .278, down from .300, shows that Wabash is heading in the right direction.

The standout figure for the Little Giants has to be the strikeout totals. Last season the team threw 206 SOs in 40 games. This season the team struck out 104 batters in its first 13 games. Wabash's arms are 80th in the nation for their strikeout-to-walk ratio.

"In our opinion, strikeouts are a by-product of confidence and control," said Lozer. "As long as we continue to stay on our approach of attacking hitters and getting ourselves into advantageous counts, strikeouts are bound to happen."

Grant Stratton '25 and Caleb Everson '26 have been the key starters for the Little Giants, pitching 22.1 and 23.0 innings, respectively. With two wins in five appearances, Stratton has one of the better ERAs on the team (4.03). Everson has a 5.48 ERA but has given up fewer hits over more innings pitched. Aiden McConnell '26 and Jarod Kirsch '28 fill out the remainder of the starting needs.

Ten other Wabash pitchers have five or more appearances. The relieving and closing roles are still taking shape, as the season continues.

"We have a great amount of hungry pitchers who serve as our bullpen arms," said Lozer. "We are still in the process of defining roles in the bullpen. Our goal is to quickly define five to seven bullpen arms who will log a good amount of appearances and innings pitched."

With nationally ranked opponents like Denison on the horizon, the pitching staff will have its work cut out to keep the numbers low. But the bullpen has already handled some of the best bats in the country.

Wabash has played the 13th (Washington College, .344 AVG), 17th (Manchester University, .341 AVG) and 40th (Illinois Wesleyan University, .329 AVG) best hitting teams in the nation by batting average. Over six games, Wabash held those three teams under average to a .281 AVG.

"We believe our bullpen has been progress-

ing more times than they have regressed," said Lozer. "Our wins against these offense-heavy programs have not been the prettiest or cleanest when it comes to pitching our brand of pitching; however, we were able to get the job done as a team."

### Batting:

In the batters box, Wabash was expected to take a bit of a hit in the hitting department after AJ Reid '24 — the College's all-time hits leader — and three other notable batters graduated.

The Scarlet & White hold a respectable, but diminished .286 AVG — down from .315. But the upside is that the team has been more efficient in scoring runs, recording 111 runs on 138 hits. The OB% has remained fairly intact at .410 (123 nationally) down only a few points from 2024's .417.

"Overall, we have been very competitive offensively when we play to our strengths," said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03. "This combination of lineups will not produce the extra base numbers we are used to, but we are more dynamic. We can play a little more aggressively by creating action on the bases and with our bunt game. We have some work to do as we get into our conference season, but I believe we will be a tough lineup to get through."

Ben Henke '26 leads the Little Giants from the plate with a .373 AVG and a .464 OB%. He leads the team in hits and RBIs.

The conference season will definitely be the harder half of the season for Wabash hitters, as both Denison and Wittenberg sit in the top 25 for ERA this season. So far Wabash has not faced any top-50 teams in that category.

"The conference has good arms — no question about it," said Henke. "But aside from the work we put in on a daily basis, hitting is also an attitude. Keeping a consistent approach, whether you're hitting well or not, is equally as important. We don't care who's on the mound. At the end of the day they have to throw three pitches in the zone past you to get you out. When you are being aggressive and hunting your pitch and getting a mean swing off, good things are going to happen." [All stats accurate through March 25]

### Conference:

Wabash holds the third-best record in the NCAC, only behind Denison (ranked 7th in the nation by D3baseball.com) and Wittenberg. Without an obvious gap in strength of schedule, Wabash has a fair argument that they are a top-three team in the NCAC so far.

"The biggest improvement we can make as a lineup is to stay focused on the opportunities where we can extend a lead or shrink an opponent's lead in the back half of the game," said Martin. "That takes a relentless approach to not give up at bats and stay aggressive in RBI situations. We feel like we've made strides in those situations, but we need to continue that trend if we expect to contend for a spot in the NCAC tournament."

The Little Giants will begin play in the NCAC with a double-header against Hiram on Saturday, March 29 at Goodrich Ballpark.

# Stacking trophies and enriching men’s lives

Wabash track & field leads NCAC in outdoor titles under Coach Clyde Morgan

ETHE WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Wabash track & field has run the North Coast Athletic Conference for nearly a decade and a half. Last May, the team — under the leadership of Head Track Coach Clyde Morgan — won its record-setting 10th NCAC Outdoor Title, passing Ohio Wesleyan to become the outright leader in outdoor titles.

Morgan came to Wabash in 2008, succeeding legendary coach Robert Johnson, who coached Wabash for 37 years and became the first coach from Division III to coach in the Olympics. Morgan had big shoes to fill.

Wabash joined the NCAC in 1999, and by 2008 had never won the NCAC Championship in track. After Morgan stepped into the role, things would quickly change.

“I was in Coach Morgan’s interview,” said Alex Moseman ’11, who was captain when Wabash won its first NCAC Championship. “The only thing I remember was wanting to run through the wall to go to work for him. I remember the first fall practice he held at Wabash, there was a nervous excitement among the guys. We all wanted to make a good first impression. I think he wanted to see if any of us would quit. He cooked us.”

Mentality in sports is in many ways over-credited and under-appreciated. But for Morgan and his team, mentality became the mission of Wabash track. Under Morgan, the team goes about life in a way that is almost completely foreign to most programs. Becoming a better man — a better Wabash man — is everything, and winning follows.

“Coach Morgan pushed and, I am sure, continues to push the team to the highest standard on and off the track,” said Derek De St. Jean ’15,



PHOTO BY WILL DUNCAN '27

**Head Track & Field Coach Clyde Morgan stands alongside the 10 North Coast Athletic Conference Outdoor Championship trophies that his team has won during his tenure. In 2024, Wabash won its record-setting 10th NCAC title, passing Ohio Wesleyan as conference leader.**

who still owns the school record in the shot put. “Our saying ‘Nothing Breaks Us’ is something I continue to say to this day, 10 years later. No matter the circumstance or situation, don’t let it break you. Fight on. Get yourself back up and get back in the fight. Coach Morgan instilled that mentality and taught me how to handle the stress of the ‘real world’ after Wabash with handling work or deadlines — ‘WIN: What’s Important Now.’”

In 2011, Wabash won its first NCAC track title — capturing first place in both the indoor and out-

door championships. At the outdoor meet, Wabash set the conference record for most points ever with 311.5.

“To go from fifth in 2009 to setting the conference record in points in 2011 is a testament to Coach Morgan’s contagious winning attitude,” said Moseman. “That 2011 team had a gritty attitude about it. I don’t think any of us even realized how many points we had scored until late into the second day. We were all so relentlessly focused on competing for each other. For a lot of us, it was the culmination of years of work. We took it out on the competition that weekend. That weekend in Oberlin was also the shift in the team’s attitude about the championships. We expected to win after that.”

Wabash would go on to win the next four outdoor titles — as well as the indoor ones. Over that time period, Wabash would have 16 All-American finishes and two national champions. But as always, winning wasn’t the mission.

“The trophies and banners and all that are nice, but it was the camaraderie among the guys that meant so much to me,” said John Haley ’13, who became an All-American in the 4x400-meter relay in 2013. “We enjoyed the process of improving and pushed each other to perform at our best. We’d bring the freshmen in and make sure they were following our lead. We’d compete against each other in practice for spots on relays — there aren’t many teams doing that, but cham-

pionship-caliber teams do.”

In a program used to championships, both team and individual, everyone was counted as a vital part of the team. Every runner from a national champion to the last man on the roster was accountable to the driving mindset behind Wabash track.

“Coach always talked about the importance of every man getting his point at the meet and many times meet winners were decided by a couple points,” said Haley. “One thing you could always count on from Wabash was we were cheering for every man in every event as if it were the deciding point on the line. It’s understated how Coach taught us that the little things matter. Seventh place matters just as much as first when you’re working as a team.”

In 2016 Wabash track demonstrated what made it so special, and it became the “most iconic” moment in Morgan’s 17-year career. Wabash lost the 2016 Outdoor Championship to Ohio Wesleyan by one point. It broke the championship streak, but it showed that Morgan’s program made more than just champions.

“We weren’t even supposed to be in the top three that year,” said Morgan. “That showed me the character of my coaches and my athletes, that they gave me everything they had. So we lost by one point... And that was how the winning streak got broken. Most programs, your guys would be crying. And I just remember

looking around to see the guy hugging and loving on each other and the appreciation. They knew they gave everything they had. Our bus driver, Fred, was hugging the guys and high-fiving them. Well, we lost didn’t we? But there was a lot of winning that day.”

The Little Giants won the NCAC title again in 2017 and in 2019, 2021, 2022 and finally in 2024. Even as the competition in the NCAC demands more of Wabash each season, the Little Giants’ streak of dominance continues. More than that, the mentality continues.

“We focus more on other streaks,” said Morgan. “How many days in a row can you show toughness in the classroom, on the track and in life? How many days in a row can you be a great leader on the team, on campus and in the community? How many days in a row can you get to know a different teammate or Wabash Man?”

Amongst all the winning in competition comes personal victories. Morgan’s emphasis on learning to overcome obstacles, give everything and keep going has shaped the lives of hundreds of Wabash men in the past 17 years.

Haider Diemer-McKinney ’26 set the school and conference record in his freshman season — finishing third at nationals to become an All-American. However, in his second season, Diemer-McKinney suffered an injury that set him back a year.

“I had never really navigated an injury like that before,” said Diemer-McKinney. “I was losing some sense of identity and purpose in a way. After that, Coach Morgan came up to me, and he just gave me a big hug. And he told me I was going to be alright, ‘We’re gonna be good. We’re gonna get through this together. Come to my office anytime you want to chat.’”

“Coach Morgan molded me like the father I never had,” said Ra’Shawn Jones ’20. “He didn’t accept bare minimum and told me straight when I needed it. If you needed more time in the weight room, he let you know. If you needed more time in the classroom, he let you know... He is the epitome of what a coach should be and is a great example of the father I wish to become.”

Now the Little Giants enter their 2025 outdoor season as the leading program in the NCAC, but things won’t be changing anytime soon. Because being first was never the center of the program, being first won’t stop them from striving from the kinds of success Morgan has fought to instill in the team.



“I want to thank my coaches who have been through the program,” said Morgan. “I haven’t been alone all these years. There have been so many people. I’ve had some awesome assistant coaches that have worked their butts off for me, and I can’t forget all they’ve done.”

– Coach Clyde Morgan

# Lacrosse makes strides against Kenyon



11-2 **W.**

TY MURPHY '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

With such a strong conference, the Wabash lacrosse team is no stranger to facing some high-level competition. They had something to prove on Saturday, March 22 when they faced regionally-ranked Kenyon in a battle at home. Despite a hard fought 2-11 loss to the Owls, the team had made strides that no other Wabash lacrosse team had done before.

“The guys came in with the right mentality, and for the first time ever, we held them to under 20 goals,” said Head Lacrosse Coach Chris Burke. “That’s a big thing, to hold Kenyon to 11 goals. It’s the first time they didn’t get a full goal differential on us in our history.”

Holding Kenyon to that score did not come easy though. Goalkeeper Colin Krekeler ’27 faced 32 shots on goal, making 21 saves to help Wabash have a historic day.

“Colin did a great job and had a lot of saves that goalies don’t usually come up with,” said Burke. “If we’re going to beat those teams, he is going to have those types of games, like he did on Saturday.”

The Owls were definitely favored in their Saturday match-  
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up, but that never inhibited this Wabash team’s confidence. Being able to finally sleep in their own beds after a successful week of spring break play in Virginia Beach and the first chance in a while to compete in front of a home crowd, gave the Little Giants more of a reason not to fear the highly ranked Kenyon team.

“On paper, Kenyon might look better than us, but they don’t have the work ethic and brotherhood that this Wabash team has,” said Krekeler ’27. “They are still a team full of other 18–22-year-old players, they aren’t that different from us and we need to start playing like that and stop putting these teams that are higher in rankings on these pedestals. They will still make mistakes like us and we just need to take advantage when they make those mistakes”

He was not the only standout of the game, however. Midfielder Sam Santiago ’26 cut into a Kenyon 4-0 lead with a second period goal and attacker Quinn Fitzgerald ’25 got his team-leading 21st goal of the season in the fourth period. Defender Bryce Poling ’26 also contributed, making three forced turnovers on defense, helping to hold Kenyon to a low score.

“The defense, Lucas Cunnin-



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

**Defenseman Cam Fecht '28 jockeying with a Kenyon attacker while carrying the ball in the Little Giants' game against the Owls on March 22, 2025 at Fischer Field.**

ham ’26, Bryce Poling ’26 and Hank Henry ’28, are really crucial in the success of the team and also have helped me out a lot,” said Krekeler. “They are the reason that I was able to make some of those saves. They put their opponent in a bad position which makes my job a lot easier.”

It was not perfect on all ends though, as several areas of the team struggled. Kenyon was able to put up nearly double the amount of shots on goals as well as possess significantly more

ground balls. The team also struggled in face offs, only winning 4-16.

“The other piece to it is that we’ve still yet to play our best game,” said Burke. “If the offense is on, the defense is off, and if the defense is on, the offense is off.”

The team will get their chance to prove they belong when they face regionally ranked Ohio Wesleyan on Saturday, March 29 in Delaware, Ohio. In the face of another conference giant, the team will look to battle it out and im-

prove on what they learned in the Kenyon game.

“The odds are definitely stacked against us,” said Burke. “If we can build on the Kenyon game, come out and really close the gaps with some of these top three teams, that should give us confidence going into the rest of the conference season. Ultimately, that’s what we’re looking for.”