

# Baseball sweeps Terriers, wins big over Big Red

**ETHAN WALLACE '25**  
SPORTS EDITOR

The Little Giants have taken two major steps toward securing a spot in the postseason tournament. Facing opposite ends of the North Coast Athletic Conference, Wabash secured three wins over their first four conference games.

The Scarlet & White started by sweeping the double-header against Hiram at Goodrich Ballpark before traveling to Denison where they would split the series against the Big Red.

The Terriers finished last in the NCAC last season and look to be heading in a similar direction this time around. Meanwhile, Denison won the conference tournament last season and are ranked third in Division III this year.

With final scores of 12-2 (first) and 9-5 (second), Wabash took the pair of games over Hiram without much trouble. The team only trailed for an inning and a half over both games.

Third baseman DJ Mendez '28 recorded three hits and six RBIs between the two games, including a home run in the first game.

Caleb Everson '26 and Robbie Mannuzzi '25 were credited with the wins from

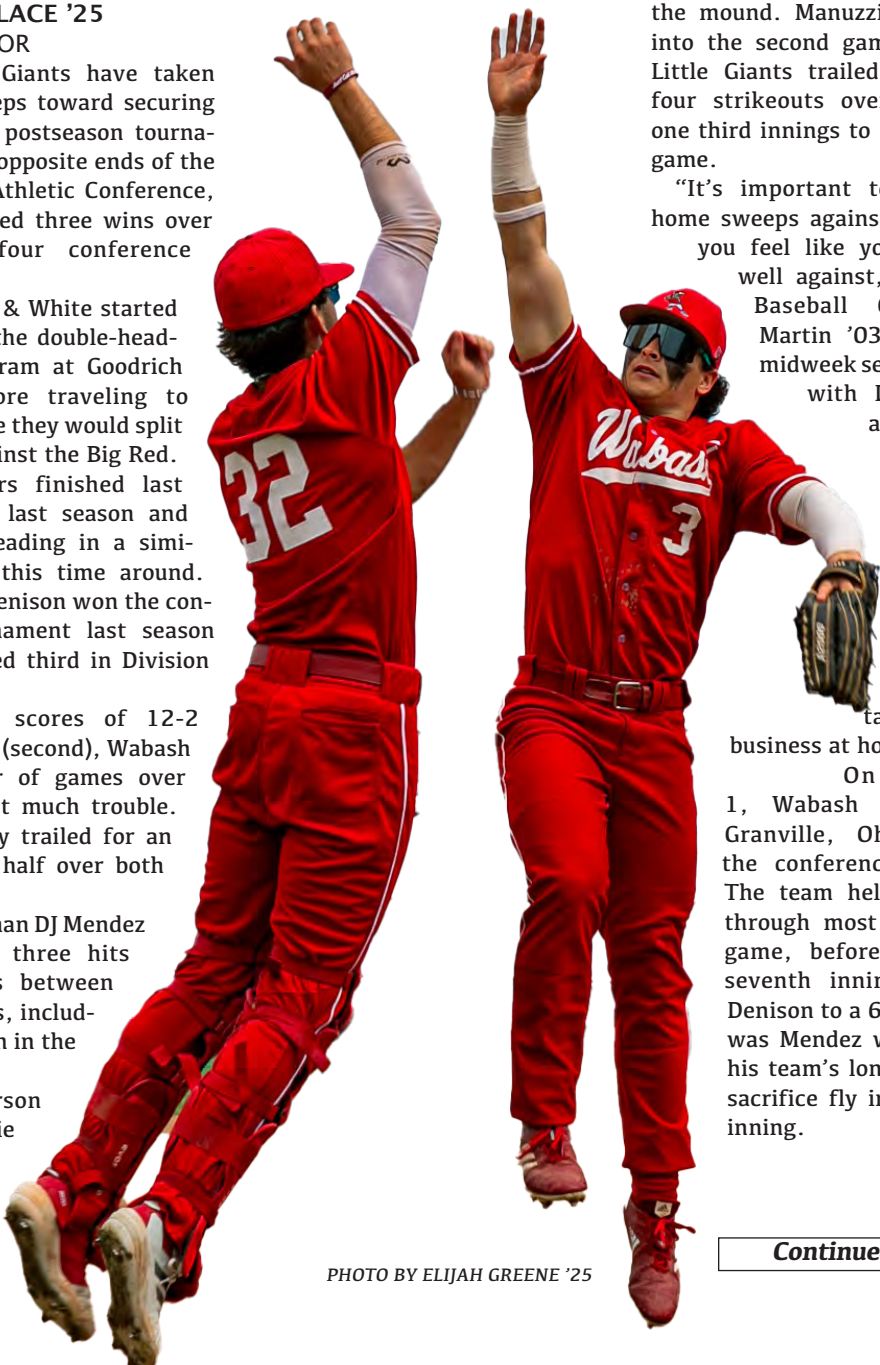


PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

the mound. Manuzzi, who came into the second game when the Little Giants trailed 4-2, threw four strikeouts over three and one third innings to close out the game.

"It's important to get those home sweeps against teams that you feel like you match up well against," said Head Baseball Coach Jake Martin '03. "Our road midweek series this year with Denison and at Wittenberg [will be] tough to go sweep. That makes it even more important that you take care of business at home."

On April 1, Wabash traveled to Granville, Ohio to face the conference favorites. The team held their own through most of the first game, before a four-run seventh inning rally led Denison to a 6-1 victory. It was Mendez who drove in his team's lone run with a sacrifice fly in the second inning.

Continued page 8

# Wallace '26 selected to lead The Bachelor

**SAM BENEDICT '25**  
SENIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

*The Bachelor* has served Wabash as the student voice of the College since 1908. Throughout the storied history, multiple Wabash men have stepped up to lead the award-winning newspaper. As the year comes to a close, James Wallace '26 has been selected as Editor-in-Chief for the 2025-26 school year.

Wallace has been a member of *The Bachelor* since his freshman year on campus — initially working as a staff writer. Following a strong freshman campaign, Wallace was selected to be Opinion Editor. Most recently, Wallace spent his junior year as the News Editor — reporting on stories concerning Student Senate, campus construction and major events on campus.

"I'm really excited for this next step in my journey with *The Bachelor*," said Wallace. "For almost three years, it's been a great group of guys that I've enjoyed working hand-in-hand with to create something special — it's truly a feat what we do, especially without any formal journalism program at Wabash."

Outside of *The Bachelor*, Wallace has been a key member of the Rugby program — currently serving as the President and Captain of the Rugby Club. Wallace's goals have focused on creating a strong organizational structure to ensure future success, growth through targeted recruitment and qualifying for the national tournament. His efforts are even more impressive when considering that rugby is not a varsity sport, meaning they do not have the administrative support and that a varsity program would have.

"Jimbo [James] has been an incredible part of our rugby program, stepping up as President of the club and making a massive impact on the team," said Rugby



PHOTO BY GEORGE SHAGLEY '26

Vice President and Assistant Coach Tanner Quackenbush '26. "His ability to keep things organized — whether it's scheduling practices or handling logistics — keeps everything running smoothly. He's put in countless hours, always putting the team first. Above all, James is the definition of a team player. He leads by example and pushes all of us to work together toward our goals. His leadership has taken the rugby program to the next level and left a lasting impact on everyone who's had the chance to play alongside him."

An Economics major and Spanish and Computer Science double minor, Wallace plans to pursue a career in sales or finance. This summer, he will be working at Eli Lilly and Company as a Marketing Intern — a prestigious program that gives students the opportunity to work on projects throughout the summer, with an emphasis on mentorship and development.

"James is one of the most impressive and busiest students I have had at Wabash," said Professor of Psychology Robert Horton — who also serves as Wallace's academic advisor. "He is deeply committed to exploring all that Wabash has to offer, in his course selections, fraternity life, rugby experience and *Bachelor* work. I don't think I have ever had a student who embraced the Wabash experience with more vigor and who was equally committed to giving as much of himself as he can to his College."

In recent history, *The Bachelor* has experienced success both within the Wabash community and beyond. For



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE

**James Wallace '26 will be succeeding Sam Benedict '25 as Editor-in-Chief, a role Benedict has held for two years.**

the past two years, *The Bachelor* has won the Indiana Collegiate Press Association award for Top Newspaper in Division III — beating multiple colleges with deep-rooted journalism programs. Within the Wabash community, viewership is at an all-time high with an established, growing social media and high-quality reporting. However, this success has raised the bar for Wallace as he works to elevate the newspaper in the next year.

"Being a part of back-to-back ICPA victories has been incredible," said Wallace. "I'm sad to see a lot of the people who I worked with during those victories graduate, but I'm confident in the next wave of Wabash men who will fill their shoes."

As Wallace prepares to take *The Bachelor* into its next chapter, he arrives at a moment where the College is preparing to transition into its next chapter. With the Sparks Center coming down and the bicentennial approaching, *The Bachelor* will be full of important news for the Wabash community. As a steward of *The Bachelor*, Wallace is responsible for honoring and upholding the 116-year tradition of excellence that has been crafted.

# Latino Community Center construction in full stride

## After months of delays, new move-in date is scheduled



PHOTO BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**The Latino Community Center has been under construction during the spring semester, both on the exterior and the interior of the house. The location will be the home of La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre.**

**JAMES WALLACE '26**  
JUNIOR EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Sitting unassuming on the corner of West Wabash Avenue and South Grant Avenue, many Wabash men have passed by the future home of the Latino Community Center without blinking an eye. This is starting to change, however — as renovations on the building begin to ramp up, Wabash can be certain that a new student hub on campus is coming soon.

The Latino Community Center was originally scheduled to be renovated during the summer of 2024, but delays to its construction pushed any progress back until this semester. With a new expected move-in of July 2024, the plan is for the Latino Community Center to be up and running before the beginning of the Fall 2025 semester.

"We're hoping that in the coming months, we are moving into the house near July," said Director of Latino Partnerships and Director of the Latino Community Center Julio Enriquez Ornelas '08. "September 26, which is Homecoming, is when we are expecting to do the dedication of the house. But we are hoping that once we are settled in we will start immediately."

Wabash, and the Latino Community Center is a space dedicated to serving the broader Latino and Hispanic community in Crawfordsville."

The two entities, while separate, have worked together in the past and will continue to do so, particularly on the completion of the Latino Community Center. One distinct feature of the Latino Community Center that La Alianza will be able to capitalize on is the physical location.

"For La Alianza, the [Latino Community Center] will serve as our new home, hosting general body meetings and new member education," said Cantu.

But outside of hosting La Alianza, the events that will be held at the Latino Community Center will also include a focus on the greater Crawfordsville community.

"I'm hoping once we have the Latino Community Center open we offer tutoring as an after-school program," said Enriquez.

"We aim to introduce more workshops for community members of all ages, covering topics like tutoring and mentoring for young children, FAFSA guidance for high schoolers and a variety of leisure activities," said Cantu.

**"We aim to introduce more workshops for community members of all ages, covering topics like tutoring and mentoring for young children, FAFSA guidance for high schoolers and a variety of leisure activities."**

- La Alianza President Christian Cantu '26

The two-floor community center will feature a number of spaces for members of both the Wabash and Crawfordsville community to meet and share time together, including a large classroom and a student lounge. The space will enable both the Latino Community Center, and La Alianza, to host events like never before.

"The distinction between the Latino Community Center and La Alianza is simple but sometimes difficult to see," said La Alianza President Christian Cantu '26. "La Alianza: Unidos Por Sangre is our student-led organization at

The tutoring programs and workshops will give both students and members of the community an opportunity to learn, and both Enriquez and Cantu hope that they become a cornerstone of the Latino Community Center.

With the construction of the Latino Community Center underway, the Wabash community can expect the new hub of activity to begin hosting events and connecting both the institutional and local communities next Fall.



COURTESY OF WABASH COLLEGE

**The Latino Community Center will feature two floors and will have a plethora of rooms, such as a large classroom, student lounge, private offices and a kitchen.**



# News around the world

CONNOR PHILLIPS '28  
STAFF WRITER  
**Myanmar**

On Friday, March 28, Myanmar suffered its worst earthquake in over 100 years. The city of Sagaing, a city of more than 300,000 people, was hit particularly hard by the 7.7-magnitude earthquake. The earthquake cut off the connection from the roads to the city, leaving it deeply isolated. According to the military government, over 2,000 people have died, with some estimates surpassing 10,000 people.

Much of the delay in assistance stems from the military blocking the majority of international aid from entering. Soldiers were on watch at the checkpoints but were not seen looking for survivors. The city already had its internet cut off by the military because of the ongoing civil war, during which Sagaing had been an area of strong resistance. Between the civil war and the earthquake, 80% of Sagaing has been destroyed. Worsening this, 27 townships already lack access to clean water and power. According to reports, more than half of the houses destroyed in the civil war have been from this region. The disaster is so bad that the junta called for international aid, but they would only be allowed in the country on the junta’s terms.

**France**

On Monday, March 31, French politician Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right National Rally party in France, was convicted of embezzling 4.6 million euros of European Union funds. Le Pen was fined 100,000 euros, sentenced to four years in prison and two years under house arrest and barred from running for political office for the next five years. Le Pen is challenging her sentence and fine, delaying action for the time being.

A French criminal court has ruled that Le Pen played a central role in illegal schemes by her party when it was still called the National Front. The embezzled funds were found to be used to help pay assistants to National Front members of the body for work that was unrelated to E.U. business. The judges rejected Le Pen’s argument that it was appropriate for the assistants to do party-related work and explained the ban on running for office was due to Le Pen’s refusal to acknowledge the facts, adding that no one is above the law. Marine Le Pen has said this was an attempt to subvert the democratic process.

**China**

On Tuesday, April 1, China sent warships and fighter planes to the island of Taiwan in an apparent “military exercise.” This act was ordered by Beijing as a retaliation toward the nation after Taiwan’s president called China a “foreign hostile force.” The purpose of this exercise was to get near the island and simulate an attack to seize control of the nation, practicing attacks on both land and sea targets and simulating the setup of a blockade for the island. Sometimes, China does not say why it conducts drills. However, Beijing has said in explicit detail their reasoning: “This is firm punishment for the Lai Ching-te administration’s rampant ‘pro-independence’ provocations.” The president of Taiwan, Lai Ching-te, in a speech on March 13, laid out 17 measures that China was taking to spy and cause subversion in Taiwan. Beijing has stated that Taiwan is its territory and that it may eventually absorb the island by force if Chinese leaders deem it necessary. Ching-te denies that Taiwan is part of China.



COURTESY OF AP  
*Chinese military personal march during a military exercise on May 16, 2024, in Svay Chok village, Cambodia.*



COURTESY OF AP  
*A rescuer works through rubble after Friday’s earthquake on April 1, 2025, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar.*



## This week at Wabash

### Friday, Apr. 4

7:00 p.m. | Volleyball @ Chadwick Court

### Saturday, Apr. 5

All day | Huntsman Family Track and Field Invitational @ Little Giant Stadium

### Sunday, Apr. 6

1:30 p.m. | Tennis @ Collet Tennis Center

### Monday, Apr. 7

12:00 p.m. | Baseball @ Goodrich Ballpark

### Tuesday, Apr. 8

11:00 a.m. | Student Senate Candidate Forum @ Baxter 101

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# APRIL 12



## Wabash, Malcom X Institute of Black Studies welcome Ilyasah Shabazz to campus

TY MURPHY '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

Despite being located in the small town of Crawfordsville, Indiana, Wabash is no stranger to spectacular guest speakers. From award winning authors to well established businessmen and women, the list goes on, but this week the College found themselves with a unique opportunity. As the Malcolm X Institute of Black Studies (MXIBS) celebrates their 55th anniversary and the nation prepares to recognize Malcolm X on his 100th birthday in May, Wabash hosted several prominent speakers including Ilyasah Shabazz, Malcolm X's daughter, and Pulitzer Prize winning author David Garrow. Shabazz first visited Wabash in 2008.

"Having Dr. Ilyasah Shabazz come back to Wabash College really feels like a once in a lifetime opportunity," said Chairman of the MXIBS Quinn Sholar '26. "I'm really excited to be a streamliner and progress this forward for the MXIBS."

Shabazz spoke to a crowd of students on April 2 and April 3 in Salter Hall, sharing her unique experience as the daughter of one of America's most famous civil rights leaders.

"I understood who I was, first and foremost, as a human being, as a woman, as a person of The African diaspora, as Muslim, and I was comfortable with it," said Shabazz in her panel. "I loved who I was so that I could love others. If I don't love me, I could never love, and I could never do anything that is to give back to life. Because that's what life is about."

During her panel, Shabazz covered a wide variety of topics from the pressure of being Malcolm X's daughter to the importance of her mother throughout her life. However, the theme that stuck out throughout the talk was the significance of just what being Black means.

"For so long, we were told Black is nothing. We were told there's no history, there's no identity. But now we're discovering that there is history for us," said Shabazz. "There are those pyramids, there are those monuments, there's the significant



PHOTO BY JACK MILLER '28

Students, faculty, staff and guests stand and applaud Ilyasah Shabazz after her talk on Wednesday, April 2 in Salter Hall. Shabazz spoke about the legacy of her father, civil rights champion Malcom X, and the importance of recognizing and embracing Black achievements.

contributions that we've made to math, science, astronomy, archeology, all of these things. You just need that determination, and hopefully you can come together as one."

She also talked about the people around Malcolm X because there were other figures who helped make him an icon. Shabazz honored her often-overlooked mother who became a great inspiration in her own life.

"I often ask how she was able to not only survive, but survive well," said Shabazz. "She was very compassionate, giving and happy. But what I realized is that she just thrives through a lot of the crazy, rather than be reduced by sorrow. There's a lesson in any challenge, and she is just a great source of in-

spiration of strength and determination."

Having speakers like Shabazz on campus is more than just an event for the College. For the students it signals a commitment to always have the opportunity to get the very most out of their experience.

"A lot of Black kids in America do have to grow up faster," said Sholar. "They have to grow up faster than they're supposed to just because of the environments they are brought up in and the positions that they're born into. To hear a lot of life lessons she has gained over the course of all the many trials and tribulations she has been through is a really special moment for me."

It was not just Shabazz that the College had the privilege of hosting,

however. On April 3 in Salter Hall, Pulitzer Prize winning author David Garrow joined Shabazz in remembering the impact of Malcolm X. Garrow is more known for his work on other figures, including Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., and offered some insights comparing the civil rights icons.

"Malcolm's assassination was a greater tragedy to the civil rights movement than losing Dr. King, because King was pretty played out," said Garrow. "King was exhausted. King was really drained. Malcolm, in the last 12 months of his life, was embracing the real Muslim faith as sort of multi-racial political inspiring figure. Malcolm's potential was phenomenal, and that's why it's so tragic he was killed."

As Garrow and Shabazz leave campus, Wabash students are reminded of the important history of Malcolm X, and what he meant to the nation. Even more students can recognize just what the MXIBS stands for and what they can learn.

"I hope that a lot of brothers take what she says and internalize it and realize we wouldn't have this building without her father," said Sholar. "To actually see her vibe and in person, hopefully people can see that and realize this is no longer a game. This is something we need to take seriously."

## Success with Orr Fellowship continues for Wabash men



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK LOGAN '24

Nick Logan '24 was recently named director of finance for the Orr Fellowship Leadership Team. He is the seventh Wabash alumnus in a row to hold the position.

ELIJAH WETZEL '27  
FEATURES EDITOR

One of the statistics that colleges and universities pride themselves on is post-graduation job and graduate school placements. One avenue straight out of school that many recent Wabash graduates have turned to, and have had much luck with, is the Orr Fellowship.

Founded in 2001, the Orr Fellowship is a two-year postgraduate experience that connects promising young professionals from the state of Indiana with emerging businesses in Indianapolis and Evansville. Orr Fellowship places fellows within their partner businesses and organizes skill development and networking opportunities for them over the next two years. The goal of the Fellowship is to retain young, talented professionals in Indiana and leverage their skills to help innovative businesses grow. The

interconnectedness of the program is one of its major strengths in Steven Emch's opinion, the president of Orr Fellowship.

"We're finding the best businesses we can find, and we want all those leaders to know each other," said Emch. "Similarly, for the fellows and the students that ultimately become a part of the program, we want them all to know each other and be connected to our alumni. You get this thriving, connected ecosystem of highly assessed people who have separated themselves early, who want to go on and make something of themselves in this community, who we hope great things can come out of."

It's an environment that continues to bear fruit for Wabash alumni. In the last five years alone, the College has produced 22 Orr Fellows. Seven come from the class of 2025, and have already accepted job offers from

the businesses they were placed with. Those seven make up nearly 10 percent of the Orr Fellowship's 80-person 2025 cohort, a sizable percentage for a school with around 860 students, and tied with Butler University for the most students from one school that isn't named Purdue University or Indiana University. For Nick Logan '24, an Orr Fellow in the 2024 cohort, part of the reason why Wabash students have had great success with Orr Fellowship is the widely-applicable skills they gain while in Crawfordsville.

"My job right now has absolutely nothing to do with my major, but everything to do with the skills that I developed at Wabash throughout my four years," said Logan. "I work in preconstruction at an affordable housing developer, but I majored in economics. Preconstruction involves project engineering and project management, which I'd never done. I don't know if there's even any classes about that at Wabash. But Wabash, it builds the skills that you need to adapt and grow and develop. It's all about how you apply them."

Logan, a preconstruction coordinator with The Annex Group in Indianapolis, recently stepped into a further role with the Orr Fellowship as a member of their Fellowship Leadership Team. Each year the cohort of Orr Fellows in their second year of the program nominate and elect eight representatives who will comprise the Fellowship Leadership Team, taking on director roles in areas like marketing, recruitment and community engagement.

Logan was elected to serve as the Orr Fellowship's Director of Finance, the seventh Wabash alumnus in a row to fill the role. In his role, Logan will work closely with the Fellowship's executive team and will oversee all

Fellow and Fellowship Leadership Team budgetary action. Logan's recent win, and the wins of other Wabash men who have held roles on the Leadership Team, signals the respect they have among their peers.

"The fellows choose these positions, which I think is really meaningful for people like Nick and the rest of the crew that got elected this year," said Emch. "This is them advocating and being seen by their peers as a leader among leaders, which says a lot."

Logan is appreciative of the amount of responsibility directing the finances of the fellowship program will be on top of the responsibility he holds with his em-

ployer, but relishes the chance to work and learn from other young professionals, even more than he would have had he not stepped into the director of finances role. But reflecting on the entirety of his Orr Fellowship experience, his most salient emotion is gratitude.

"I can't say enough great things about the Orr Fellowship for putting me in the position to interview with my partner company and getting me a spot with them," said Logan. "All I can say is, 'I'm really grateful.' It's hard to put into words."



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# Review: 'The Studio'

## No 'Severance,' no problem

BEN WALLACE '25  
STAFF WRITER

Season two of “Severance” has wrapped up, and many of you might be reaching for that Apple TV+ cancel button. Fair enough. Apple TV+ isn’t exactly overflowing with must-watch movies, and without a standout series like “Severance” or “Ted Lasso” currently running, it’s hard to justify the extra cost. But before you pull the plug, “The Studio” might just be reason enough to stick around a little longer.



COURTESY OF APPLE TV

Seth Rogen stars as the fictional movie producer Matt Remick in the new satirical comedy show "The Studio" he created alongside Evan Goldberg, Peter Huyck, Alex Gregory and Frida Perez. The show is available on Apple TV+.

“The Studio” is the latest collaboration between Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg, the duo behind comedy classics like “Superbad” and “This Is the End.” With a track record like theirs, expectations are high, and for good reason. The show follows Matt (played by Seth Rogen), who is newly promoted to studio head at Continental Studios. Now in charge of greenlighting and producing new projects, Matt dreams of making artsy, “real” films, while his boss and the rest of the studio are far more focused on profit and churning out the next big franchise.

In the first episode, Matt is tasked with finding a director for the studio’s newly acquired “Kool-Aid” movie. The CEO, convinced it could be the next “Barbie”-level blockbuster, sees it as a major money-maker. As Matt struggles to juggle his artistic ambitions with the studio’s commercial demands, the episode becomes a high-stress balancing act between creativity and profit. In the second episode, Matt visits his first film set as studio head, where the crew is attempting an ambitious one-take shot, which is an entire scene filmed without any cuts. Adding to the meta layer, the episode itself is also shot as a continuous one-take, creating a high-pressure, immersive experience that keeps you locked in from start to finish.

The show is a sharp satire of the modern movie industry, and I found it absolutely hilarious. It doesn’t hold back, taking jabs at everyone in Hollywood. The first two episodes deliver the perfect mix of comedy and high-stakes tension, making for a wildly entertaining watch. The show also boasts an incredible cast. Seth Rogen leads as Matt, but each episode brings in famous actors playing exaggerated versions of themselves. In just the first two episodes, we get Paul Dano, Greta Lee, Steve Buscemi and even

Martin Scorsese, all as themselves. Each cameo is hilarious, but the biggest surprise is Scorsese. He delivers every line so naturally you’d think he’s been acting his whole career instead of directing. Visually, the show is stunning. Goldberg and Rogen capture the scenic beauty of L.A. with a sharp, cinematic eye. It’s clear this is a passion project for both of them, and they’re delivering some of their best work yet.

The real question is: Is “The Studio” worth your time? 2025 has already been a stacked year for television, with hits like “Invincible”, “Severance”, “Adolescence” and “White Lotus” all releasing great new seasons. And with “The Last of Us” and “Andor” both returning for their second seasons later this month, the momentum isn’t slowing down anytime soon. With so much great TV, it might be tough to squeeze in something new, but trust me, this one is worth it. The first two episodes rank among my favorites of the year, and I have no doubt the show will only get better from here. If you’re a movie fan, “The Studio” is a must-watch. Its sharp, satirical take on Hollywood is not only hilarious but also incredibly timely. I highly recommend giving it a shot.

FINAL VERDICT:  
4.5/5 WALLYS



ALEX SCHMIDT '27  
STAFF WRITER

Matthew Lepper '25, from Carroll High School in Fort Wayne, Indiana, has had quite the journey at Wabash. Recruited initially as a wrestler, Lepper, majoring in biology and minoring in environmental studies, has found ways to impact Wabash College on and off campus through his intense work in ecological studies.

Lepper would end up stepping away from wrestling in late November 2022 and soon find the love and joy of spreading environmental awareness across the Wabash campus. One of his major roles was serving on the Environmental Concerns Committee (ECC). Even before stepping into the role, Lepper saw the lack of student involvement and community engagement prevented the ECC from reaching its full potential, which ate away at Lepper. He knew immediately that he wanted to change how the ECC was run.

“My freshman year, I was stoked to be on the committee, but the whole time, I was just sitting there, sitting back, taking notes thinking ‘Yeah, if I’m ever in the position to run this, this is not how I want to do it,’” said Lepper.

Lepper strived for campus and student involvement and wanted more engagement from the committee in the community. When Lepper took the reins, he made rapid progress by creating campus-wide cleanup efforts and tasking the committee with helping clean up the downtown area of Crawfordsville. The intense cleanup of the campus protected not only its pristine image but also the local wildlife on campus. Lepper’s impact has come a long way, and to this day, the precedent he set is still followed.

“Matt is our leader,” said ECC Vice Chairman Ethan Gonzalez '26. “He has brought

# Senior spotlight

## Lepper: Passion that inspires



PHOTO BY KYLE FOSTER'27

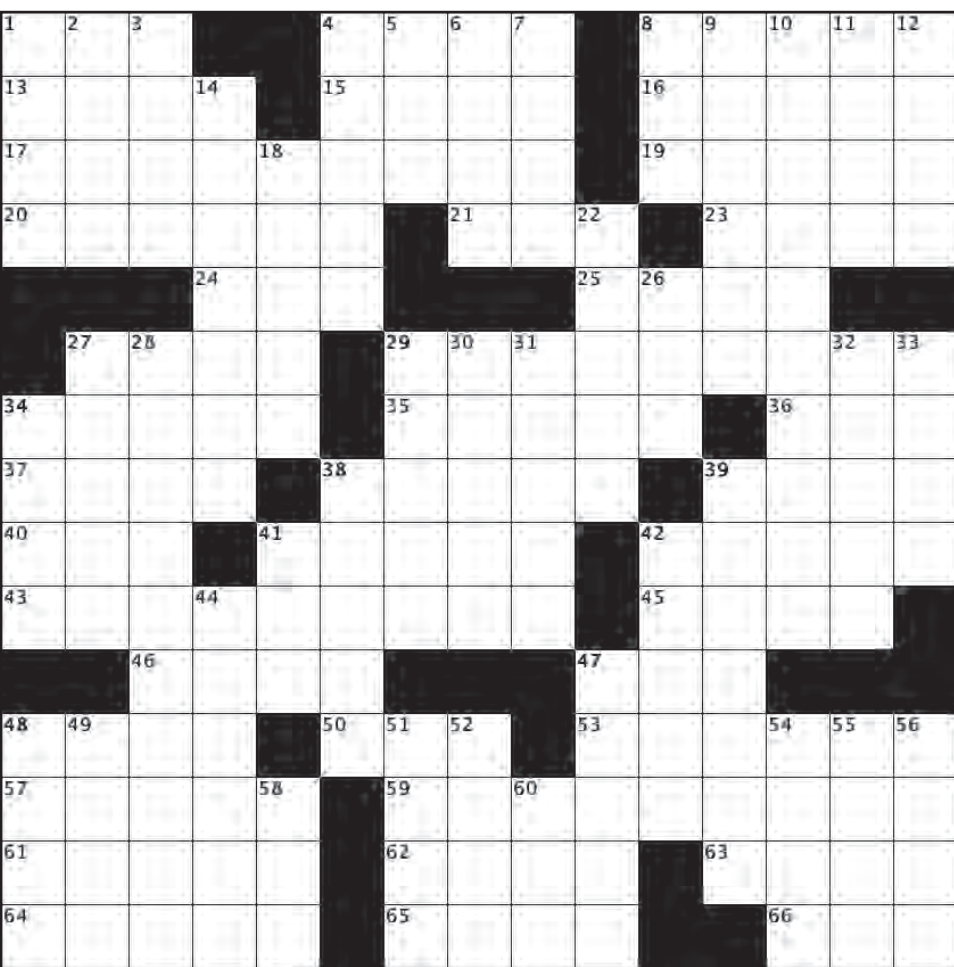
Lepper '25 inspects a sample closely in one of Hays Hall's biology labs. Internships with the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center solidified Lepper's love for the natural world.

together a group of people who he felt could understand the importance of our campus's environmental impact. He works with the faculty ECC to coordinate events that the students are able to take on.”

Lepper’s charisma and care for other people is what makes him stand out as a Little Giant. Throughout the entirety of getting the ECC active and back up and running, it has been all about getting others involved to help the com-

# 'The Semis'

## Crossword by Logan Weilbaker '25



### ACROSS

- "Washboard" muscles
- Not au naturel
- Perfume container
- Birth certificate entry
- Lamp type
- "Abandon all hope, ye who enter here!" poet
- \*When many grazing animals migrate
- Fiery offense
- Ride with a fulcrum
- Once existed
- Flutes' edges
- Medical drama settings, for short
- Aleve target
- Something pitched
- \*Two-piece sporting ensemble
- Tighten, as a belt
- Don't leave without it!
- Citrus drink suffix
- Love's antithesis
- Let \_\_\_\_
- Cherry part in a party trick
- Irritated state
- La \_\_\_\_, Indiana
- Scroogelike
- \*Cheerleader's move
- Cincinnati sluggers
- Chute opening?
- It's big near Monterey
- Good lyrics, in slang
- As we speak, so to speak
- Datum on an NBA player's card
- Central principle of Baha'ism
- March Madness round ... and a hint to this puzzle's starred clues
- Tattoo remover
- Flew the coop
- Actor's goal
- Lay a hand on, say
- Plumlike gin flavoring
- "Naughty, naughty"

### DOWN

- Does summer work?
- Au naturel
- Rhyming eye woe
- Features of some tubs

- Chorus line?
- Openly declare
- "SNL" alum Carvey
- "Get a room!" evoker, initially
- Name on 2024 election signs
- Meant but didn't say
- Elemental building block
- Paparazzo's need
- Flower oil
- "Planet of the Apes" setting
- 18-Down locale
- Grazed, e.g.
- Crown for a queen
- Ship headed "where no man has gone before"
- In \_\_\_\_ (ahead)
- Created, as a play
- Artist's prop
- Brainstorm outputs
- Sidewalk Santa worker, e.g.
- Fashionable, in France
- Either lead in "The Parent Trap"
- Andy Taylor, e.g.
- Remote button: Abbr.
- Like Cinderella's stepmother
- Takes a bite of
- Insults, when thrown
- Tulip-to-be
- Nitpicky to a fault
- Handles, mafia-style
- Executor's concern
- Animal with a beard
- Obviously doesn't know the words
- Long walk
- Cal. units
- "The Matrix" protagonist

Scan for solution!



an example for the committee to follow moving forward.”

Lepper’s impact extends beyond the Wabash campus with his work in environmental sciences. He studied in Peru for the Global Health Initiative and was one of the Wabash men chosen in 2023 and 2024 to study for the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center. Lepper researched a tree biodiversity project and a bacterial study with soybeans here.

“I’m absolutely in love with environmental research like this. I can see myself doing this every day in my life,” said Lepper. “I knew as soon as I got on that campus, and I did research everyday, I thought, ‘This is it,’ and I have not looked back since.”

Lepper’s trajectory after Wabash shows just how vital environmental science was in his everyday life. After Wabash, Lepper plans to pursue a master’s degree in environmental studies and policy at the University of Wisconsin-Greenbay’s Aquatic Ecology and Fisheries Laboratory. He will continue to do the work he loves and impact his community on a much broader, global scale.

Looking back on his Wabash journey, Lepper emphasized the importance of embracing failure and stepping outside one’s comfort zone. Recalling a critical moment, he shared a memorable anecdote about immersing himself in a new environment, one that would advise those trying to find their home in Wabash to be unafraid to leave their past self behind. Through this advice, Lepper could find his true love not for his sport but for environmental policies.

“You need to just get out there, and let Wabash work its magic on you, I guarantee there will be something for everyone out there,” said Lepper. “Like me — I came for the wrestling and stayed for the school.”



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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.

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# You owe it to them



Javion  
Montgomery '27

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jmmontgo27@wabash.edu

Brotherhood on this campus has faced a diaspora of challenges within my time here. Within my living unit, shared spaces broadly and even somewhere as accessible as Sparks (RIP) I have found a general lack of care for each other. As a brotherhood, this is problematic for the sake of preserving our history that begs for an irregular sense of masculinity and gentleman-like conduct; however, these threats prevail.

Due to these challenges, I have also noticed that the population of POC representation on campus is generally bunched into one section. If you look upon the masses of Wabash gatherings, you will notice a segregated population of students that generally only interact with each other. As a POC or marginalized person, I have found myself also isolated to these specific groups of individuals without intentionally doing so.

In my first year at Wabash, I stuck to these groups and rarely explored any other sort of social climate, but as I began to explore the various networks of college life, I realized that the nature of our campus forces interactions with each other that breaks apart isolation and forms even greater spreads of engagement.

In my second year, I now find myself often interacting with people who are so incredibly different from me that I wouldn’t dare bring them into spaces I had hidden during my first year. But is this right? Should we, as brothers, force ourselves to segregate based on predetermined social circles and innate identity-based presumptions?

Some of the strongest and most prominent leaders on campus like Luis Rivera ’25, Quinn Scholar ’25, David Leal ’26 and many more, have had such a long-lasting impact on this campus because of their refusal to be limited to identity-based groups. Their faces are present at almost every important

campus-wide event, not only as leaders, but also as members of our community.

Because of this desire to be present and participate in our campus, they have unintentionally created another space. A space that demands a place in the general student body. A space that eliminates the isolating nature of our identities and blurs the lines of segregation. I find myself in awe of this space and am now an active member in the march toward making this form of presence a norm for any marginalized person on campus.

But as the previous sentence hints at, this sort of participation is an anomaly. The general student body lacks active participation from POC students for good reason of course but not without consequence. I fear that, without the presence of leaders whom I listed above, I would have never had the courage or have found the sense of belonging necessary for me to be an active member in our community. This brings me to my conclusive point; we need more participation from our marginalized students on campus.

Brothers who belong to identities not welcome on this campus in the past, I call to you with a plea for more. Refusing to reach out into your community to shape it into a home affects not only you but every person who belongs to the diaspora of identities you embody. The underclassmen of this campus need people who can guide them into this campus so the changes we are demanding to see can be made into realities.

This cannot be done in an echo chamber of like-minded individuals. It will take discomfort, patience, a certain degree of bravery and a vision for the future of our brotherhood. The march toward this vision is one you share with every person who has worked to make this campus accessible for marginalized individuals, but these same steps cannot be taken within the comfort of your isolated circles. Get in the field, rough it out with people you wouldn’t normally talk to, and prepare this campus for future students who want to fill your shoes.

Our brotherhood will be all the better for it.

# HI-FIVES

FIVE THINGS WORTHY  
OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

## “SO YOU’RE SAYING THERE’S A CHANCE”

*Hi-five to Sydney Sweeney for calling off her engagement to Jonathan Davino. It was about time she realized there are plenty of other smelly fish in the Rhyinie briny sea.*

## CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF BASKETBALL

*Hi-five to the weatherman who interrupted the Auburn vs Tennessee March Madness game to bring fans updates on the tornado warnings sweeping central Indiana. Thank goodness the last five-minutes of Kia ads weren't interrupted, that's the whole reason we watch!*

## “IF YOU GOT IT, FLAUNT IT”

*Hi-five to a certain lock-down defender who made the tough decision to put himself on the All-IM Defensive Team. Arguably the least controversial pick since Iguadala won Finals MVP in 2015, his ability to block five better candidates from the list puts him the upper echalons of IM history.*

## RIDICULOUS

*Lo-five to the bastards of the WabCo Bastard. They continue to make a mockery of our sacred and beautiful art with every letter of their salacious paper.*

## STROM THURMOND, WHO?

*Hi-five to Cory Booker for breaking the record for longest filibuster in Senate history. Regardless of how you feel about this, the previous record was held by a guy protesting the Civil Rights Act, so we can all agree this is better, right?*

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- Sunday: Burrito Mojado \$8.99 Flautas \$8.99



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# A culinary abomination: Pineapple on pizza

Ethan Cooper '27

Reply to this opinion at  
ercooper27@wabash.edu

Pizza, a timeless culinary masterpiece, a perfect symphony of crispy crust, tomato sauce, melted cheese and savory toppings (generally the classic pepperoni). Yet, somewhere along the way, a major mistake was made because someone decided that pineapple belongs on pizza. A sweet

tropical fruit like pineapple has no place on such a flawless dish, and I believe it’s time we put this debate to rest once and for all.

To start off, let’s address the fundamental issue, the texture. Pizza should be a combination of textures like chewy crust, creamy cheese, tender meat and maybe even the satisfying crunch of vegetables. Pineapple, however, arguably disrupts this balance with the awkward juiciness that inherently comes with it, consequently turning each bite into a soggy mess, and no one wants a pizza that feels like it’s been left out in the rain.

Moving on, there is the flavor clash between the pizza and pineapple. As we know, pizza is inherently savory

with the mixture of rich tomato sauce and salty cheese. Pineapple has an aggressive sweetness that overpowers these delicate flavors, that creates a very confusing taste to experience. I would compare it to pouring something like syrup on a steak, two things you just should not mix. Advocates of Hawaiian pizza argue that the contrast of flavors is “refreshing,” but let’s be honest here. If you want fruit, go eat a fruit salad. Try not to ruin a perfectly crafted pizza because of a craving.

What’s even worse is that accepting pineapple pizza sets a dangerous precedent. If we accept fruit on pizza, where would it end? Cantaloupe? Watermelon? Strawberries? Or even a handful of grapes chopped and tossed

over creamy, melted cheese? There are reasons that culinary traditions exist, and straying too far from these traditions would lead to complete chaos in the pizza industry.

Some of you might call a stance like this extreme, but I believe pizza is worth defending. Especially in a world that is full of so many different culinary opinions. Pineapple on pizza is not just a preference, it is an insult to cuisine and common sense. Let’s just keep pizza the way it was meant to be, pineapple free.



# You have never been free



**Preston Reynolds '25**  
*Opinion Editor*  
  
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We are a generation that has grown up in some of the most fervent and hysterical culture wars humanity has ever seen. Why worry about the children we bomb in Afghanistan and Iraq? Why worry about the American citizens who continue to be taken off the streets in unmarked vans? Instead, let's fight the "War on Christmas."

When I was growing up, these culture wars seemed ridiculous. Now they scare me. What happens when our country worries more about vaccines causing autism than the erosion of 9th, 10th and 14th Amendment privacy rights? What happens when we worry more about 10 transgender NCAA athletes than the torture and murder of American citizens by our own government? What happens when we worry more about taking away the rights of others than protecting our own? What happens when we care about dogma more than substance?

I don't have to spell out where we're heading. If you don't see the erosion of freedom, liberty and human dignity in America, you haven't been paying attention. We are facing unbelievable wealth inequality, skyrocketing cost of living and wage continues to stagnate. All while social programs are callously gutted by billionaires.

In 2008, the top 1% of Americans controlled around \$19 trillion worth of wealth. This was nearly \$18 trillion more than the bottom 50% but only \$1 trillion more than 50-90% of Americans. In 2024, the top 1% of all Americans controlled \$49 trillion worth of wealth, eclipsing the bottom 50% by \$45 trillion and just barely edging out 50-90% of Americans (Federal Reserve).

I will not make the argument of whether

the ultra-wealthy deserve their fortunes. Instead, I want to mention Robert Morris, one of the wealthiest men in America at the outbreak of the American Revolution. Morris drove himself to bankruptcy multiple times, drawing millions on his own credit, just to prevent mutiny in the American armed forces. I do not see any patriotic billionaires in America today, only needless greed. We claim to be a nation "for the people, by the people," but some Americans' votes are worth much more than others.

The idea of popular sovereignty, labeled as "republican exclusivity" by intellectual historian James Hankins, only gained significant momentum in the 16th century. The belief that legitimacy rests solely in the will of the people is almost as old as the telescope.

"Republican inclusivity," which left room for a monarchical executive, only lost steam at the end of the 18th century. This is part of why many American Founders (Adams, Hamilton, etc.) wrote and advocated for executives which resembled European monarchs in many ways.

I mention this history to say, America has never been a free republic. Instead we are an oligarchy pretending to act in the will of the people. We were not free when the American government paid bounty hunters to track down "fugitive slaves." We were not free when the US Army massacred more than 200 women and children at Marias. We were not free when the National Guard shot striking miners in 1921. We were not free when the FBI murdered Fred Hampton in 1969. We were not free when four students were murdered at Kent State. We were not free when the U.S. Air Force coated Southeast Asia with hundreds of tons of bombs, killing hundreds of thousands.

Our government is not a republic, it is an imperial monarchy wearing republican clothing. If America is not squeezing life out of its own citizens, it will happily eviscerate innocents abroad. We did so in the Philippines, Vietnam, East Timor, Yemen, Palestine, Libya, Afghanistan, Iraq and numerous other countries. "No flag is large enough to cover the shame of killing innocent people," Howard Zinn famously said. If we ever hope to see our children and

countrymen truly bathe in the ideals of freedom, we must rein in our government and military.

Many of us can happily sit on the sidelines of our generational crisis. Around 40% of 18 - 24-year-olds are enrolled in a two or four-year institution. If you are reading this, there's a good chance you'll be able to ride out our newly christened dystopia into a cushy middle management position. In all likelihood, you will earn and own less than your parents. It will be more expensive to send your kids to college, but it'll all turn out alright, no? That could be true if men lived from bread alone; unfortunately human beings wither and die without freedom.

Freedom is a prisoner's dilemma. By sacrificing another's rights today, you can secure yourself for a short time. But the game never ends. Your freedom is never guaranteed. And eventually, someone will sacrifice your rights. You will lose. If we cannot agree that all people deserve freedom, there is no hope for our nation.

When I say freedom, I don't just mean your rights of speech, expression and worship. I mean "Freedom from Want," giving each person the right to live adequately despite any circumstances beyond their control. I mean "Freedom from Fear," to live without the threat of state-sponsored terrorism, to lock your door at night without worrying about our militarized police breaking it down.

All these rights are under attack, more so now than ever. Law firms partnered with the American Civil Liberties Union are being targeted by Donald Trump in direct executive orders. The funds allocated for public defenders have been cut, while the scope of who deserves "liberty and justice for all" continues to narrow. When the most virtuous of all lawyers are under attack, we should be scared. I could continue to list the horrifically banal ways our society is being towards autocracy, but that would turn this piece into a book. And a book like that is liable to be burned these days.

Fascists, totalitarians and monarchs see no difference between a radical and a moderate. We are past the point of everything "working itself out." You are not safe sit-

ting on the sidelines. Soon, your value will come only from what resources you provide for the state. You will have no inherent value as a human being. You will have no autonomy as a citizen.

You have no freedom.

Do not take these phrases as foreign, these are not images from some far-off country you view on the nightly news. This is your country, America. This has been a reality for millions of Americans for generations. This has been the condition of the union laborer and the scab, the sharecropper and migrant worker, the student and retail worker. Each has different privileges and resources, but none are free.

The government does not see your rights as "rights." They see them as privileges. People have fought and died for generations just to scrape back a modicum of human dignity for each and every one of us. Do not squander your inheritance on the sidelines.

I'll end with the paraphrased words of American hero Joe Hill, "Demand your rights... Don't waste any time mourning. Organize."



*COURTESY OF WIKIMEDIA COMMONS*  
**Labor activist and songwriter Joe Hill (1879-1915) was executed by firing squad in Salt Lake City, UT, in a trial sparking international controversy.**

## Wally's wall: The bell tolls

**The Prompt:**

What are some things you'd like to do in your last weeks of the semester?

- Logan Weilbaker '25**

I want to enjoy every last slice of Brother's pizza.
- Preston Reynolds '25**

I want to go to Stoney's again.
- Evan Bone '26**

Get my composites back.
- Albert Bernhardt '26**

Survive.

- Ethan Wallace '25**

I just want it to be over.
- Ryan Frazier '26**

Pass Macro.
- Elijah Greene '25**

I want to finish "well," tie my Wabash experience into a bow. I want to reconnect with old professors and keep hustling. I don't want to peter out.

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## Building strength and progress: Coach Marcela Dominguez’s impact on Wabash volleyball

HAIDEN DIEMER-MCKINNEY '26  
STAFF WRITER

Since its birth in 2021, Wabash volleyball has only seen improvement year-after-year. But this season, the jump in performance was a massive leap. Assistant Volleyball Coach Marcela Dominguez has played an undeniable role in the program’s breakout season.

While the program’s foundation remains under Head Volleyball Coach Ashaun Baker, Dominguez’s expertise has brought a new level of physical preparation and confidence to the players. With her guidance, the Little Giants have taken more strides forward, competing among the best in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League.

**“I like the challenge of being a woman in a men’s college because I can bring other types of perspectives and points of view.”**

-Assistant Coach Marcela Dominguez

Dominguez is no stranger to Baker’s coaching philosophy, as after she worked in Germany to begin her coaching career, she was his assistant at McCutcheon High School. From there, the relationship took off and Baker had an easy decision for who to bring on board to Wabash.

“I started as a strength and conditioning coach, then I joined Coach Baker as a volleyball coach,” said Dominguez. “After a year, I got the opportunity to join Wabash as more of a part time staffer, specializing in strength and conditioning once again.”

“Together, we built the McCutcheon volleyball program from the ground up,” said Baker. “It’s really meaningful to bring your staff with you when going to different places. Coach Dominguez brings love and personality, which is something that Wabash student-athletes need to experience.”

While Baker is mostly responsible for game strategy, Dominguez serves a crucial role in strength and conditioning. Her expertise has helped the team develop explosiveness and overall athleticism, improvements that have been evident through their performance on the volleyball court.



COURTESY OF WABASH ATHLETICS

**Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker (left) and Assistant Volleyball Coach Marcela Dominguez (right) are at the head of the Wabash’s volleyball program which is on track to break the single-season wins record this year.**

“We do general testing like the vertical jump, 10-yard split stance and reaction strength index,” said Dominguez. “These all give me objective measurements on how much they’re exerting their bodies in the weight room.”

“Everyone has generally been healthier this season than we have been in past

seasons,” said Opposite Patrick Volk ’26. “We’ve been jumping higher than we have before, being more agile, playing better defense and blocking better. All the physical results are there and the team recognizes those results are why we’re putting our full trust in her.”

## Wallace: Volleyball is ready to make the postseason leap

ETHAN WALLACE '25  
SPORTS EDITOR

Volleyball will not be in the Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League tournament this season. The good news is – it’s not out of reach for the future. The Little Giants faced the MCVL’s top two teams in a crucial weekend on March 29-30. While Wabash lost both matches, they sent a message.

With only four spots in the MCVL tournament, it’s one of the hardest postseasons for a Wabash team to reach. With two games left in the season, the Scarlet & White are locked into fifth place with two remaining matches coming against Adrian and Olivet. Both are at or near the bottom of the MCVL. While anything could happen, Wabash has good chances of tying fourth place Trine in overall record. But they don’t have the tiebreaker to advance.

For now they will have to settle with closing the season in style when they face Adrian on April 4 and Olivet on April 5.

“We’re ready to clean up,” said Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker. “It’s not going to be easy. Olivet is looking for their first conference win. Adrian’s looking to maybe add one more. Unfortunately, it’s not going to happen [for them] this weekend. I’m hoping for a great crowd to support our seniors and for us to finish out strong.”

Despite Wabash missing the tournament, it has become clear that they have what it takes to be a post-season team.

Mount Union and Baldwin Wallace are the top teams in the MCVL, with their positions to be determined in the season finale. Wabash faced both in one weekend, where they nearly pulled off a program-defining upset.

On March 29, the Little Giants took on the current conference frontrunner Mount Union. After a tough 16-25 loss in the first set, Wabash rallied to push the game to a fifth set. Holding on into extra-point territory, Wabash fell 17-15.

Bawibawi Thang ’27 and Will Beikes ’25 nearly willed the team to a victory with their incredible play. Thang threw down for 30 kills, while Beikes had 52 assists.

Had Wabash won, they would have been a favorite over Trine to sneak into the conference tournament. While it doesn’t count towards the season record, nearly knocking off the conference leader shows that Wabash is ready to step into the MCVL limelight.

The next day, the Little Giants face the nation’s 20th-ranked team, Baldwin Wallace. While they weren’t able to extend the match

to a fifth set, their third and fourth set losses were 23-25 and 22-25 nail-biters.

“I’m proud of my guys, because we accomplished things that they hadn’t accomplished before,” said Baker. “Taking two sets off of Mountain Union and Baldwin Wallace [is something] we haven’t done since joining the MCVL.”

Along with their 2-3 loss to Trine earlier this season, the pair of matches show how close Wabash is to breaking into the conference tournament next year. Only Wittenberg, who will finish second or third in the MCVL won in straight sets over the Little Giants.

“The close games tell us that we are right at the doorstep of being a high level team,” said Zev Wolverton ’27. “We were commended for our excellence this season by many of the other high level teams and we are all excited to have an extremely competitive atmosphere in the MCVL in the coming years.”

The big change Wabash needs is to come out swinging in their first sets. Across the three matches against Trine, Mount Union and Baldwin Wallace, only the first sets and the second set against Trine were determined by more than three points. Without needing to fight from behind, Wabash has the potential to defeat any team in the conference.

Their next step is finding a way to close out sets. In the final set against Mount Union, Wabash led the Purple Raiders 14-11. But they were unable to convert the match-point. It takes more than skill to close out top-notch opponents. Experience is necessary. But coming off two breakout seasons, Wabash will bring that kind of experience into next season.

“As a team, we need to put a little more emphasis on how we approach the start and end of the game,” said Wolverton. “While it might not seem very important with 20 points left to go, the first five points set the tone for the whole game. As for closing out sets, we could do a better job at mixing up the offense to create plays that would result in more open nets and better side out opportunities.”

Putting together the pieces for a postseason appearance is easier said than done. But volleyball is dedicated to a mission. With a few improvements and the same drive that allowed them to take the conference leader to match point, the Little Giants will punch their tickets to the tournament in no time.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Head Volleyball Coach Ashuan Baker gives instruction to Zev Wolverton ’27 and the rest of the team on the bench between sets.**

Let’s Go, Spring Sports!



# Baseball sweeps Terriers, wins big over Big Red



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Jarrod Kirsch '28 pitched in the final inning of the Little Giants' home game against Eureka College. Wabash won the game 8-1 in Goodrich Ballpark on March 18, 2025.**

## Continued from page 1

Game two started with a quick run for Wabash, after an overthrown ball on a dropped third strike gave Camden Scheidt '25 a chance to score. From there, the Little Giants stayed one step ahead of Denison the whole way, eventually winning 4-2.

The Crawfordsville native Jarrod Kirsch '28 earned the win with seven stunning innings on the mound. He had the composure to pound the strike zone, while facing a lineup with the 33rd-best batting average in the country. Kirsch struck out six batters and gave up only two runs. Grant Stratton '25 shutout the Big Red in the final two innings to seal the win.

"[For Kirsch] to get the ball in a game against a top three team in the country, and to go out there with the confidence of a veteran, it's huge," said Martin. "It lifted everybody else up. When you have somebody on the mound with that confidence, it's contagious and it's pretty special, coming from a freshman."

"This win says that Wabash baseball is a fearless team that will not back down, no matter the situation," said Kirsch. "The team really embodies the 'Wabash Always Fights' mentality and will fight until the last out of every game. This is a great group of guys and coaches that will do anything to get the win, and that says a lot about this program."

On top of his run scored, Scheidt made the key offensive play for Wabash in the third inning when he drove in two runs with a single up the line. His first-inning run was a record setting one, crowning Scheidt as Wabash's all-time runs leader.

"It's a testament to how many great teammates I've had in my career here, as they were able to drive me in to score all these runs," said Scheidt. "It was awesome to do it in a win against Denison, as runs are a premium against really good teams like them."

As Wabash battles to take one of the four NCAC tournament spots, it will be important for them to split with the other top-5 teams and to close out against the bottom of

the league. So far, they're starting well. A win against Denison is something the other tournament hopefuls will not likely have, and it could be a possible edge when everything is tallied up.

However, three games into the conference season is too early to start packing suitcases. The team still has a month of tough matchups before the dust settles. Until then, it's business as usual.

"A short-term memory is crucial, whether it's after really good wins or really bad losses," said Scheidt. "Taking things one game at a time and controlling what we can control is something that we have been stressing all year."

"I think our team – more than most – understand how narrow the margin is in and out of the tournament," said Martin. "So we're just really focused on playing our best baseball and going 1-0 as many times as we can."

Baseball will continue their season at home on Monday, March 7 with a pair of games against Oberlin.

# Down but not out

## Rugby still in hunt for nationals bid

**SAM BENEDICT '25**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Wabash rugby program has had one goal at the forefront of their mind: qualify for the national tournament. However, the criteria to qualify has changed year-to-year — forcing rugby leadership to adapt their regular season schedule and strategy. Currently, the two pathways to qualify are by winning a qualifying tournament or by submitting an application that includes the team's resume, which is then evaluated by a committee that allocates at-large bids for teams that did not win a qualifying tournament.

On March 31, the rugby team traveled to South Bend to play in the Notre Dame Rugby Qualifying Tournament. The team was one of 36 squads that made the trip. However, the Little Giants came up short in South Bend — finishing fifth in the eight team Division III pool and not earning qualification.

"The team showed so much improvement from last fall, bringing great energy and effort to the pitch while playing with class," said Vice President and Assistant Coach Tanner Quackenbush '26. "Grabbing two wins and a tie against a former national championship team is no small feat. On the flip side, the loss to Eau Claire stung, and the rainy weather didn't do anyone any favors. We lost focus and cohesiveness when things started going south, which hurt us."

Although the team failed to qualify through the Notre Dame tournament, they will submit a resume that includes a 5-2-1 record against quality competition. Previous competition at Hillsdale included shut-

out victories against Hillsdale, Baldwin-Wallace and Case Western — proving that the team is capable of competing at a high-level.

"We are in a good spot relative to last year when it comes to making Nationals," said Rugby President and Captain James Wallace '26. "To have half of our games be shutouts is an accomplishment like no other and our goal is to keep that energy going through the rest of the season."

The team will have two more opportunities to improve their resume before the April 13 evaluation deadline when they compete in Pharmaceutical 7s in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 5 and then the Allegheny Rugby Union West Conference Championship at Hillsdale University on April 12. The tournaments will feature top competition in the region including nationally-ranked Lindenwood. Before the team takes the pitch, they will have time to fine-tune their game at Mud Hollow — practicing five times a week in the lead up to the tournament.

"Something we have emphasized this season, and particularly this week, is excelling at the things that require no talent," said Wallace. "It's no secret that many of these scholarship teams that compete two or three divisions above us may have more talent than us, but we can take them on by focusing on the things that we can control."

If the Little Giants are able to qualify for nationals, the tournament will take place on April 25 and 26 in Washington, D.C. But before the team can focus on that, they will need to take care of business and maybe have a little bit of luck.



PHOTO BY JAMES WALLACE '26

**James Wallace '26 prepares to roll the ball into a scrum against Curry College in the Notre Dame Fighting Irish Sevens National Qualifier on March 29, 2025.**

# This week in sports

**TY MURPHY '27**  
FEATURES EDITOR

The Little Giants travelled all over the midwest as teams faced high levels of competition, and fierce conference opponents. Here's a rundown of the highlights this week.

## Track & Field:

The track & field team were split all around the Midwest region throughout the weekend with athletes competing in three separate meets. Haiden Diemer-McKinney '26 started off the competition on March 28 at the WashU Distance Carnival with an impressive 1:52.73 in the 800-meter run, finishing 22nd in a high-level crowd.

The Little Giant throws event group competed at the Hanover Invitational on March 29 producing several top finishers. Ryan Papandria '25 won the javelin throw with a distance of 49.61 meters, just short of his career best. Quinn Sholar '26 scored a pair of top-four finishes in the shot put and discus, with a third-place discus throw of 44.31 meters. Lane Brockman '26 and teammate Evan Furuness '26 both secured a sixth-place finish with Furuness in the discus and Brockman in the hammer throw.

The rest of the team traveled to the Illinois State University Redbird Invitational on March 29. David Adesanya '27 won the 800-meter run in a time of 1:55.80, earning him North Coast Athletic Conference Men's Outdoor Track Mid-Distance Athlete of the Week. A team of Tanner Brooks '27, Owen Smith '27, Julius Hearn '25 and Carter Leininger '28 raced to a second-place finish in the 4x100 meter relay, helping Wabash secure 47 points and a fifth place finish out of 12 teams. The Little Giants will compete again on Saturday, April 5 at the Huntsman Family Invitational at Wabash College.



PHOTOS BY ELIJAH GREENE '25

**Midfielder Will Kerker '28 looks downfield for an open man while dancing with an Earlham defender in the Little Giants' game against the Quakers on February 15, 2025, at Fischer Field.**

## Baseball:

The baseball team hosted Hiram College in Goodrich Ballpark on March 29 in a double header. The team was led by DJ Mendez '28 who contributed four RBIs before a Camden Scheidt '25 home run ended game one 12-2 in seven innings via the 10-run rule. In game two, Robbie Manuzzi '25 pitched three and a third shutout innings while striking out four batters. A trio of Scheidt, Will Philips '25 and Will McKinzie '26 contributed from the hitter's side leading a 9-5 victory over the Terriers.

On April 1, the team traveled to Granville, Ohio to face nationally ranked Denison. Despite a run by McKinzie, the Little Giants could not get the momentum in game one, losing 1-6. Things turned around in game two however, when Scheidt gave the team a two-run single in the third inning for an early 3-1 lead. Jarrod Kirsch

'28 helped on the mound, limiting the Big Red to two runs through the seventh inning. Grant Stratton '25 then took over pitching a shutout in the final innings to give the Little Giants a 4-2 victory over a very strong Denison.

The team will continue their conference play on Saturday, April 5 when they play Oberlin College in a double-header in Goodrich Ballpark. Then on Sunday, April 6 they will host Rose Hulman also at home.

## Volleyball:

Volleyball faced some Midwest Collegiate Volleyball League competition on March 29 against Mount Union University in Chadwick Court. Bawibawi Thang '27 produced 30 kills to lead the team on offense, while Will Beikes '25 added 52 assists. Piotr Wolan '28 led the defense scoring 13 digs. This helped the team force a fifth

set tiebreaker after rallying back from a 2-1 deficit.

The Little Giants came into this set strong, eventually accumulating a 14-11 lead against Mount Union. The Purple Raiders rallied back though, scoring three consecutive points to even the score to 14-14 before getting the match point to make it 15-14. Thang fought back to tie the score on a kill, but the Purple Raiders scored the final two points to win the set and win 3-2.

The next day on March 30 the Little Giants hosted Baldwin Wallace University in Chadwick Court. This game was a must-win to keep the teams conference hopes alive. Thang led in kills again with 17 and Beikes leading in assists with 35. After losing the opening set, the team came back to win the second before dropping the next two sets to lose to Baldwin-Wallace 1-3. The Little Giants will

next host Adrian College on Friday, April 4 in Chadwick Court.

## Lacrosse:

Coming off a big game against Kenyon, the lacrosse team traveled to Delaware, Ohio to battle Ohio Wesleyan University. Will Sorg '27 got the offense rolling with two goals that helped gain some momentum. Quinn Fitzgerald '25 also contributed with one goal and three assists, while Colin Krekler '27 added to his saves count this year recording nine.

The Battling Bishops were too much for the Little Giants; however, as they overwhelmed them as the game went on. The team struggled to keep pace as Ohio Wesleyan continued to add to their score count. The lacrosse team lost the game 6-28.

Look out for them to continue their conference play on Saturday, April 5 when they face Denison University in Granville, Ohio.

## Tennis:

The tennis team traveled to Terre Haute, Indiana on March 29 to face Rose-Hulman. The duo of Augusto Ghindini '26 and Cole Shifferly '26 started the match off strong with a 6-4 win at the one-doubles position. As the one-singles player Shifferly rallied from a first set loss to win his singles match.

Rafael Rin '27 and Murilo Guaraniari '28 played for a 6-4 victory at the two-doubles position. They were joined by Ethan Koeneman '26 and Tharakesh Ashokar '26 who secured a 6-4 win at the doubles three position. With more wins in the singles, Maskymilian Domanski '28 closed the match out with a singles six position win. The Little Giants secured a victory over Rose-Hulman 6-1.

They will compete again on Sunday, April 6 when they take on Denison University at home in Crawfordsville, Indiana.