

#### HISTORIC CHAPEL TALK PHOTOS SEE PAGE 5

## Wabash Dominates NCAC Basketball, Track, and Wrestling Claim Championships in Historic Weekend



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The Little Giants captured their first NCAC Tournament Championship since joing in the conference in 1999. Led by seniors Jack Davidson '22, Kellen Schrieber '22, and Tyler Watson '22, Wabash Basketball are currently on a 20-game winning streak, breaking the record held by the 1982 National Championship team. The Little Giants next play Berry College at Emory University in Atlanta, GA in the first round of the NCAA Division III Tournament.







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The Wabash Indoor Track & Field Team took their third straight NCAC Men's Indoor Track & Field Championship this weekend, taking first place by 63.5 points over second place Wooster. This the Little Giants' seventh championship out of the last 10, excluding 2020, where no champion was crowned. **COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING** 

The Wabash Wrestling team secured the Central Region Tournament Championship and sent seven wrestlers to nationals. Headlined by regional champions Max Bishop '22, Jack Heldt '23, and Carlos Champagne '22, Wabash has a strong chance of capturing its first national title since Darden Schurg '20 won in 2019

## As Russia Invades Their Home, Ukranians are Standing Up

JAKOB GOODWIN '23 | NEWS EDITOR • Disclaimer: This piece was completed Wednesday Evening and may be out of date. Europe is at war for the first time since Hitler attempted to take all of it. Last week, Russia formally declared war on the former-Soviet state of Ukraine and began an offensive to take Kyiv - Ukraine's capital. In the wake of this unprovoked and unnecessary attack, world leaders have come together to denounce and sanction **Russian President Vladimir Putin and** his allies. At the same time, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy and his people have taken up arms to defend themselves and their homeland. Many expected Ukraine to fold. Bryan Roesler '06, who served in the Peace Corps in Ukraine from 2017 to 2019 knew they wouldn't. The Bachelor spoke with him to discuss the conflict and what it looks like for Ukrainians on the ground.

Roesler's time in Ukraine was spent in two regions: Ivano-Frankivsk, a city in western Ukraine that has mostly avoided attacks, but has sustained some damage, and Chernihiv, a city in the northeast that is one of Putin's targets. He spent the majority of his time in Ivano-Frankivsk, but began his service in Chernihiv and has connections there.

Russia's war on Ukraine has ramped up in the past 10 days, but this is another phase of a war that began in 2014 when Russia annexed Crimea, a region southeast of Ukraine that



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Ukranians of all stripes have taken up arms to defend their home. Julia, a teacher and Ukrainian volunteer fighter, wept for her country as she waited to be deployed around Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, on Saturday.

connects to Russia's western border. Putin's rationale for annexing Crimea was that it was full of ethnic Russians and rightfully belonged to the Russian Federation. Putin expressed similar sentiments last week when he said that Russia would recognize the People's Republics of Luhansk and Donetsk, which together make up the Donbass region in eastern Ukraine.

Roesler pushed back on these claims, citing his own experience from eastern Ukraine. "In the west of Ukraine, where Ukrainian is spoken, there is a Western focus. In the eastern part of the country, where Russian is spoken, there is a more Russian focus."

**CONTINUED PAGE 2** 

#### Ukraine Stands Up, Continued

"But I do want to make a clear distinction. Most Russian speakers still consider themselves ethnically Ukrainian and Ukrainian citizens. They don't consider themselves Russian." Roesler said, "What Putin is saying about ethnic Russians who are being treated poorly by the Ukrainian government is completely false."

#### "What Putin is saying ... is completely false." -Bryan Roesler '06

As Russian invaders began their offensive against Ukraine, Ukrainians stood up. Former Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko has taken up arms. Former Miss Ukraine has joined the fight. Ukrainian boxers Oleksander Usyk, Vasiliy Lomachenko, Vladimir Klitschko, and his brother Vitali, the Mayor of Kyiv, have joined the force to repel Russia.

While the rest of the world has marveled at the courage of President Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people, Roesler said that he expected this. Ukraine has gone through 100 years of trauma. "In World War I, Ukraine was invaded. Then Stalin took over and killed 4 millions Ukrainians through a man made famine called the Holodomor. And then the next generation after that [went through] World War II, and then after that was the Cold War, and then Chernobyl. And then they had the Euromaidan, the annexation of Crimea, and the war in the Donbass," said Roesler. "They have been through more than most can imagine, but there are no

more resilient people that I know in the entire world."

The situation in Ukraine changes on a daily basis, but nearly a



Russia has conducted numerous bombing raids on Ukrainian cities, hitting schools, hospitals, and residential areas.

week into the conflict, Ukraine is standing strong while the rest of the world cripples Russia's economy and pressures Russia to pull back and end this unnecessary war. The international community has prevented Russia's Central Bank from exchanging its currency, the Ruble, which is currently worth less than a penny, to buy other currencies. And countries around the world are beginning to individually sanction Putin's oligarchs and seize any property they have in their countries.

"They have been through more than most can imagine, but there are no more resiliant people that I know in the world" -Bryan Roesler '06

As of writing, Kyiv has yet to fall and Russia has captured Kherson, the oblast (or province) just north of Crimea. A plot to assassinate President Zelenskyy was thwarted. Ukraine has been designated a candidate for EU admission, putting them on the track to join. And President Biden's State of the Union began and heavily focused on the importance of America and the international community to provide military, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine. This conflict is not over and it may very well get worse before it gets better. Only one thing is certain: we are living through yet another world-shaking event.

## **The Lasting Legacy of President Ford**



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President Andrew T. Ford served the College as President from 1993-2006. During his time at the College, his oversight on faculty appointments and selections for tenured professors remain prevalent to this day. His subtle, straight-forward leadership proved necessary during a time and to this day for the current state of Wabash.

#### REED MATHIS '22 & SARVIK

**CHAUDHARY '25** | EDITOR-IN-CHIEF & STAFF WRITER • The last time President Andrew T. Ford was on campus, he sat in the "W Club" in the football stadium, cheering on the Little Giants against Oberlin College on October 9, 2021. Looking at the exuberant cheers of the 77-year old, one could tell he had a special connection to Wabash, a connection that is too deep and too real to grasp on the surface level.

While serving as President of the College from 1993-2006, he brought that same vigor and forthright manner to his proceedings. His arrival to the College came at a crossroads not only in the relationships and integrity of campus life, but of what Wabash would represent moving forward. In 1992, a year after over half of the faculty voted in favor of a co-ed education being implemented at Wabash, President Ford had to step into a situation with no clear solution. The fact that he had no prior connection to Wabash made it all the more difficult.

During a time of combativeness and ambiguity about the direction of the College, President Ford did not over complicate matters and came in with a clear direction at the start of his tenure. "I think he did very well in coming in and healing that divide. The decision was made, and he saw that we needed to talk to each other and move forward together," said Dr. David Blix, Associate Professor of Religion. "In my opinion, he was not dictatorial or heavy handed in his manner, but understated and effective in his leadership."

People who knew President Ford intimately, some of them being trustees and alumni, appreciated him for what he did as the President of the College, but more than that, they appreciated him as a friend. President Ford always had a subtle way to go about things, and he believed in adding a bit of humor and joy to everything he President Feller recalled his first few months at the College, when he was still waiting to hear on his tenureship. He was at a holiday party at President Ford's house, when President Ford casually asked then Professor of Chemistry, now President, Feller, "Scott, what are you going to do on your sabbatical next year?" This caught President Feller by surprise and "I said 'if I get tenure, I am going to spend the year at IBM," said President Feller. "And he just says, 'oh well then you'll be spending the year at IBM.' And that was the end of the conversation."

did.

One of the other memories with President Ford that President Feller cherishes, was from the day before the Monon Bell game, when President Ford sent him an email. "He sent me an email... wishing Wabash good luck in the Monon Bell game against DePauw, and then he added that if you lose, it's going to be a long day for the President," said President Feller. "Which I kind of chuckled at the time, but when we were down 21-0 all I could think about was President Ford's words."

As we enter the Wabash College campus, the first thing we see is a massive and royal-looking building-Trippet Hall. Trippet Hall was a project that President Ford was deeply invested in, during his time at Wabash. "I remember one instance where a supplier had supplied a color of bricks, that was not the color of what they built inside the Mall and he had to tear down a little portion that they built already and replace it with bricks that were the same color and design as the ones on the mall," said Raymond Williams, Professor Emeritus. "That's the reason why you walk on campus and it looks like a college campus. It's not just a disparate group of different designs and all over the park.

Trippet Hall was only one of the major buildings that were built during

President Ford's time. Buildings like Hays Hall, the MXI, and almost all the fraternity buildings were built or renovated during his tenure here. The architecture of Wabash was one of the ways that President Ford used to help the college transition into a modern era.

President Ford not only represented

a loyal, battle-tested leader of the College, but someone who assimilated into the Wabash community as well as anyone. Whether it is through the anecdotes he leaves behind, relationships made, or the physical remnants that have his signature on them, President Ford remains central to the daily functioning of the campus.





wabash.edu/alumni/ra/indy

(O) @IndyWabash



Thomas and fellow Ivy League swimmer, Yale's Iszac Henig have become the torchbearers for the issue of trans inclusion in collegeiate athletics. All eyes will be on Thomas as she competes for the championship in the 100-, 200-, and 500- meter freestyle events.

ANDREW DEVER '25 | STAFF WRITER Last month, University of Pennsylvania swimmer Lia Thomas culminated a regular season marred by controversy by winning several events in the Ivy League women's swimming championships. The 22-year-old, 6-foot 4-inch swimmer hailing from Austin, Texas has fueled a widespread passionate debate about equality and fair play in sports, transgender rights, and balancing changing perceptions of gender and competition with biological and physiological realities.

Born in 1999, Senior Lia Thomas, formerly recognized as Will Thomas, started swimming when she was five years old. Long before her gender transition from male to female, Thomas competed and excelled throughout middle and high school and eventually committed to continuing her athletic and academic career for the University of Pennsylvania at the collegiate level. However, for the first three years of Thomas' career, Thomas identified as a biological male and consequently competed on the UPenn men's swimming team, seeing some success. During the year of competition canceled by the coronavirus pandemic, Thomas quietly began taking hormone suppressants to aid in the process of her gender transition, hoping to gain eligibility to compete in women's athletics under NCAA guidelines. According to the NCAA bylaws, to compete as a biological male in women's athletics, the transitioning athlete must undergo at least one year of testosterone suppressants before officially signing with any women's program. After

on women's swimming at the Zippy Invitational, held at the University of Akron, by eviscerating her competition in every event that she participated in. Her 200 and 500free times in the Invitational were so fast that no other female competitor has come within a second, a substantial margin for a relatively quick race, of eclipsing Thomas' effort. In addition to both times ranking first in the nation, Thomas' 200-free effort of 1:41:93 was quicker than the 2020-21 season's gold medal time for that event.

Unsurprisingly, Thomas' transition from collegiate male swimming to collegiate female swimming has not been well received by the majority of college swimmers and coaches, including athletes who continue to support Thomas' in transitioning from a male to a female.

An anonymous January letter, written by many of her University of Pennsylvania teammates, strongly conveyed their opposition to the Ivy League's continued policy of allowing biological males, who identify as females and have begun testosterone suppressants, to compete in women's swimming. This objection stems from the indisputable biological advantage that men have over women in producing testosterone. According to several different sources, the average male competing at an elite, collegiate level will produce between eight to twelve times as much testosterone as a female in a similar environment. For swimming, and sports in general, this means that the male athlete has a significant advantage because

the comparable female. Consequently, the woman would be significantly disadvantaged due to immutable biological and physiological characteristics. Using Thomas' times as an example, her 200-freestyle time ranked 554th in men's competition when she competed as a man. However, last month, Thomas won the Ivy League women's 200-freestyle, and leads the nation with the fastest time in this respective event.

"Thomas is putting pressure on one way to think about athletics ...[as a] sort of binary opposition [of] male [and] female

-Dr. Elan Pavlinich

To further contextualize the enormous difference between men and women in swimming, Thomas is on the precipice of breaking multiple freestyle records held by London Olympics standout and five-time Olympic gold medalist Missy Franklin and seven-time Olympic gold medalist Katie Ledecky, who is considered by many experts to be the greatest female swimmer of all time. With her most recent 200-free and 500-free times, Thomas has a chance to shatter Franklin and Ledecky's records in the final race of her collegiate career. As a result, hundreds of coaches and athletes have called on the NCAA to revise and relitigate its stance of the maximum amount of testosterone required to participate in women's swimming, a quantity which is twice the legal limit allowed by the International Olympic

COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

NEWS

Committee (IOC). For its part, the NCAA has not made any definitive declarations on Thomas or any other transgender swimmer racing in the NCAA championships, and that since Thomas has met the NCAA testosterone requirements and is leading women in several events, she will be participating come the Championships. In speaking with Dr. Pavlinich, a professor of Medieval European Literature here at Wabash College, he noted that through continuing to compete while transitioning genders, Thomas "is putting pressure on one way to think about athletics... [as a] sort of binary opposition [of] male [and] female." Consequently, the NCAA will soon have to commit to reevaluating how sports are classified to maintain fairness while promoting inclusivity. Previously, the NCAA had indicated that it would follow USA Swimming's guidelines allowing for a maximum testosterone level of 5 nmols/ L (the average woman has .5 nmols/L which is ten times lower than the maximum testosterone level). Nevertheless, women's rights advocates are continuing to push the NČAA to further investigate the effect of male puberty on testosterone as well as male puberty's ability to mitigate the wide scale effect of testosterone-inhibiting treatments.

With the world watching, Lia Thomas will compete in the NCAA swimming championships from March 16-19 at the University of Georgia Tech Aquatics Center. Thomas is currently favored to win, as the top-ranked female swimmer, in the 200 and 500-free while also being competitive in 100free. The only question is: Come March 16. will Lia Thomas be on the starting block, or will the NCAA prohibit her from swimming?

sufficiently meeting that requirement, Lia Thomas joined the UPenn women's swimming team for the 2021-22 season.

Thomas immediately made an impact

he can produce and build muscle mass quicker and in larger quantities, recover from injuries more rapidly, utilize greater lung capacity and perform at a significantly higher level than

## **Class of 2022: Distinction** in Comprehensive Exams

Kevin Ballard-Munn	Theatre
Adam Berg	Spanish
Emiliano Delgado	Art
Wade Haesemeyer	Classics
Ali Hakim	Financial Economics
Gordon Harman-Sayre	History
Andrew Jamison	Chemistry & Spanish
Tzu Tong Lee	Economics
William Lillis	Computer Science
Reagan Perkins	Financial Economics
Andrew Rippy	Physics
Kwaku Sarpong	French
Joshua Scott	Biology
Hunter Seidler	Rhetoric
Devin Vanyo	Mathematics
Cihang Wang	Mathematics
Jayden Williamson	Economics

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## OPINION

## **Un-Pulling a Few Punches**



#### Dr. Stephen Morillo

Reply to this editorial at morillos@wabash.edu

fter the Ukraine forum on Monday, a colleague thanked me for my presentation and for being so forthright. I was actually restraining myself. Shortly afterwards, I went to class, where one of my students said, "So, Dr. Morillo, I noticed vou didn't call the GOP fascists!" The student got it right, and I will use this column to unpull a few punches.

I was tasked with providing historical background to the current war. I made two points. First, contrary to Russian propaganda that they are "reclaiming" Ukraine, Kyiv and Ukraine long predate Muscovy and "Russia", which was a name made up to claim the mantle of

the Rus, the Vikings who created the polities and culture of the principalities that made up the area. The Mongols conquered the region, ruled through Muscovy, and thus Moscow and Kyiv, or Russia and Ukraine, have distinct histories. Russia did not even start to claim that Ukraine was part of the Russian Empire until the 18th century.

Second, the current war is simply the latest round in a 200 year old struggle, dating back to the early Industrial Revolution, between liberal democracy and right wing authoritarian regimes (first kings, then fascists). From this perspective, we have actually been at war with Russia since 2014, when a democratic uprising threw out Zelensky's predecessor and elected him president. Putin has since then steadily launched hostile operations — mostly via cyberattacks in various forums — to weaken and try to bring down the liberal democratic world. Interference in our 2016 election was only the most notable (and tragically successful) of those attacks that also include Brexit and the yellow vest protests in France. It is this, never mind Putin's nuclear option, that puts all of us in the front lines of this war. From this perspective as well, it can be seen as a good thing that Putin has launched this unjust, illegal war,

because it has torn the veil from this conflict and made it visible for what it is. War is terrible. This war is already tragic. But we were already at war. Now we know it.

Which brings me to un-pulling my punches. Professor Hollander accused me (in a friendly way) of being an optimist in some of my remarks where I expressed hope about signs of democratic unity and resolve. In this, I don't see myself as an optimist: I see myself as a cheerleader. This is an existential conflict for the future of humanity, and I know what side I'm on. Liberal democracy must win this one. Sadly, we are not united in this, though the Biden administration has done excellent work rebuilding the unity of NATO and the democracies after the Putin stooge who preceded him in the White House had dome serious damage to that coalition. So here it is:

Donald Trump is a wannabe right wing authoritarian whose businesses are funded in part by dirty Russian oligarch money. The GOP have been coopted. and are now a pathetic, spineless group of authoritarian enablers who are a clear and present danger to democracy in this country. Their anti-democratic, racist, misogynist agenda includes massive, widespread voter suppression and extreme gerrymandering (both

aimed primarily at disempowering minority voters); curtailing of civil and constitutional liberties (Texas wants to punish compassionate parenting of transgender children as abuse? Really?); and let us not forget, in the hypocritical rush by GOP politicians at the moment to show their "support for Ukraine", that this is the party that took support for Ukraine out of their 2016 Official Platform, and that refused to hold Trump accountable during his impeachment, where he was being tried for illegally withholding military aid to Ukraine in an attempt to strongarm the same President Zelensky leading a heroic resistance into fabricating an investigation into the Biden family.

In short, as long as Trump and his supporters, apologists, and the other fascists in the Republican party are major players in US politics, we are fighting the war for democracy and against authoritarianism in the presence of a dangerous, even traitorous, fifth column within our own side. It is this, even more than Putin's nuclear arsenal or Russian cyber-threats to our power grids and other infrastructure, that puts all of us on the front lines with the brave soldiers and civilians of Ukraine.

Democracy, for all, everywhere. Fight for it.

## The War on My Doorstep



Alex Rotaru '22

Reply to this editorial at arotaru22@wabash.edu

or the past week, I have been at a loss for words. I still remember being in The Bachelor office last Thursday when Russia invaded Ukraine. One of the editors kept updating me on the cities that were hit: Kiev, Donetsk, Luhansk, Chernihiv, Kherson, Kharkiv, and many, many others. The ones that particularly caught my eye were Odessa and Ivano-Frankivsk, both of which are less than 4 hours by car from the Romanian border; in fact, both cities are county (or *oblast*) seats for counties that border Romania.

My first reaction was hoping that Chernivtsi would be spared, which, thankfully, has been the case up to this Wednesday, when this opinion was sent to print. The family branch I identify with and cherish the most hails from that city, and has lived there for generations. Even though I am originally from Bucharest, and have never been to the Ukraine, I still claim Chernivtsi as my ancestral home, and hope to return there if and when conditions out there will improve. My grandmother, God rest her soul, was born in that city, but was forced off her ancestral lands and had to flee to Romania alongside many other refugees in 1944, when the Soviet Union re-occupied the territory during World War II. I still have (albeit distant) relatives in that city that I sadly have not been in touch with; I hope they were able to cross the border safely.

Then, as troops came in from Belarus through Chernobyl and Pripyat, I became worried about the reaction coming from Transnistria, on the Ukrainian southern border. For those of you who don't know what I'm talking about, Transnistria is an autonomous territory within the Republic of Moldova encompassing the country's lands across the Dniester (the region's name literally means "the land beyond the Dniester"). The region's population is almost entirely made up of Russian ethnics, and has considered itself a sovereign nation since 1992. However, the United Nations does not recognize it as such. My big concern was that Russia would also leverage them and thus hit Ukraine from three different sides. Thankfully, that has yet to happen.

Still, all this came at an incredible human cost. Tragedies affect you differently when they include elements of familiarity.

The part that hurt me the most so far was waking up last Thursday morning and seeing where the majority of the bombings happened. Aside from Kiev, Donetsk and Luhansk counties were hit the hardest in the entire nation. This is in an area that has been dealing with insurgency for the past 6 years, courtesy of Russian separatists creating their own People's Republics (which are only recognized by Russia). Those people have gone through enough as it is since 2016; this is nothing short of insult to injury. I wholeheartedly condemn Russia's heinous acts of violence as the violations of sovereignty and basic human rights that they are. By invading Ukraine,

Russia is denying Ukrainian citizens their rights to "life, liberty, and security of person" (Article 3 or Universal Declaration of Human Rights). As a result, Putin's whole argument of 'saving the Ukraine from oppression,' on top of being completely false, would also count as an Article 30 human rights violation: "Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.' (Link to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the end of the piece. I highly encourage everyone to read this document.) As a result, anyone supporting Putin's side in this case is aiding and abetting him in committing human rights violations, so I hope that, by this point, they will have reconsidered their position.

At the same time, I would like to commend the courage of the Ukrainian people in these times. I commend President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who chose to fight alongside his people instead of being evacuated. I commend the men and women who have chosen to voluntarily enlist in the Ukrainian army, to protect their homeland. I also commend the people who are taking care of their loved ones - their sick, elderly, and children - despite the missile strikes and gunfire. And I commend the countries that have welcomed the fleeing Ukrainians as refugees. However, I wish we would have been in a situation where all these valiant people wouldn't have to put their lives on the line for their country. Since the 1900s, Ukrainians have been treated as second-class Soviet citizens (except under Mikhail Gorbachev, who is of Ukrainian descent himself); they endured

the Holodomor (artificial famines in the 1920s and 1930s caused by the Soviet Union), the brunt of the fighting in World War II, the Orange Revolution of 2004, and the nonsense that led to this nightmare, along many others; and, the cherry on top, Russia prevented them from joining the EU and NATO, as of this writing. Ukraine has endured enough, and I hope that, once this conflict ends, the Ukrainian people will be able to grow without stunting and become the country they deserve to be.

Conflict has always shown me how privileged I am. I am lucky to be an EU citizen and a citizen of a NATO country, and I wish the people of the Ukraine will benefit from these privileges as well soon enough. Until then, as a poor college student, the only thing I can do is speak up, stand in solidarity with the people of the Ukraine, and lift their voices. That, and hope that other non-NATO, non-EU countries, like the Republic of Moldova, won't be Russia's next target.

Still, if there is something you can do, go right ahead and do it. Refer a job to a Ukrainian refugee and help them and their family relocate. Give to the various charities helping out Ukrainians. If you have friends from the area, check in with them, and help them as much as you can. Listen to the Ukrainian voices, and propagate them forward. War is an exhausting matter, especially for the civilian populations. Conflict is a time when we need to show our humanity, and not lock it away. It is time to act, for I fear that every second can make a difference between someone's life or death. Source for Universal Declaration of Human Rights: https://www.un.org/ en/about-us/universal-declaration-ofhuman-rights

# CAVE Like Swift Provides A Campus Tour Through Time

The archivist Beth Swift held the virtual event called "After the bell: A Wabash Campus Tour Through Time with Beth Swift" on the night of March 1st (Tue). "After the Bell" is a traditional event for the alumni to come back to the Wabash classroom virtually with current faculty and staff members. "I think that is a record," Ms. Swift said. She walked through the history of Wabash's

buildings from its foundation to the present using the slide shows. She explained each unique story or background information for each photo that almost no one would have known. "[It is] just really a deep dive into the architectural history of Wabash college," said Swift. She hopes that they will come away with a fuller appreciation of history next time when they are back on campus. One of the slides she presented is about the Junior Fence which was located between Center Hall and where Hays Hall was built. It was the sole province of members of the junior class. The seniors gave the Bench to the juniors, and the juniors the Fence to the sophomores whey the students held a Class Day each year at the end of classes. When construction started for Waugh Hall to be replaced by Hays Hall, the Fence was removed, leaving only the Senior Bench remaining. "We all know about the Senior

memorial to our founders and early faculty from that family, but there was also a Junior Fence," she said.



One of her well-known tasks is sending out emails about some selected historical stories of the college weekly to the entire campus. She thought that the virtual event was different from what she normally does. "When I send out those emails, [I am] really just telling one small slice of a story, just one part," she said. "With this event, I get to string the whole history along and the photographs really are the star of the show, just the images that we have for all different times in our history. People just love those

She thinks that learning history makes it easier to understand Wabash College. She especially thinks that it is crucial for the people who are new to the College. "I just think that helps them to make better decisions and be more thoughtful," she said. She is going to retire this June after working as the archivist for 21 years at Wabash College. She said that she has enjoyed and learned so many things that she has never heard of. The virtual event is also a precious moment for her to look back on what she has done. "It is a real honor to be asked to do this, a chance to speak to the alumni and really just share more of the history, that is just amazing," she said. "It is what I like to do.'

Mr. Nolan Eller, the Digital Archives Librarian who graduated from Wabash in 2011, will succeed after Ms. Swift. "She is truly a fantastic archivist, and it has been an honor to have the opportunity to work alongside her this past year," Mr. Eller said. "Her commitment to the collections of the Ramsay archives and her work showcase those collections and our history goes unparalleled."

There are many things that Ms. Swift wants to pass down to him while they are working together currently. Among all the things,



she emphasized appreciation for the past. "Understanding that what we build now is always built on what was built before us," Eller said. "Huge desire to share the history. That is important.'

He is looking forward to continuing her work telling the stories of Wabash and uncovering those hidden voices of its past and collecting new stories of its present. He hopes that he can contribute to bringing diversity through the collections to ensure all voices that make up the Wabash campus are represented in the College's history.

"It is an honor to be able to serve my alma mater in this exciting role," Eller said.

The pictures come to us courtesy of the Ramsey Archives.

## CAVE Like

## Setting Sights On A More Unified Wabash



VILLIAM GRENNON '24 / PHOTO

James Love III '22 giving a spontanous speech after leaving the podium. Love said, "I don't have time for this, I have bills to pay."



K'Tren Wilson '24 talked about the importance of role models and having the courage to push for change.



Chase Breaux '24 spoke to issues of police brutality on top of on campus issues.



WILLIAM GRENNON '24 / PHOTO

Malik Barnes '23 called for change from both students and administrators alike.

## **Gender Studies** School



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Dr. Crystal Benedicks teaching a Gender Studies course at Wabash College. Gender Studies became a minor at Wabash in 1997 but as one of the only all-male institutions left in America, Wabash looks to provide more opportunities in Gender Studies.

#### ZACHARIAH ALVARADO '23 | STAFF

WRITER • Gender Studies is often viewed as a field of study that encompasses only topics surrounding women and femininity. Less often is it seen as the broad and multi-use discipline that Wabash students who take Gender Studies courses learn it to be. The field teaches students not only about woman and femininity but also about men, masculinity, gender identify, sexual orientation, reproduction, love, and the history of each. Men and masculinity are critical parts of the field, contrary to popular belief. Students who take Gender Studies courses expand their knowledge about sex, sexualities, and gender which are all becoming more integral parts of a healthy workplace. When asked why Gender Studies is important Dr. Szczeszak-Brewer said, "Both gender and sexuality impact our

socioeconomic standing in the world, our political agency, the way we produce and reproduce culture and social norms, the way we parent our children, the way we interact with our coworkers. These identities impact you, me, and everyone around us." Dr. Szczeszak-Brewer is the chair of the Gender Studies committee and is currently teaching the minors capstone to the first batch of seniors that will be graduating with the minor such as Henry Egan '22.

Teaching Gender Studies courses at an allmale school no doubt has some challenges, but students still come to info sessions with questions regarding the minor. In addition to this, faculty and staff have been supportive, citing the interdisciplinarity of the courses, which span across multiple fields of study. Currently, Gender Studies is taught by a wide variety of professors who base themselves

in the Classics, English, and Psychology department here at Wabash. Those that are unsure or even the slightest bit curious about the field should take GEN 101. Dr. Szcezeszak-Brewer said in regards to the class, "If you stop there, you get a distribution credit and a discussion-intensive, eye-opening class." The class is often filled up very fast with students who come only knowing the basics of the field and are eager to learn and discuss more.

On a campus dominated by the masculine art of athletics it might be hard to see the teachings that Gender Studies courses offer with the naked eye. When asked about this Dr. Szcezesak Brewer said, "They are seen now, all over this campus, this very minute. Each student here has a unique way of gender presentation or performance, and students sometimes change these ways depending

on the environment they are in" Students come to the classes with varying degrees of knowledge but even the professors that teach the classes are surprised by their students and interest during the course. Dr. Szcezesak Brewer said, "They are eager to listen to experts on, say, the gender pay gap in the U.S. or the history of LGBTQ rights. And they are eager to talk about these topics among each other, which is why most of our classes are discussion-based."

Gender studies is a cross-disciplinary field that can prepare many students for future professional careers insights in life. Dr. Szecezesak Brewer said, "there are many career opportunities for you out there: in Human Resources, Project Management, Business Consulting, Marketing, , Media Analysis, Human Rights Advocacy, and more. Who knows you might just like it!

#### BACHELOR

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

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### Wally's Crossword: By Logan Weilbaker '25

1	2	3			AC
4			5		1. 4. 6. FO 8. 9.
6				7	9. <u>D0</u>
	8				1. 2. 3. 5. 7.
		9			7.

<u>CROSS</u>

- SHOP-RATING ORGANIZATION NAVAL PROPELLERS IT'S GOOD FOR A STUDENT, BAD
- OR A DOCTOR
- SANDWICH SHOP LIONS' HOME

#### DWN

- **ROSS OR DYLAN**
- SHAKESPEARE WAS ONE
- BOXER. E.G.
- IT MAY COME BY THE YARD THEY'RE ALL RELATIVE

## Intramural **Basketball Rankings**

#### **COMMISSIONER CASTER RANKS TOP 10:** AS OF 03.02.2022

- 1. DELTA GATES [DTD] (3-0)
- 2. BASEBALL HOUSE [GDI](3-0)
- 3. JENNISIDE [LXA](3-0)
- 4. PHI DELTA THETA [PDT](3-0)
- 5. LCA BUCKETS [LXA](3-0)
- 6. MXI [GDI](3-0)
- 7. SIG CHI [SX](2-1)
- 8. BETA A [GDI](2-1)
- 9. FIJI PHI [FIJI](2-1)
- **10. SEYMOUR[GDI](2-1)**

**TRACK AND FIELD:** W. Wabash 1st/9 teams at **NCAC Championships** Feb. 26

#### **HI-FIVES** FIVE THINGS WORTHY

OF A HI-FIVE THIS WEEK

#### MADNESS IS HERE

It is time. The bracket is about to be set. Jockeying for position is coming to the forefront. The Stephen A. Smith Meme Madness Bracket is here. And, oh yeah, March Madness for D1 starts on the 13th.

#### **NOT A TIME FOR A SMILE, ROB**

Lo-five to Rob Manfred for once again breaking down the spirit of every MLB fan and player everywhere. A disconnect and apathy like this can only be seen between The Bachelor and The Con

#### **RETENTION IN A DIFFERENT SENSE**

Hi-five for National Act finally falling through. Campus hasn't been this excited since we were gifted to Lil Bill taking crowds by storm in the pre-COVID days.

#### JAGUARS STARTING TO LOSE THEIR ROAR

Hi-five to the IUPUI basketball team for dressing five players in their last game of the season and only losing by 12. The last time we saw an effort from such a small, ragtag group of people was the Wooster grandpa who took on the whole student body by himself.

#### **POST-GAME STOP AT** THE VELVET ROOM?

Lo-five to the NCAA for not selecting us as a host site for the tournament. We get that the Chadwick Crazies are too much of a home-court-advantage and that our strength of schedule is hurt by having to play D\*\*\*\*\* twice, but give us a break.

#### WRESTLING:

+90

+76

+47

+35

+32

+15

+48

+44

+35

+32

W. Wabash 1st/9 teams at NCAA **DIII Central Region Tournament** Feb. 26

## Wrestling First at Regionals Wabash Grabs Top Spot in Regional Tournament, Sends Seven to Nationals

**BASKETBALL:** SPORTS Wabash 85 Wooster 84 Feb. 26



COLE BERGMAN '24 | STAFF WRITER • The Wabash wrestling team has come away with vet another great victory for the College. It is not too far to say that the program continues to be one of if not the most dominant, successful athletic program at the College over the last 5-10 years. Over the weekend, the Little Giants competed in the NCAA DIII Central Region Tournament at Adrian College. While there, the Wabash team earned a team title and advanced seven wrestlers into the upcoming national tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. This is the most they have advanced in program history.

Champions coming out of the tournament are senior Maxwell Bishop '22 and junior Jack Heldt '23. Each claimed individual titles in their weight classes. Also among those advancing are Carlos Champagne '22, Daniel Uribe '24, Alex Barr '22, Kyle Hatch '22, and Chase Baczek '25.

Champagne, currently ranked No. 14 at his weight class nationally, advances to the national tournament after finishing second in the 125-pound weight class. After winning by a technical fall in his first match and pinning his second and third opponents, Champagne lost a close finals match to a 3-1 decision.

Uribe took third in the 141-pound weight class. After winning his first two matches by a 12-4 major decision, Uribe lost his semifinal match to a 6-2 decision. Uribe managed to wrestle back to third in the consolation bracket, winning by a 9-7 decision in the consolation semifinals and a 7-6 decision to clinch his position in the national tournament.

Barr finished third in the 149-pound weight class. After pinning his opponent in his first match, Barr lost in the quarterfinals by a 3-0 decision. In the consolation bracket, Barr pinned two opponents and defeated another by major decision to reach the consolation bracket finals, where he defeated his opponent by a 6-1 decision to earn himself third place in the bracket. This will mark Barr's second appearance in the national tournament after reaching the tournament his sophomore year.

Hatch placed third in the 165-pound weight class, also earning himself a spot in the national tournament. Coming into the region tournament ranked No. 1 at 165-pounds nationally, Hatch defeated and pinned his first two opponents before being pinned himself in the semifinal match. Hatch then wrestled back in the consolation rounds, winning by a major decision then a 5-3 decision to earn himself third place in the weight bracket. This will be Hatch's fourth time competing in the



**COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING** 

Max Bishop '22 maneuvers for position in a meet earlier this season. Bishop was one of two wrestlers claiming individual titles and one of seven wrestlers advancing to the NCAA DIII National Championship Tournament.

national tournament.

Baczek took third in the 184-pound weight class. After winning by a technical fall and a pin in his first two matches, Baczek lost a close 4-0 decision in the semifinals. Baczek then wrestled back in the consolation bracket, winning a 7-3 decision and a shutout 8-0 decision to place third in his weight bracket.

Heldt claimed the individual title at 197-pounds, finishing 4-0 in the tournament. Heldt, entering the tournament ranked No. 4 in his weight class nationally, began the weekend by pinning his first opponent and beating his next two opponents by major decisions. In the finals, Heldt continued his

dominating streak by beating his opponent by technical fall, earning himself the individual title and solidifying his position in the national tournament.

Bishop earned himself an individual championship at the 285-pound weight class slot after a 4-0 undefeated run in the tournament. Entering the tournament ranked No. 1 in his weight class nationally, Bishop pinned his first two opponents and won his semifinal match 5-1 to enter the finals. He then defeated his finals opponent in a tight 2-1 decision.

The Little Giants through the tournament advanced seven wrestlers to the national

tournament, matching the highest number of qualifiers to earn the distinction at the tournament. In order to advance to nationals, each wrestler had to place in the top 3 of their weight class bracket.

Another high point of this weekend for the Little Giants wrestling squad included Wabash head coach Brian Anderson being voted the region's Coach of the Year after leading the wrestling team to yet another regional title. This is the wrestling team's first regional title since 2019.

These seven wrestlers will compete in the NCAA DIII National Championship Tournament March 11-12 in Cedar Rapids,

## SPORTS **Track Champions Again** Wabash Rallies for Title, Winners in Seven of last 10 Indoor Championships



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

For the 16th time overall, including seven of the last 10, the Wabash track and field team finished atop the NCAC Indoor Championships. The Little Giants entered the second day of the event in third place, yet sparked a comeback to claim the top spot once again.



Max Bigler '22 competes in the high jump event. Bigler, coming off an individual heptathlon victory, added another individual win in the high jump event. Bigler was then named as the NCAC Men's Field Athlete of the Year.

Jose Franco '22 pushes past Wittenberg racers. Franco produced a record-breaking performance en route to an individual victory in the 200-meter dash. Franco also received NCAC honors as the Sprinter/Hurdler Athlete of the Year.

## Baseball Opens 2-0 Little Giants Defeat Heidelberg and Otterbein to Start 2022 Campaign

#### SAM BENEDICT '25 | STAFF

WRITER • In exciting and less than desirable conditions, baseball opened its season this past weekend at Grand Park in Westfield, Indiana. The Little Giants, coming off an 18-15 season, looked to utilize senior experience along with dynamic underclassmen to start the season strong.

Dylan Scheid '22 started on the mound for the Little Giants in their opener against Heidelberg. Scheid threw six strong innings, allowing only one earned run and striking out eight. The lefty gave up only three hits and issued zero walks. Offensively, Camden Scheidt '25 was two for three at the plate with a walk, including a double in his first collegiate game to get the team going. AJ Reid 24' also ignited the team with a triple and stolen base late in the game. Derek Haslett 23' closed the game, throwing three innings and allowing one hit and one earned run. "We had great energy even though we were playing in cold weather and our pitchers were taking control of the game. Offensively, we had good at-bats and were getting hits throughout the lineup," said AJ Reid following the intense 3-2 win.

On Sunday, Wabash closed out the weekend series by defeating Otterbein 15-5 in a game that saw the bats come to life throughout the lineup. Leading the way offensively was catcher Liam Patton '23 who went 4-5, including three doubles with three RBIs and three runs scored. "I think this weekend was a great start to the season. Our pitching this weekend was outstanding and kept us in both games. I think our defense played great all weekend as well. I think if we keep working on situational hitting and executing our roles we will be in great shape for the season. I feel great going into Arizona, I think it will be a good opportunity for our team to show out against some good competition," said Patton.

Patton was joined by Reece Bauer '24, Felix Valero '22, Scheidt, Brayden Lentz '23, and Reid who each contributed with multiple hits. On the mound, the Little Giants utilized four pitchers to complete the blowout. Starting the game was Jacob Bishop '23 who went four innings, allowing only two earned runs and striking out five. The next two pitchers were Tavic Simmons '22 and Sam Phillips '23 who combined for four innings pitched and three strikeouts. Lastly, Grant Stratton '25 made his debut in the ninth, throwing a clean 1-2-3 inning that included two strikeouts. Before heading out there, I was talking to my catcher about being nervous that it was my debut and stuff. But when I got out there, all of my nerves went away. I'd say it went well for the first time on the mound, playing for Wabash, and having two strikeouts in that inning. I was happy with it," Stratton said.

Following the successful weekend, there is optimism for what the road trip over spring break to Arizona might bring for the squad. "I thought we played well in our first two games of the season against two very good programs. We played clean defense behind some very strong outings from our pitching staff," said Head Coach Jake Martin. "Our hitters delivered some big hits in big moments in game one. The bats really came alive in game two. I believe we will continue to get better in minimizing free bases from walks and errors defensively as the season progresses. Offensively, we are focusing on improving on situational hitting.

Looking ahead, the Little Giants will play a week-long series in Arizona against DIII and NAIA powerhouses. Their first two games will be against pre-season number eight, Aurora University and then they will play games against Wheaton College, Northland College, Bemidji State, Bethany Lutheran College, and Buena Vista University.



COURTESY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MARKETING

Dylan Scheid '22 throws a pitch. Scheid was the starter for Wabash's season opener against Heidelberg, giving up just one run in six innings en route to a 3-2 victory.

#### 

BLAKE LARGENT '23 | SPORTS EDITOR • "[An NCAC championship] is definitely our goal. We think we're talented enough to do that." These are the words of Head Basketball Coach Kyle Brumett, days before the 2021-2022 season opener against Centre College. Months later, his team achieved that. The Wabash basketball team pulled off an 85-84 overtime victory against the College of Wooster in the Men's North Coast Athletic Conference (NCAC) Championship. Just a week beforehand, the Little Giants solidified the NCAC regularseason title as well. Both titles were the first in school history. With two separate NCAC titles, a 24-3 record (which currently includes a historic 20-game win streak), and a multitude of team and individual honors, Wabash is off to the NCAA DIII Tournament.

The Little Giants entered the NCAC Championship winners of 19-straight games, tying the 1982 basketball team for the longest winning streak in school history. Amid this streak, Wabash averaged a blistering 93.6 points per game, including two wins over Wooster. However, the Fighting Scots entered Saturday with history on their side. Wooster was the defending NCAC champion, winning the tournament in 2020. The Fighting Scots also entered the matchup versus the Little Giants having won eight of the last 14 NCAC tournaments. While Wabash had shown nothing but dominance in the conference slate, Wooster had postseason experience the Little Giants have yet to garner.

The crowd was electric all game long. With the stands filled and noise levels at a season-high, Wabash and Wooster battled back-and-forth for the NCAC title. The Little Giants jumped out quickly to a 7-3 lead after an Edreece Redmond '24 three. But the Fighting Scots showed no signs of stepping down, and reclaimed the lead 14-11 at the 14:34 mark. The two teams continued to battle back and forth in the first half; there were 12 total lead changes. Yet, as the first half dwindled down, Wabash looked to seize the momentum. The Little Giants went on a 16-7 run in the final 8:20, with key baskets from Jack Davidson '22 along the way. Wabash entered halftime with a 43-34 lead over Wooster.

As momentum started to favor the Little Giants in a hostile environment, the Fighting Scots came out of the halftime break with grit. Wooster opened the second half on a 10-0 run, taking the lead 44-43 after a free throw from Najee Hardaway. Wabash then woke up, scoring the next 11 points of their own. The Fighting Scots came back, knotting the score 66-66 while the Little Giants did everything they could to stifle Wooster. And with 2:14 remaining, the Fighting Scots silenced the crowd, taking their first lead since the 15:51 mark. The two teams continued their battle for an NCAC title. And with the score tied at 73, Wabash ended up with possession and the last potential shot of the ballgame. Davidson ended up with the ball in his hands, but his last-second attempt from the elbow rimmed out. The No. 1 and No. 2 seed entered overtime tied at 73.

Wooster jumped out to a 76-75 lead after two Davidson free throws. Davidson then nailed a jumper to reclaim the lead in Wabash's favor, with Wooster immediately responding and grabbing a 78-77 lead. This score remained for over two minutes, with the energy and anxiousness at Chadwick Court steadily increasing. At the 00:41 mark, Wabash began to rely on its free throws. Davidson netted two free throws to push the score to 79-78 in favor of Wabash. Ahmoni Jones '23 then got his shot at the line. Jones connected on both free throws, and after a Wooster trip to the line, he hit two more. Jones pushed the score to 83-80 with just three seconds remaining. The Fighting Scots found themselves at the free throw line, but missed the second. Jones then made another clutch play, grabbing the rebound and heading to the line again. He replicated his previous shot results and knocked both free throws down. Wooster hit a late three at the buzzer, but the result had already been cemented. For the third time this season, Wabash defeated Wooster, pulling out a stressful overtime victory 85-84 for the first NCAC Tournament Championship in school history. "It feels great," Brumett said. "It really is the goal that we set when Coach Sully and I came here eight years ago. [...] You want to win games like that for your students, for your community, your alums, for the people that help make Wabash what it is."



Jack Davidson '22 sits atop the shoulders of Little Giants while celebrating the NCAC title. Davidson looks to lead Wabash to its first NCAA title since 1982, beginning with a matchup against Berry later this afternoon.

'22 was named to the all-tournament team. Davidson broke the conference tournament record for most points in a tournament, scoring 97 to break the previous record of 90 points held by Wooster's Danyon Hempey. Davidson's performance throughout the tournament pushed him to being honored as the tournament MVP with the Al Van Wie Award. The hardware did not stop there. On Tuesday, Davidson was named as the NCAC's Player of the Year while Brumett was named as the NCAC's Coach of the Year. Watson earned a first-team NCAC selection and Kellen Schreiber '22 earned a second-team NCAC selection.

"I think the game being close was really what we needed," Brumett said. "Something wacky could have happened, but we were pretty confident that our resume and our body of work had put us in position to get an at-large bid whether we won the conference tournament or not. But we needed, in preparation for the national tournament, to have some close games and to be in some scenarios that [...] you know, practicing them in practice is not the same as the pressure that comes along with concentrating and executing when the game, the tournament, and the championship are all on the line. We hadn't had a close game like that in a long time. Some of these guys had never had a game like that."

The championship game was just the fourth game decided by single digits for Wabash in the

to be really prepared for Berry's personnel, we'll be prepared for their strengths."

"[...] I may have the best team in the country. People may not know it yet. They may make us drive 587 miles to show it."

- Coach Kyle Brumett

"We're just really excited to play Berry," Brumett continued. "Don't take my last comment as if we're overlooking them: these guys are 23-2. Wabash and Berry probably shouldn't be playing in the first round. Just like we thought Wabash shouldn't have to drive 587 miles. Berry has won 16 games in a row, they won their regular season, they won their conference tournament. Their staff, their administrators, their players are all really good. We need to have all of our attention on them, and we do.  $\left[\ldots\right]$  From a basketball standpoint, that is the national tournament. You're gonna have to find out who you play, you have to quickly adjust, and you have teams you have to get information on. I feel really confident in myself and my assistants [...] nothing has been thrown at us that we can't get ready for. [...]

has some of the best top players in the country, the depth the Little Giants possess is what gives them a great chance to make a deep run in the NCAA tournament.

"It's been amazing," Redmond said of his experience. "I think often I take for granted how good all of these older guys are. But it's really just a testament to all of the work that they put in. They are always in the gym, and they've worked extremely hard to lead this team to the position we're currently in. They've taught me how to work hard and have fun. The experience has been amazing. [...] These experiences this year will help me learn to compete against tough opponents and how to win close games in the future."

Hall echoed these statements: "Having those guys is a huge help and a reason why I have been able to contribute to the team," he said. "They always give me confidence to play my game but have also shown me a lot of things that have made [this season] easier for me."

While the magnitude of the tournament may certainly cause a lack of focus towards Berry, Brumett expressed the need to focus on one game at a time. "Let's just win the first two," he said when asked about the meaning of an NCAA title. "We were fortunate enough to get a message from some of our 1982 Wabash national champions. That's exciting for the players. [...] Wabash is going to love us whether we win or lose. Our families, our Wabash community, the students that are the peers of my players, our faculty and stuff, they're all going to be proud and they're going to love us whether we make it six more or we falter. But [winning the title] would be special. Letting our guys hear from some of those '82 guys, saying, 'Hey, they sent us on the road just like they're sending you guys on the road.' That was meaningful, it was powerful. But we're not going to look past Friday. Once we get past Friday, we'll deal with whatever happens and move from there." Wabash (24-3, 16-1 NCAC) faces Berry (23-2, 11-1 SAA) in Atlanta, Georgia today at 4:40 p.m. If the Little Giants conquer the Vikings, Wabash will play the winner of Emory University and Averett University on Saturday at 7:10 p.m. And as a closing comment prior to Friday's game, Brumett said it best: "If these other teams can play really well and beat us, we'll be disappointed," he said. "I'll keep getting our guys ready for what's next, as we always have when it didn't go our way. But we will not be surprised if we keep plaving. We're good enough and we're going to be ready for the games. Our expectations are to go on the road and win Friday, we'll prepare and win Saturday, and keep moving. I've worked really hard and my staff has worked really hard to have a good enough team to do that, and we believe we do."

In addition to the conference title, Wabash continued to garner accolades. Tyler Watson

last 20 games. And with the win over Wooster, Wabash solidified a berth into the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Little Giants face the Vikings of Berry College (GA.) on Friday. There were hopes that Wabash would be able to host the first two rounds of the tournament. However, that did not come to fruition and the Little Giants will play in Atlanta, Georgia instead. Despite the long trek, though, Brumett and members of the team have one focus in mind: winning.

"I mean, there's definitely some disappointment in that [...] the students, our people, our fans, our families, our community [...] the NCAA made it harder on our people, Brumett said. "There's no doubt that we'd want to enjoy this with more of you. But we left early. We didn't really want to leave on Tuesday, but that's what gives these guys the best chance to get acclimated and ready.  $[\ldots]$  The game plan when you're really good [...] like, that's the thing we have going for us: we're really good. Like, my players are really good. My coaches have done a really good job at coaching our specific talent that we have. [...] We will be prepared. But I may have the best team in the country. People may not know it yet. They may make us drive 587 miles to show it. But we've got to play with the confidence that we're as good as anybody, because we are. We're going

There's definitely no looking past Berry. Our guys are excited about getting to continue to play. I think what gets lost in our sports-crazed world is this: Wabash is now in March Madness. It's been a long time since that's been the reality. We're going to enjoy it, but we're going to be ready."

"Playing in the NCAA tourney, my mindset is to soak up the experience and to not leave anything on the floor," Redmond said. "We want to bring home the chip, and though we had a record–breaking season, none of us are satisfied yet. We have a saying amongst the team: 'Job's not finished.' We've been preaching that all year. [...] My expectation is simple: bring home the chip. I expect nothing less of this team, and I know without a doubt that my teammates all share this same mindset. It's a business trip and we're on a mission. We're going to enjoy ourselves but we all know what we're here for."

"I think the biggest thing is that we are keeping the same energy and mindset that we've brought to all of our other games this year," Jesse Hall '25 said. "I'm just focused on winning the natty."

Playing under seniors Davidson, Watson, Schreiber, and Jack Hegwood '22, players like Redmond and Hall have blossomed in their roles with the team. While Wabash certainly

## Lacrosse Starts Strong Little Giants Open 2022 Season 3-2, Fall to Monmouth on Tuesday

#### SAM BENEDICT '25 | STAFF

WRITER • After a strong start to the season that featured close wins on the road and at home, the Little Giants lacrosse team had a home stretch this past week against a pair of squads from Illinois. The team took the field this week with a game against Concordia University Chicago on Sunday and another game against Monmouth College (IL) on Tuesday evening. The Little Giants entered the matches with a 2-1 record that included high scoring affairs against Anderson University and Mount St. Joseph University. A tough loss against Alma College brought the team back down to earth and offered them a chance to refocus going into the Concordia University Chicago game.

Anthony Nguyen <sup>7</sup>24 got the game off to a hot start with back-to-back goals to put the Little Giants ahead early. Then, goals from Joseph Plencner '22, Ethan Stonis '23, Josh Taylor '25, Caulin Fitzgerald '24, and a late goal from Ethan Hendrick '25 helped secure the 15-1 win over Concordia University Chicago. "Our game against Concordia University of Chicago was the outcome of a frustrating loss to Alma College in the day's prior. After having lost 18-3 earlier in the week, the team was ready to vent our emotions, and Concordia just happened to be on the other end of that," said Cody Bevelhimer '24. "Going into the game, nobody really knew what to expect since this was our first contest against them as a program, but we knew we had to play our game to prepare for the more challenging games that are soon to come."

Goalkeeper Matthew Hendrick '25 had a great outing with three saves and only one goal allowed. "As a goalkeeper, I get a different perspective of what is going on during the game. Our defense against MSJ was phenomenal. We made sure every guy was covered and only allowed goals that were in transition or man-down," said Hendrick. "Our offense kept the pressure up throughout the entire game, racking up 19 goals."

The team had a quick turnaround with their second game being three days later March 1 against Monmouth College. The Little Giants lost a hard-fought affair 7-9, but saw bright spots with goals from Nguyen, Plencner, and Stonis. "The Monmouth game was a realization game," Hendrick said. "We lacked communication on defense and didn't correctly run our offensive plays. These two factors are the reason why we lost."

At this point in the season for the team, and with only two games in the next three weeks, the players are able to take a step back and evaluate what the rest of the season could bring. For a program still in its early years of existence, the team is not overlooking their relative success this season. For the most part, it seems that the goals and motivations for the players are understood. "We are building a brand new program here at Wabash; it will take time," Hendrick said. "With Coach Burke now guiding us, it is looking like less of a dream and more of a possibility."

The Little Giants are optimistic and confident that they are on the right trajectory for the season. With a multitude of games upcoming, they'll have the chance to show that as well. "In years past, we've been what you could call a 'second-half team' where we actually get going about halfway into the game," Bevelheimer said. "Something we need to work on now as we work towards changing the culture of Wabash Lacrosse, is coming out of the gate ready to go and ready to play hard. The team is excited for the rest of the season because we know it's unlike one that Wabash lacrosse has seen in quite some time."

The lacrosse team returns to action again this Sunday at 6 p.m. in home matchup at Fischer Field against Hanover University.