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Week of Sept. 28–Oct. 4, 2022

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Homecoming 2022

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News

Jessica Oakes | News Editor | oakesj3@ferris.edu

President of SGR Inc. named homecoming ambassador

Hazelle Williams speaks on the homecoming ambassador experience

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

After a two-decade absence, Ferris' chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc. saw their president named Homecoming ambassador on Saturday.

Dental hygiene junior Hazelle Williams is a chapter president, member of the Real Life Campus Ministry worship team and a student employee at the Office of Multicultural Student Services. Williams is "ready and excited" to represent the student body after weeks of campaigning.

"I could never have done this alone," Williams said. "The campaign and the student vote is really what matters. It means so much to see all the love and support."

During her campaign, Williams expressed that greatness is only achieved when people work together. This philosophy has helped her form a wide web of connections across campus. She is grateful to see how the Ferris community "showed up and showed out at the polls" for her.

Business administration senior CaNasia Herron is a fellow SGR Inc. soror. Herron sat with other members of her sorority at Saturday's game, enthusiastically cheering for their president. According to Herron, Williams is "the best of the best." As a sorority sister and an African American student, Herron is happy to see Williams represent the school.

"[I feel] a lot of pride. I almost cried when they said her name," Herron said.

In the days leading up to Homecoming, Williams was most excited to be in Saturday's "rainy but awesome" parade. Getting to dress up to greet Big Rapids residents with a "princess wave" was made even more enjoyable by Williams' competitor-turned-friend.

In her campaign, secondary education junior Libby Montgomery represented Ferris' chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha. Her uncle was able to provide convertibles for both



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Hazelle Williams smiles to the crowd after being named Ferris' 2022 homecoming ambassador.

candidates to ride in during the parade. Montgomery was grateful for the opportunity to represent her sorority alongside Williams, another member of Ferris Greek life.

"I actually told [Williams] the other day, 'I really hope we can become good friends through this process' because we're both just trying to get through school," Montgomery said.

When Williams' name was announced at Saturday's game, both candidates immediately hugged with smiles across their faces.

Williams first decided to run for Homecoming ambassador in the spring. She was unsure about campaigning when her boss first sent her the link to apply. After seeing the opportunity she had to become

a representative for her beloved sorority and school, her decision was made.

Earning this title showed her that the work she does and the connections she makes on campus are genuine.

"I've done my part. I've done my due diligence," Williams said.

Looking forward, Williams will continue her studies as an involved student and representative of Ferris. As ambassador, she encourages the student body to "decide to make [college life] the best" by being outgoing and getting involved.

"What you put in is what you get out," Williams said. "Make those connections, be friendly with others and try and make an impact on others."

Recharged and ready with tradition

The Ferris Homecoming parade and its connection with community

Meghan Hartley
News Reporter

Ferris students and alumni came together for the 96th annual Homecoming celebration with the classic parade on Michigan Avenue.

On Saturday, Sept. 24, the Big Rapids community met to watch the Homecoming ambassador candidates, grand marshals, Brutus the bulldog and many other Ferris favorites ride through town.

"Bulldogs Recharged" was the theme of this year's Homecoming, symbolizing fresh energy coming back to campus after gatherings and socialization were compromised due to the pandemic. People of all ages smiled through the rain and mist. From the young children waving to their local first responders and picking up candy, to the alumni reminiscing on their college days while listening to Ferris' pep band play the fight song.

Rick Wisniewski, a 1984 Ferris graduate, attended the parade with his wife and said it was always a fun time to come back and watch the parade. Wisniewski has attended around a dozen

Homecoming parades, stating they have been around Ferris for 40 years, and are reminded of how much the community is a part of the school's tradition.

"Just seeing the community involved," Wisniewski said. "This is what is so special about the school. It's the community."

The parade gives Ferris students the opportunity to pay attention to and appreciate the community they live in. Alumni are able to interact with the new generation of Bulldogs. Sporting Ferris caps, sweaters and letterman jackets, alumni gathered on both sides of Michigan Ave. Ferris' cheer team kept spirits high for all present and former Bulldogs as they swayed through the street.

Timothy Smith, a 1992 Ferris graduate, attended his 15th Ferris Homecoming parade with his colleague Melinda Darrow. Smith enjoyed the enthusiasm and local hospitality before the big football game. Darrow hopes the parade tradition carries on for many years to come, so others can find the same love for the music she does.

"[I like] the small-town feel where

PARADE | See next page



Photo by: Meghan Hartley | News Reporter

Brutus the Bulldog greets a young community member at the annual parade.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Jessica Oakes
News Editor

In reproductive rights and contraceptive news, Michigan residents can now be prescribed birth control by their pharmacist.

Gov. Gretchen Whitmer announced this expansion of hormonal birth control access on Monday, Sept. 19. The press release posted to michigan.gov explains the intended purpose of this action.

“[This measure] offers women easier access to birth control and provides them greater freedom to plan their families,” it reads.

The Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs released an interpretive statement explaining who is eligible to prescribe self-administered hormonal contraceptives including the pill, the patch and the ring.

Licensed physicians may offer the ability to prescribe to willing pharmacists across the state.

An in-depth look into what this means for the Ferris community will be released in the coming weeks.

The hostile discourse surrounding the fate of abortion in Michigan continues. On Sept. 20, an 84-year-old pro-life canvasser was shot while knocking on doors in her community.

The woman, who has remained anonymous, is a resident of Lake Odessa. A Right to Life of Michigan press release reports that the victim was going door-to-door, speaking about Proposal 3.

If passed, the Right to Reproductive Freedom Initiative would provide Michigan citizens with constitutional reproductive freedom to “make and effectuate decisions about all matters relating to pregnancy.”

Catholic News Agency reports that the woman was shot in the back while walking away from a “heated” conversation.

The shooter was not privy to the woman’s conversation, and the woman does not know their identity or motive.

RLM’s Education Coordinator Chris Gast told CNA that the woman is “at home recovering and in good spirits” after driving herself to the Lake Odessa Police Department.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Iran

Mass protests and riots broke out in Iran following the death of 22 year-old Kurd Mahsa Amini.

Amini was detained by Iran’s Guidance Patrol, also known as the morality police, for not wearing a headscarf.

Iran’s police reported that Amini suffered a heart attack, fell into a coma and passed two days later. However, eyewitness reports suggest that Amini was severely beaten by the police.

Since her death, unconfirmed reports of 35-40 deaths have resulted from the protests. It is unclear if five Iranian paramilitary deaths are included in that death toll.

It is also believed that 1,200 people have been arrested in relation to the protests. Alongside this, seventeen journalists have been arrested, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists.

In efforts to halt the protests, the Iranian government has restricted access to the internet.

Azerbaijan-Armenia

More than 180 people were killed in a dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia, renewing the decades old Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The conflict began in 1988 as the Nagorno-Karabakh War. The second Nagorno-Karabakh War broke out in 2020.

The Nagorno-Karabakh region is internationally recognized as part of Azerbaijan. However, the region holds an ethnic majority of Armenians. This is where the long-standing conflict originates from.

The two countries reached a ceasefire earlier this month and have both accused the other of violating its terms.

The Ferris State Torch

Corrections

A summer of innovation: The building construction technologies major is in the STEM field.

Hanging up the skates: Kirksville is in Missouri, not Mississippi. The ECHL is no longer referred to as the East Coast Hockey League.

Corrections can be submitted through email at fsutorcheditor@gmail.com or by calling 231-999-1405

PARADE

Continued from previous page

people actually care,” Smith said. “They’re very personable. They don’t just walk by, they’ll stop and talk to you. If you have questions, you can ask. It’s a hometown feel.”

It takes a team to host a weekend-long celebration for the Ferris community. Every year, a Homecoming committee is created to plan the tailgates, brunches and parade. Business administration junior Paige Byrnes was in charge of this year’s four-student parade team.

“The parade is a very traditional event,” Byrnes said. “It’s been Saturday at noon for a very long time, so I didn’t have to make those decisions myself because they were already in place. Most of [the planning] was just making sure everything was in order, making sure we had [the

streets] blocked off and trying to get participation.”

To host the parade successfully, Byrnes contacted many organizations from campus to see if they would like to be in the procession.

Byrnes says she contacted all the available registered student organizations available from Presence and non-profits in the community. It’s not always easy to organize so many participants when other activities take place on the same day, such as the department tailgates and the football game.

Although it’s not an easy job, Byrnes enjoyed incorporating Big Rapids residents and Ferris students and alumni. She felt it was a special opportunity to interact with and bring together different demographics.

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“Seriously Good” comedy show

“The Office” stars bring conversation and comedy together



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Oscar Nuñez (left) and Brian Baumgartner (right) joke together during their show “Everything ‘The Office’”.

Marissa Russell
Multimedia Editor

“The Office” stars Oscar Nuñez and Brian Baumgartner came to Ferris to tell jokes, sell chili cookbooks and continue the Homecoming comedian tradition of removing their shirt on stage.

Nuñez and Baumgartner visited Williams Auditorium on Wednesday, Sept. 21. The comedy duo reminisced on their time acting together and were even stumped by specific audience questions from “The Office” super-fans.

The first question they were asked was to rank “The Office” on a scale of their accomplishments. Baumgartner felt it had to come number one.

“It was a great show,” Baumgartner said. “Ten years after it ended, we are still talking about it. You only talk about the greats if it’s brought up, and ‘The Office’ is always brought up.”

Nuñez spoke of his experiences on other sets before his role as Oscar Martinez. Still, no other project could top “The Office.”

“I think it has to be close to if not number one, if you are being serious,” Nuñez said. “I’ve done movies and other shows, but none of them have been talked about like ‘The Office’ was.”

Nuñez and Baumgartner reflected on

their now 17-year-old cast relationships. Their fellow Dunder Mifflin employees still feel like family to them.

“It’s about the relationships,” Baumgartner said. “Oscar and I are here, we don’t live in the same city anymore, but he just came to my house. That is what you do as family. Even if you don’t live near each other, you still visit.”

When asked about doing a reunion for the 20th anniversary coming up in three years, Baumgartner referred to the strange plot a comeback episode would follow. With all the main characters living in various cities, he is unsure how a reunion would work logistically.

“I think that, at some point, the band will get back together,” Baumgartner said. “[But] I don’t know what they would have to do to bring everybody back.”

Baumgartner made a joke about Nuñez not being able to remember anyone’s names.

“You want to challenge my mind,” Nuñez responded. To prove him wrong, Nuñez told members of the audience to stand up if he talked to them before the show. Seven people stood up to be named by Nuñez. Jordan Knowlton was among one of the seven.

“We just were showing a group of kids, and we’ve never been there before,” Knowlton said. “So I just kind of followed

them thinking it was the entrance. It wasn’t, and they were just down there and getting ready for the show... I think they were just trying to get ready for the show and didn’t really want to be bothered, but I thought it was pretty cool that they made a point to remember our names and mentioned our names.”

Knowlton and her friend came to the show even though they were not Ferris students. The show was more than Knowlton expected and made her fan dreams come true. Her favorite part about the show, other than getting called out by Nuñez, was his failed spit take.

As Baumgartner hosted a book signing for his “Seriously Good Chili Cookbook,” Nuñez answered more sentimental questions.

“We always try to get students to ask as many questions the moderators allow,” Nuñez said. “[We] throw it out to the kids as soon as you can because it’s just a party. It’s about ‘The Office,’ but it’s about having fun. That’s like a show for Brian and I. We just love doing it.”

It is mind boggling to Nuñez how much the show means to viewers. As time goes on, new generations are able to connect to the show even though for some they weren’t even born when it debuted.

“We’ve had people come up to us with babies, and they’re like, ‘Oh, when we

were in the delivery room, we had ‘The Office’ on the loop,’” Nuñez said. “So this baby was born to an episode of [us] because they just have it on a loop. Not to mention the tattoos people get tattooed. Like big ass tattoos on their bodies of a beat or Dwight or whatever. The first one we ever saw was the stapler.”

Ferris communications senior Pierce Brown was chosen to interview Nuñez and Baumgartner. In past years, the Homecoming Comedian would have a student opener. Students from all over campus would compete for the chance to get on stage before well known comedians.

This year they decided to change the style and have one student sit down and conduct an interview. Brown was chosen because the Homecoming Ambassador president knew Brown was into comedy.

“It was awesome because it was the first time I’ve been on stage... with any type of comedian...,” Brown said. “So even though they’re not my idols... this [was] such a great opportunity.”

The only thing Brown would do differently is pick a different outfit.

News Reporter Jonathen Hart, News Editor Jessica Oakes and Opinions Editor Dylan Ryder helped in the reporting of this article.

Pool update

Plans to re-open the pool face further delay

Jonathen Hart
News Reporter

The Student Recreation Center’s plans to re-open the swimming pool on Monday, Sept. 26 have been canceled.

According to the rec. center’s website, the pool was set to re-open this Monday after shutting down in March of 2020. A

schedule of pool hours was going to be posted during the week of Monday, Sept. 19. With no schedule posted, any plan of re-opening the pool is uncertain.

After two years of the pool’s absence, campus rumors about a crack in the foundation were put to rest by Justin Harden, the Director of University Recreation and Wellness Programs. Many

Ferris students, including members of the swim team who travel 40 minutes to practice at the Cadillac YMCA, have highly anticipated the pool’s return.

The Torch will continue following this story as it develops.

News Editor Jessica Oakes contributed to the reporting of this story.



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Parts have been ordered to finalize the renovations to the pool.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu

Friday nights with the LGBTQ+ Resource Center

Learn more about Friday Night Gaymes

Harmony Goodman
Culture Reporter

Friday game nights are not unheard of, but the LGBTQ+ Resource Center takes the idea an extra mile.

Inside the David L. Eisler Center and underneath the stairs lies the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. On Friday nights from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the Resource Center hosts “Friday Night Gaymes.” This event is used to bring together people in the LGBTQ+ community and allies in a fun environment.

The name of this event was created by the Resource Center. The name helps draw attention to the event while also putting a clever spin on it.

“I think it’s just because we love puns, and it’s fun to add things,” Eli Cecil, a student staff member for the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, said.

Inside the LGBTQ+ Resource Center, there are many places to sit, and the area is very colorful with LGBTQ+ representation posters plastered all over the walls and hanging from the ceiling.

Cecil is 29 years old, and he considers himself an older and nontraditional student at Ferris. He saw a recurring trend in the LGBTQ+ community where group events often involve bars and drinking. He believes a good way to bring a more friendly and safe environment to campus is “Friday Night Gaymes.” His purpose is to push toward students having fun without partying or ingesting substances.

“The room is a place that is a safe setup, and it’s free,” Cecil said. “It doesn’t cost anything to be here. You could come here on campus or not, [and] you meet people who are like you.”

During the event, games such

as “Cards Against Humanity” and “Jackbox” are played. “Jackbox” is a new addition to the event.

“Me and a few other people who started working with the Resource Center all like “Jackbox.” Everyone can play,” Derk Poortemga, a volunteer at the resource center, said. “A lot of college students just want to have dumb fun without any strings attached.”

The event had a decent turnout, with lots of new and friendly faces. There is nothing but kindness, acceptance and, of course, laughter inside the walls of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center during these Friday nights.

“A lot of people in the queer community struggle to get out, especially when they’re in college... Even if no one else knows your actual name and pronouns, you can use those here,” Cecil said.

Name and pronoun tags are not the only things the resource center provides to make these events safe spaces. LGBTQ+ game nights will hopefully be available soon on Discord. This will allow those who don’t feel comfortable around big groups of people participate.

Poortemga wants everyone to know that this is a space for everyone.

“We’re not going to treat you [differently] if you’re not one thing or another,” Poortemga said.

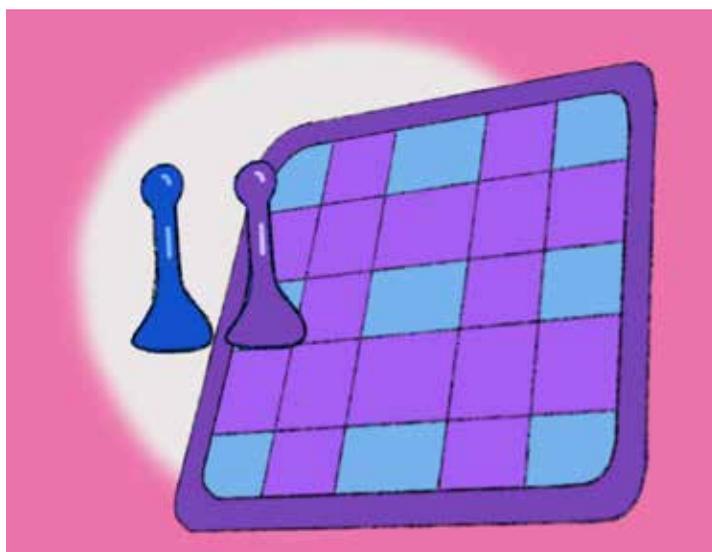
“Friday Night Gaymes” go on every Friday at the same time and location. This event is a great way to get to know other students on campus.

The students at “Friday Night Gaymes” are nothing but joyful, and they have a lot of acceptance to give. Game nights with the LGBTQ+ Resource Center are hilarious and unforgivably queer.



Photo by: Harmony Goodman | Culture Reporter

Students from the LGBTQ+ get together on Friday nights to play games.



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The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention talks mental health

Kylah Robinson
Culture Reporter

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention board member Vicky Mennare hosted an event called “It’s Real: College Students and Mental Health” on Sept. 21 to promote suicide awareness.

Mennare has been in the AFSP for eleven years, and she is still going strong. She started working with the AFSP because she lost her father and cousin to suicide just last year. She has also personally struggled with anxiety and depression throughout her life.

A group of students attended the event to learn more about mental health and suicide by engaging in discussions. Although the audience was small, Mennare said she still would have presented the event the same way if it was fully packed or there was just one person.

“Suicide isn’t an easy topic to talk about, but if one person comes and I make a difference in their life in any way, then I’ve done what I was meant to do,” Mennare said.

Freshman Owen Worthington came to event to observe and learn more about mental health.

Some ways that Worthington handles his mental health is by getting out of town or just going outside. “There’s just so much stuff to do outside. You can go for walks, runs or even yoga [classes] to release stress,” Worthington said.

Having people spread the AFSP’s teachings to those in need makes Mennare feel like she’s done something valuable with her tragedy and pain. With her pain, she’s able to help others and bring hope to them.

For incoming freshman who are struggling with their mental health, Mennare’s advice would be to be open and talk about your feelings because there is nothing to be ashamed of.

“Mental health is just as important as physical health, and it should be treated the same... If you knew you were having stomach aches, you would probably go to the doctor, and if your brain is making you sick, you would go to the doctor. So it’s the exact same thing,” Mennare said.

If you or someone you know who is having a hard time with mental health, please call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-TALK (8255) or text TALK to 741741 to text with a trained counselor from the Crisis Text Line for free.



Photo provided by: Vicky Mennare

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Quinn’s Music: A Hometown Staple

A column on the Big Rapids music store.



Photo by: Evan Hibbard | Freelance Reporter

Quinn's music store located in uptown Big Rapids.

Evan Hibbard
Freelance Reporter

Quinn’s Music has been a Big Rapids establishment since the late 1960s, however, the small music store is not well known by many people who live here.

Since moving here a few years ago, I have been a huge fan of the store. There have only been a few people in the store whenever I’ve shopped there. With this in mind, I decided to speak to Zach Potter, an employee of over three years at Quinn’s, to show the friendliness and the homey feel of the store.

I asked Potter how the store was affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. The pandemic famously left many small businesses in the lurch, leading one to think that Quinn’s would have a similar story. His answer turned out to be very surprising.

“When businesses started opening up again and people were getting COVID money, people were actually [buying] instruments like crazy,” Potter said. “People were looking for stuff to do... A lot of people were finding their guitars that maybe they played once upon a time or were trying to get back into it. They’d get their stuff fixed, so we were busy with repairs.”

The creation of everyone’s home studios and recording equipment also led to the store’s success. Since the lockdowns helped people find their aspirations in music, it made sense that Quinn’s Music flourished.

Potter thinks that the best thing about the store is the people that come in and shop. Since

it’s a smaller local store, they get a lot of the same customers. The smaller, more local music store scene doesn’t have the kind of cliques a large and ever-growing music store does, according to Potter.

“I really enjoy the clientele that stops through here because Big Rapids doesn’t have a big music scene, but it’s a loyal community,” Potter said. “We’re all friends with each other... It just kind of seems like a big family. I know most of the regulars that walk through here.”

With it being a store full of guitars, keyboards and a lot of other music equipment, his favorite item in the store is a 1972 Gibson SG, a classic piece of rock and roll history. The guitar was arguably most famous for being one of Jimi Hendrix’s favorite guitars.

Potter had a different way of wording why he believes people connect to music so deeply.

“I think you can bring people together for a lot of different reasons,” Potter said. “There’s something primal about [music], especially if you [have] drums involved. People are always wanting to tap their foot. Music means something different to everybody.”

The store has been on Michigan Avenue since 1968, and it has been managed by Marc Conley since 1982. Quinn’s Music has stayed a local business with no plans to expand. The store remains a mainstay of the Big Rapids community, and it will hopefully see continued success for many years to come.

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Opinions

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Editor in Chief

As the 2022 mid-term elections loom closer and closer, we're again inundated with mass amounts of political advertising. Whether it be smear campaigns before your YouTube videos or texts asking for donations to "save America from eminent peril," they're out in full swing.

While I believe everyone should get out on Nov. 8 and vote, or make plans to vote ahead of time, I also believe you should change the channel. Mute your phone, ignore the social media posts from politicians and do your own independent research on their positions and the ballot measures we'll be voting on.

If you're a Michigan voter, you'll see six candidate pairs for governor and lieutenant governor, candidates for secretary of state, attorney general and various other offices depending on your

jurisdiction.

The people that we elect work for us. Our tax dollars pay their salaries. I believe it's more than worth it to take some time and learn their positions to ensure that the candidates you're voting for align with your values. You also need to know the full story, which is something you'll never get from these rosy pieces of noise pollution.

The Michigan Voter Information Center, a Department of the State branch, has an online "What's on the ballot?" tool to show you what you'll see on your ballot. You'll input information about your location, which can all be found on the Michigan state voter registration card, and it will show off all of the races you'll be voting on.

Now get to researching. The majority of candidates in national, state and even sometimes local elections will often have a website outlining their positions

on a myriad of current major issues and details how they want to go about fixing them. This allows you to get your information right from the source.

Look up their history. If they have been in politics before, check out their voting history, see if they have sat on any commissions or committees you care about and make sure you feel they'd be making choices in your best interests.

Also, read through all the ballot measures and research what they mean for their respective positions. While you'll get a description on your ballot, it'll be short, sweet and very quick to the point because of the lacking room they have to get into the detail you need to make an informed decision.

You deserve to know the full story when you are filling in the bubbles on your ballot. Media pacts, political parties and spokespeople will not give you

the full story on their own. You'll have to do a little work to get the full picture, but this is work worth doing.

The publication date of this paper marks 41 days until the November General Election and 37 days left to request an absentee ballot. Get registered, do your research, tune out the white noise of political ads and make a plan to vote. We cannot sit idly; we must be active participants in our democracy.

Whats on the ballot?



Stop specializing

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

As a fellow college athlete, I have seen and met a lot of talented players across all sports during my time in competition. I know there are many young athletes that aspire to be in my shoes, or at least reach an equivalent in their respective sports. There are many ways to reach the collegiate level, but there has certainly been one in recent memory that has taken prominence in the minds of young athletes: specialization.

In the world of sports today, many parents and coaches have told future players that they must devote countless time and effort to make it to the collegiate level in their desired sport.

While it may make you a better player in your specific sport, I don't believe it makes you a better athlete. Here are three reasons why being a multi-sport athlete brings more potential for aspiring athletes, rather than specializing in a single sport.

Boosts morale and reduces burn out rate

The first major reason is the reduction of burn out rate. While we often think of sports as physically taxing, there's a large amount of mental exertion that isn't considered.

Spending a countless amount of time in preparation and practice, especially for 10-12 months of the year, can be mentally draining. This is what we call "burnout".

According to a 2022 study by the Sports Science Institute, 72% of athletes experience a sensation of "staleness" during daily training.

As a collegiate runner, I personally know many incredible athletes that have experienced the crash and burn from mental and physical fatigue.

How do you combat this? Break your focus up. Those playing two or three sports a year allow concentration for each sport in increments of three to four months. This allows athletes to achieve mental rejuvenation and boosted morale.

Builds complementary physical skills

Additionally, athletes can fully expand their skillset by playing different sports.

Each individual sport has its own dominant attributes. Constant time spent working on different skills will help players become good within that respective sport but not great overall.

For example, if a basketball player devotes time for year-round training towards solely basketball, he or she will likely gain a lot of improvement in

shooting skills, lateral quickness and overall explosiveness. While these are great, the player can gain more beneficial basketball skills by also participating in other sports.

Not only can complimentary skills be earned through different sports, but also through general practice. Lots of common training helps boost one's strength and movement across all kinds of sports.

Working out and playing multiple sports also reduces injury by over 60% compared to specialized athletes, according to a 2016 study by the National Federation of State High School Associations. This is likely due to the athlete always being in shape.

Teaches lessons beyond sports

The third benefit is that playing multiple sports gives more opportunities to learn valuable life lessons.

People that participate in sports learn things such as time management, discipline and focus to accomplish tasks in both school and sports. For multi-sport competitors, this helps establish a constant and consistent routine that can be applied into life post athletics.

Along with that, players that compete in different variations of competition learn specific

lessons within that sport. Having more chances to diversify your abilities to succeed is vital in order to succeed off the field of play.

Throughout my time in four different sports throughout high school, I have taken away specific lessons from each sport that I use every day here in college.

While specialization may seem to be a confident way to reach your potential, it is a lot more taxing than people think.

You can reach your potential while still playing multiple sports. In a study of the 256 players selected in the 2015 NFL Draft, only 12.5% of the athletes played football only. The other 87.5% played at least two or sports during their high school career. This is due to the large amount of different physical and emotional benefits from each game, practice and training session.

Many of the world's greatest athletes to ever compete played different sports. Usain Bolt played soccer along with track and field, LeBron James participated in football along with basketball and Bo Jackson and Deion Sanders played baseball and football simultaneously at the professional level for a multitude of seasons.

Do you know any world-class athletes that focused solely on one sport? Not enough for this movement to hold ground.

The era of “Power 5” is over

The time is now for two power conferences



Graphic By: Sienna Parmelee | Production Manager

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

College sports conferences are being shaken up to create more competitive matchups within the conference the team plays in. There have been many colleges who have switched conferences to better their teams and competitiveness, but also to boost the way they recruit.

In college sports, you have always heard references to the “Power 5,” which consist of the Atlantic Coast Conference, Big Ten Conference, Big 12 Conference, Pac-12 Conference and the Southeastern Conference. Those five conferences have been held to the highest standard for a substantial amount of time in terms of how good their sports are.

However, the era of five conferences controlling Division I college sports seems to be coming to an end.

Over the past few years, a few teams have decided to leave their positions, and now the landscape of conferences seems to be moving towards a two-conference power within Division I college sports. This will create more competitive games for colleges that you will probably see within a year. With some of the best teams in their conferences moving to another, they create a super conference and therefore compete more regularly and often with the best teams in that conference.

The two conferences that seem to be benefitting from the change in teams moving are the SEC and the BIG 10, which have already had two power teams commit to moving into their conferences. In the BIG 12, they will be losing two of their biggest schools, since they will be heading into the SEC. Those two teams will be Oklahoma and Texas, making the SEC an even stronger conference.

We have already seen a preview of this matchup with Alabama, a powerhouse in the SEC, taking on Texas in a marquee football matchup during the 2022 season of college football. This was a very competitive matchup that ended in a close game, with Alabama taking the win. This is what we can hope to see more of now that they will be in the same conference come the start of the 2024 season.

Another conference that will suffer is the PAC-12, as two of their top teams will be moving into the BIG 10 conference at the beginning of the 2024 season. This makes the SEC and BIG 10 clearly the strongest conferences in college sports. Most likely this will also make a lot more engaging competition in matches once all these teams are in their chosen

conference.

As these teams join, what will happen to the teams in the SEC and the BIG 10 that are weaker and not winning consistently every year? Those teams that can’t put up enough wins, or be competitive enough to face the top teams, should leave and go to a conference where they can compete with other teams matching their level, which will balance out the conferences.

Leveling the play should be wanted in college sports so the competitiveness can be seen in almost every game. Even Division II sports have made changes to create more competitive matchups.

Think of the GLIAC. Northwood just recently decided to leave the conference they had been struggling in against Division II powerhouses, such as Ferris and Grand Valley, to one that better suited them.

Will there eventually be a time in which the powerhouses of Division II move into Division I and get their chance to prove they belong there and compete against better competition? One can sure hope, but, unfortunately, we don’t know quite yet.

Making these conferences stronger by having all the powerhouses in the same two conferences, or creating more balanced conferences across the board, is the way to see more of a competitive balance in all of Division I and even Division II sports.

After all, only time will tell how much the changes in conferences within college sports will turn out, but this seems to be the best solution for having more competitive matchups in conference play.

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Sports

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Football flattens Waldorf



Photo by: Marissa Russell | Multimedia Editor

Carson Gulker recorded five rushing touchdowns during Ferris' 69-3 victory over Walsh on Homecoming.

Bulldogs dominate in Homecoming victory over the Warriors

Brandon Wirth
Sports Reporter

In the Homecoming finale, Ferris State football, the nation's number one Division II team, capped off the week of festivities with a commanding 69-3 victory over NAIA power Waldorf.

The Bulldogs scored 35-points in an impressive second quarter, and their defense dominated, allowing only 93 yards of total offense to the Warriors. Defensive Coordinator Ryan Hodges was very pleased with the way his defense played.

"This team does a great job of ignoring the things that we can't control and taking advantage of the opportunities that we have to get on the field," Hodges said.

Ferris began the afternoon with a huge spark offensively. Following a Waldorf three-and-out, Evan Cummins completed his first of 19 passes of the night to Tyrese Hunt-Thompson for a 63-yard touchdown. The Bulldog defense halted the Waldorf passing attack with an interception by sophomore Vincent Cooley, his second on

the season.

The defense gave the football back to Cummins and the offense, but the offense nearly lost a fumble and botched a fourth down snap. This gave the Warrior offense the ball inside the five. Hodges' squad needed a stop, and they got it by forcing a Warrior field goal to give them a 7-3 lead.

"We do not get to determine where the ball gets placed when we take the field," Hodges said. "When Waldorf started the drive on the 5-yard line, we need to be determined to keep them out of the end zone. That's what we did."

The offensive slowed for the next four minutes following a 28-yard field goal by Eddie Jewett. Ferris broke through the drought with five straight quarterback touchdown runs. Three of them went to redshirt freshman Carson Gulker, who added two more scores later in the third quarter for his ninth touchdown this season.

Ferris entered the second half with a 45-3 lead, including five forced turnovers and only 38 yards allowed. The defense

continued their dominance with two more sacks and three tackles for loss in the second half. Derrell Mabon added a nine-yard touchdown run later in the fourth quarter to pad the Bulldog lead to the final score of 69-3.

In the postgame press conference, Annese made sure to thank Waldorf for making the trip.

"I was impressed by their offense on film," Annese said in the postgame press conference. "Thanks to Waldorf for coming to play us."

Ferris finished with 450 yards of total offense, 255 yards of which came through the air. Cummins led the Bulldogs with 207 yards, two touchdowns and one interception on 13 of 19 attempts. Gulker paced the Bulldogs on the ground with 51 yards on 10 attempts, including five touchdowns. Mabon and Cummins added a combined 54 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

For receiving, Hunt-Thompson and Brandon Childress led the team with three catches and one touchdown each, going

for 81 yards and 44 yards respectively.

For the Bulldog defense, Hodges' unit held the Warriors to 93 yards and only six total first downs. Sefa Saipaia paced with six tackles up front. Jovan Bayless and Brett Phillion each added five stops, with Bayless recording an additional 1.5 tackles for loss, a forced fumble and fumble recovery. Caleb Murphy continued his streak with at least one sack, moving him to 7.5 sacks on the season. Jamil Thomas also added an interception for the Bulldogs.

According to Jordan Jones, the team's performance was largely attributed to the entire team's focus in preparation.

"We were able to prepare for two weeks and were ready to go as soon as that ball kicked off," Jones said. "Everybody got to play, and we didn't miss a beat."

Ferris State moves to 3-0 on the season and will likely remain the nation's number one team in Division II. The Bulldogs return to action on the road Saturday, Oct. 1 at 12 p.m. against the Findlay Oilers.

SCORECARD

Women's Golf

Sept. 24 - Alayna Eldred tied for second individually at Bulldog Invitational

Women's Soccer

Sept. 23 - Ferris 1, Purdue Northwest 0
Sept. 24 - Ferris 2, Wisconsin-Parkside 0

Volleyball

Sept. 23 - Davenport 3, Ferris 2
Sept. 24 - Ferris 3, Saginaw Valley 0

Cross country starts strong

Bulldog teams start season with two encouraging meets

Joseph Nagy
Sports Reporter

Following a strong showing in the Ray Helsing Bulldog Invitational to begin the season, the cross country teams headed to East Lansing to compete alongside Division I schools in the Spartan Invitational.

In their first race of the season at the Bulldog Invitational, Ferris had 14 runners between the men's and women's squad place in the top 10 of their respective races.

Brandon Wirth finished first overall for the men's squad, and Hanna Brock finished third overall for the women's team.

Sydney Kubiak, Whitney Farrell, Melanea Strauss, Daisy Englund and Danae Feldpausch also finished in the top 10 for the women's team.

"We just wanted to go out there, work together as a team and group up as much as we could," Brock said. "We had a lot of girls in the top 10. I personally was super stressed, especially in that first mile."

On the men's side, Brendan Cairney, Dan Hardesty, Donis Harris, Kevin Wilson, Nathan Alford, Casey Bouman and Cooper Sorsen finished behind Wirth and in the top 10 for the men's squad.

"We all got out and had a great effort as a team all around," Wirth said. "Everybody had a great race, and I felt really tough out there."

Head coach Jared Kelsh was impressed with both of his teams in their first race of the season.

"We're really happy with the way things went today," Kelsh said. "A lot of our kids ran PRs and lifetime bests, which is always a great way to start the season."

At the Michigan State Spartan Invitational, both Cross Country teams fared well against multiple Division I opponents in a field of 37 universities.

Sept. 16's trip to East Lansing introduced valued opposition in the 41st edition of the Spartan invite. Both squads rose to the occasion, with the men on the heels of several D1 programs, and the women beating two D1 teams, including Valparaiso and Ball State. Michigan State, Cincinnati, Western Michigan and Kent State were among the other D1 teams at the meet, including multiple highly talented Division II teams.

The women's team totaled 309 points in a 12th place finish. On the 6k course, Kubiak led the women's team with a 75th overall finish with a sub 25 minute performance at 23:28.3. Just two seconds behind her was Brock, with a time of 23:30.06 to give her a placement of 79th overall. Strauss finished 85th overall at 23:34.89, Farrell was 99th at 23:55.42 and Feldpausch rounded out the team at 104th with a time of 24:02.50.

A 106th overall finish for the men's team brought out strong performances from younger

members. Despite the lower finish on the leaderboard, many positives can be found in the team's trip to East Lansing.

Alford led the men's squad with a time of 26:49.51 on the 8K men's course, which was good for 106th place overall. Wirth was next in line in 118th place at 27:02.43.

Ferris' Casey Bouman finished 132nd in a time of 27:27.20 with Cairney coming in 135th at 27:30.52. Wilson was 148th (27:44.15) among the Bulldogs' top finishers.

The Bulldogs will next be in action on Friday, Sept. 30, at the Lansing CC Invitational. They will also compete in the Greater Louisville Classic on Saturday, Oct. 1, in Louisville, Ky.

Brandon Wirth is a sports reporter for the Torch. His interview included in this article was taken from a post game segment with Ferris Athletics, and he did not contribute to the reporting of this story.

Sports Editor Brody Keiser contributed to the reporting of this article.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

The women's team had six finishers in the top 10 at the Bulldog Invitational.



Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics.

The men's team had eight finishers in the top 10 at the Bulldog invitational.

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Soccer sweeps the weekend

Bulldogs stay undefeated against Rangers and Pride



Photo by: Mariana Searl | Torch Photographer

Avery Comartin attacks the goal during Ferris' win over Parkside.

Dylan Rider
Opinions Editor

Women's soccer swept their weekend matches with wins over Purdue Northwest and Wisconsin Parkside.

The wins on Friday and Sunday propelled the Bulldogs to a 4-3-2 record, while also equating to a three game win streak.

Friday's 1-0 win solidified Ferris' seventh straight win against Purdue Northwest. The Bulldogs have yet to lose to Purdue Northwest in soccer since they joined the GLIAC in the 2017-18 season.

The Bulldogs peppered Purdue Northwest's goalkeeper throughout the game. Ferris totaled 14 shots on goal to Purdue Northwest's two shots on goal.

"We had a lot of chances," head coach Greg Henson said. "Their goalkeeper played well, they played very well defensively. They had a game plan that they wanted to execute, and they made life difficult for us. I think we would have liked to score a few more goals today and make it a little bit easier on ourselves."

The Bulldogs had a quiet and defensive first half as it came and went with a score of 0-0.

The one and only goal came in the 70th minute of play, courtesy of sophomore Juliana Bernal. Her single goal is the first of her collegiate career.

"I knew I had to get in that box," Bernal said. "I saw Avery [Comartin] going in, so I knew I had to get in. [Sarah] Kantinas went for the ball, and then I saw that opportunity and took advantage and shot the goal. [It] feels amazing. I don't know how to explain it, but it was good to have my first college goal."

Ferris' win on Sunday against Wisconsin Parkside also extended a winning streak.

The victory on Sunday advanced the Bulldogs to six straight wins against Wisconsin Parkside. The Bulldogs are also undefeated all-time against Wisconsin Parkside since they joined the GLIAC in the 2018-19 season.

The game showed off another defensive spectacle as the Bulldogs won 2-0. The three game win streak has also sported back-to-back-to-back shutouts for the Bulldogs.

"I thought it was a good match for us," Henson said. "Parkside has a good team. They're much improved from the last few years.

We knew we were in for a tough game. We knew they were gonna come out playing and working hard. We wanted to try to get the ball on the floor and keep possession and control the tempo a little bit, and I thought we did that."

Henson believed Sunday's game had more quality offensive chances than the offensive chances on Friday.

Both of the Bulldog goals came from senior Isabella Zamborini. Sunday's game is the second time this month where Zamborini has put up a pair of goals in a game, the other being against Walsh on Sept. 4.

"We came out, and we were ready to play," Zamborini said. "We got numbers forward. Everybody was dangerous on the attack. Everyone could dribble, and we were beating them. It was a fun game."

Zamborini also mentioned that the team has been practicing shooting a lot recently.

The Bulldogs will remain at home and take on Saginaw Valley on Friday, Sept. 30 in a revenge match after being knocked out by the Cardinals in the playoffs last year. Game time is at 1 p.m.

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