

The Ferris State Torch

93 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Week of Feb. 21 - Feb. 28

www.fsutorch.com

“Don’t Trust Me” singers to perform in April

Spring concert headliner announced



Photo courtesy of Entertainment Unlimited

3OH!3 posters can be seen around campus.

Kendall Phillips
Culture Reporter

Ferris State will be welcoming electronic music duo 3OH!3 to this year’s spring concert as the headliner act in Williams Auditorium on April 3 at 7:30 p.m.

The annual spring concert is a long-time tradition that has been put on by the registered student organization, Entertainment Unlimited.

The previous spring concert was headlined by none other than Waka Flocka Flame and advisor of Entertainment Unlimited, Ben Avery, is excited about the new genre and to see the various crowds of students expected to attend the event.

“I know it is a different genre from last year, but I am excited to see a sizable group of students come out and just have a fun time,” Avery said. “But that is what is important. We try and

change up the genre every year, and 3OH!3 used to fill arenas, they have just been flying under the radar for the last few years. We are excited to have a fun concert with them, I have heard that they will give a good show.”

Avery explained how anyone considering attending the concert should take the opportunity while they have it.

“This is one of our big traditions at Ferris State, as far as campus programming, and you are only going to have so many of these opportunities while you are a student here,” Avery said. “It is a free concert and students with a current Ferris ID get prioritized seating. So you can always come back as an alum but you might not get that front-row seat that you have always dreamed about.”

CONT. ON PG. 2



Graphic by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-In-Chief

Barbie on display

“Everyone has a Barbie story,” Piper Adonya said

Brook Blausey
Culture Reporter

Barbie and her unique history took over the Ferris Art Gallery as the new exhibit throughout the month of February.

On Feb. 15, the art gallery hosted a panel of four women to discuss Barbie. The panel featured Dr. Melissa Smith, Lori A. Faulkner, Piper Adonya and Dr. Tracy Bush. The room was filled with 60 guests including students, faculty and community members.

According to Fine Arts Gallery and Museum Director Carrie Weis, it was a wonderful and lively crowd.

Dr. Melissa Smith is an English professor and started off the panel by discussing the contradictions found in the Barbie movie and the overall controversy of Barbie as a brand.

“The problem is that not every kind of woman is represented,” Smith said during the panel. “When I was a child, Barbie was exclusively white and thin and de-

void of any visible physical disabilities. Barbie as a brand has been notoriously exclusive. You can go down to the local Walmart or Meijer and find none of the curvy or wheelchair Barbies. You’re more likely to find representation if you were a mermaid than if you use a mobility device.”

Smith concluded her speech with how this lack of representation had an impact on her childhood.

“As a child growing up, that was problematic for me. I didn’t play with Barbies because I never saw myself in the Barbies,” Smith said.

History professor Dr. Tracy Bush is the lead faculty member for Ferris’ Museum of Sexist Objects. During the panel, she discussed the white beauty ideals that Barbie represents. She also stated that she didn’t play with Barbie’s as a kid because she believed that if she was too girly, no one would take her seriously.

CONT. ON PG. 5



Photo credit: Jessica Oakes | Editor-In-Chief

Panelist Lori Faulkner listens to KCAD student Emma speak on their Taylor Swift-inspired Barbie Exhibit.

“I didn’t play with Barbies because I never saw myself in the Barbie”

News

Ember St. Amour | News Editor | stamoue@ferris.edu

“DON'T TRUST ME” CONT.

Music and entertainment senior and President of Entertainment Unlimited, Kaitlyn Walters, explained how this year the process of choosing the headliner was done a little differently.

“Every year for all of our large events we kind of pick them the same way. We reach out to our middle agent and tell them we are looking at these dates, who do you have available.” Walters said. “This year we put out polls for different genres as well as posting a poll of the top 10 people that we choose, and had the students vote on that.”

In a survey put out by the Torch, 53% of participants said that they were excited about the performance. One of the excited students was public relations junior Jenelle Poth, who voted for the performer in October.

“I grew up basically kind of listening to him as a kid and would play him in a car ride along with mom and always just kind of loved them,” Poth said. “They’re just kind of funny and kind of dorky and they look kind of old now, but I’m definitely excited to see what they’re gonna bring in. I hope Ke\$ha shows up. That’d be really cool, but I don’t have my money

on that.”

While some students are excited for 3OH!3 to perform, others are not thrilled with the headliner, as they don’t know or barely know who they are. Early education freshman Jenaysha Warren had voted in the survey and was disappointed with the results as she only knows one of 3OH!3’s songs, “Don’t Trust Me.”

“I am underwhelmed,” Warren said. “If I wanted to go to the spring concert I would go and know one song, I would probably still have a good time because they seem like they make upbeat music. I feel like they probably should’ve chosen someone who’s more relevant.”

Walters is hoping that even though this concert’s headliners are not as large as last year’s, the turnout will still be good.

“We are hoping that our reputation with such good concerts and comedians in the past will help boost attendance,” Walters said. “Some people have been super stoked about it and others have told me that they don’t know who they are, but I always tell them that if you listen to their music you will definitely know who I am talking about.”

Walter is very hopeful that anyone who comes out will enjoy

themselves.

“Whether you like the music or not, our whole point as entertainment unlimited is to give the students something fun to do,” Walters said. “So we are making sure everyone comes out, has a good time, and doesn’t sit at home on their phone.”

The opening act for 3OH!3 has not been announced yet, but auditions took place on Feb. 20 and Feb. 21.

Scan to listen to 3OH!3



SGA Update

The Student Government Association’s presidential election left them with no winner over the weekend, as the election resulted in a tie.

The election was open from Feb. 14 until Feb. 16 where students could select which of the two candidates they would like to win. When the results were tallied up, they discovered that there was a tie, something that SGA has no protocol for. As of Monday, SGA is still deciding what they will do to resolve the tie. The Torch will continue to provide updated coverage on SGA throughout the semester as information develops.

Below is a graphic of the different positions within SGA, as well as the duties each position has.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ROLES

PRESIDENT

- Oversees student government operations
- Runs meetings
- Earns a \$4,000 scholarship split in half between two semesters

VICE PRESIDENT

- Assistant to the president
- Helps with any tasks appointed to them by the president
- Earns a \$3,000 scholarship split in half between two semesters

CHIEF OF STAFF

- Works in the student government office
- Compiles weekly agenda
- Answers phone calls about student government inquiries
- Earns an hourly wage of \$10.25 for office hours

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

- Reports student government budget
- Breaks down RSO fund allocation requests

DIRECTOR OF INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

- Ensures meetings follow the structure as outlined in the constitution
- Conducts interviews with the president for new cabinet positions

DIRECTOR OF PHILANTHROPY

- Organizes student government philanthropic events

PRESS SECRETARY

- Manages student government advertising and social media outreach

CONSIGLIERE

- Reads new legislature at meetings before a vote

New Michigan gun laws

Lawmakers take action on gun control

Tate Zellman
News Reporter

The state of Michigan launched new gun laws involving firearm possession and purchasing that took effect Tuesday.

In response to the mass shooting resulting in three student deaths occurring on Michigan State University's East Lansing campus over a year ago, lawmakers worked to have several gun laws reformed.

The recognition to create new laws began after the End Gun Violence Michigan press conference, which took place days after the tragedy in East Lansing. The new laws are being created under the topics of safe storage, universal background checks, domestic violence gun laws and "red flag" laws.

Once the new laws are released, gun owners have to store unattended weapons unloaded and locked. That applies to any locking device that has a trigger lock and gun safe. A new mandate will go into effect for all firearms as well. It won't impact individuals who have already purchased a long gun, but it will impact those who don't own one. These laws are under safe storage and universal background checks.

Any offensive action regarding misdemeanor domestic violence will make the individual warrant an eight-year ban on possessing,

purchasing or distributing firearms. The new "red flag" laws will allow judges to confiscate firearms from individuals who pose to harm others, but also themselves and they can issue an extreme risk protection order or ERPO. These laws are under domestic violence and "red flag" laws.

Despite the laws changing, if an individual wants to purchase a firearm in Michigan, they will have to meet the same eligibility qualifications for the existing Concealed Pistol License (CPL). The qualifications are as listed:

- They have to be a United States citizen or a legal resident.
- They can't be subject to specified orders outlined in the Law Enforcement Information Network (LEIN).
- They can't have a pending felony charge or other disqualifying criminal charge within a specified timeframe to application outlined in current law.
- They can't be barred from possessing or distributing a firearm under the current law.
- A judge must not have determined them to currently be insane or legally incapacitated in the state or be involuntarily committed to a care facility due to mental illness.

In addition to meeting the new qualifications, individuals can also file a request to the court for

an extreme risk protection order. These certain types of individuals are listed:

- The individual's spouse or mate.
- Someone with whom the individual has a child.
- Someone with whom the individual is in a dating relationship or has been in a "dating relationship" – which is defined as a relationship that consists of frequent, intimate associations primarily characterized by the expectation of affectional involvement.
- Someone residing or a past resident of the individual's household.
- A family member, specifically a parent, a son or daughter, a sibling, an uncle or aunt, a grandparent, a grandparent or a first cousin.
- A law enforcement officer.
- A mental health professor.

Computer information systems junior Stephen Bender believes that the new laws are a step in the right direction to reducing deaths in the future, but also feels as though the laws are too extensive in terms of misdemeanor or domestic violence.

"The new law barring those who were charged with misdemeanor or domestic violence from possessing or purchasing a gun for eight years seems like an

overreach of power that infringes upon our constitutional right to own a firearm," Bender said. "I agree that very violent people shouldn't own a gun, but barring misdemeanor offenders for eight whole years is too far."

For more information on gun

laws and other news across the state, visit <https://michiganadvance.com/>.



Photo credit: Wikimedia Commons

Gov. Whitmer announces that she will be launching new gun laws.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Cadillac: The Northern Michigan Passenger Rail Project began phase two for their plans to relaunch the Northern Michigan rail system.

The plans began in 2018 with the idea to use the current freight rail system to create a passenger rail system from Northern to Southeast Michigan according to 9&10 News. Stops on the railway could include Ann Arbor, Cadillac, Detroit, Petoskey and Traverse City.

Helping with the next phase of the process is The Cadillac/Wexford Transit Authority. Its Executive Director Carrie Thompson expressed the importance of the rail areas.

"It's going to be very important that the stations are placed in the right areas. It can help revitalize downtown, specifically Cadillac. Being able to connect the train with buses in the community and other modalities like bikes and pathways and all of those things that make communities better," said Thompson.

Now that phase two has been launched, the project is now looking for a transportation planning firm as well as seeking input from the local communities on the proposed lines.

According to the Groundwork Center, this phase will take roughly two years to complete. This is due to the company wanting to make a detailed plan to identify all the needs for the new system as well as how the system would run. The Groundwork Center hopes that the systems will help Michigan's economy strengthen.

The Groundwork Center also explained that the plans for the passenger rails will also take place nationally, as they are beginning to gain popularity throughout the United States.

The coasts are expected to receive billions in dollars to get their passenger rails up and running. There was a total of \$66 billion given to the project nationwide to build their railway systems over five years.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Red Sea: A missile attacked a cargo ship on Monday according to the U.S. military.

The missile was from the Houthi militia in Yemen, which is backed by Iran, and the crew was forced to leave the ship according to The New York Times.

Over the weekend the U.S. launched several missiles at Yemen ships to stop them from firing. They hit five Houthi targets, one of which was an underwater drone.

The U.S. formed a coalition with Britain at the beginning of January, in an attempt to carry out airstrikes to deter the attacks. Due to these attacks, the Houthis have said that they will also target U.S. and British ships.

The European Union's High Representative of Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell explained how they were going to be launching their operations against Houthi on Monday.

"The European Union is responding swiftly to the necessity to restore maritime security and freedom of navigation in a highly strategic maritime corridor," Borrell said in a statement.



A little bird told me

How to best enjoy this year's spring migration



Photo credit: Nate Mathewson | News Reporter

A Red-winged blackbird, native to northern and central America, enjoys some seeds at Kensington Metropark in Millard, MI.

Nate Mathewson
News Reporter

This spring season, Big Rapids will host an annual event that beckons thousands of winged attendees from across the continent. The event is easily viewable and free.

For any students that are looking for an excuse to get outside this spring or need a mental health break from school or work, this might be something to try.

Bird migration has indicated the beginning of spring for thousands of years. The migration season begins at the start of March and lasts through April.

Spring migration offers opportunities to get a look at many birds

that are not typically considered Michigan residents as they pass through town. Looking to the skies, visiting the Muskegon River or a forest and keeping an open ear are the best ways to take it in.

Biology professor Dr. Paul Klatt gave a few examples of the types of birds Big Rapids commonly sees upon the coming of spring.

"In the evenings, some waterfowl, like snow geese and tundra swans, will fly right over Big Rapids," Klatt said. "You can see and hear them and it's kind of neat because the lights from the city will reflect off their underwing and they will appear as white birds."

Klatt goes on to mention an identifiable bird, a forest dweller.

"I always look forward to one of

the earlier [migrating] warblers, the black and white warbler," Klatt said. "They will walk up and down the trunk of a tree foraging for insects and are very vocal, they're the ones that make the sound of a squeaky wheel."

Klatt is a supporting staff member for the Tri-beta Biological Honors Society registered student organization and helps lead an annual birdwatching hike, which will take place later in the spring.

"We have a tradition in the spring of having a tri-beta bird outing," Klatt said. "We all meet really early in the morning, [we] try to pass out coffee and snacks and we identify everything we see and hear."

Klatt adds that anybody is wel-

come to join on the hike.

Klatt recently assisted the RSO in installing several bird boxes at a property just outside of town. The RSO plans to revisit these boxes this spring.

Tri-beta president and dental hygiene senior Kyla Buccini looks forward to the yearly event.

"Last year was great because we were able to provide binoculars for the hike so we could actually see the birds we were hearing," Buccini said. "Attendance has grown each year, so we expect a good turnout again this spring."

Secretary of Tri-beta and nursing senior Elise Huizingh uses the spring bird migration as an excuse to get outside.

"I love going on hikes with my

friends and poorly imitating all of the bird calls we hear," Huizingh said. "When I'm not outside, I still enjoy the migration by watching my bird feeder all spring."

Both Buccini and Huizingh mentioned the benefits that being outside in the springtime brings and being thankful for an excuse to clear their heads.

Spring migration is a reason for students to get outside, broaden their perspectives and learn something new this semester.

Nate Mathewson is a part of Tri-beta Biological Honors Society.

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Getaway car strikes back

Feb. 15, 12:00 a.m.- Officers responded after a student noticed that their car had been hit in lot 1A. The case was closed due to lack of leads.

Teleporting cell phone

Feb. 15, 4:30 p.m. - Officers were called to Travis Hall after a resident called about individuals refusing to leave. Upon arrival, officers found a stolen cell phone. The case was closed due to lack of leads.

Party does stop

Feb. 16, 7:00 p.m. - Officers responded to the ballrooms in the David Eisler Center after a staff member at the Second Chance Prom wanted someone to leave due to harassment comments.

Drink and drive pay for your crime

Feb. 17, 12:00 a.m. and 1:15 a.m. - Officers pulled over two individuals at different times who they believed were driving under the influence. When the officers pulled over the individuals, they had each of the individuals take a breathalyzer test. Their blood alcohol limits were both over the legal limit. Both were arrested.

Culture

Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor | denicog@ferris.edu



Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-In-Chief

KCAD alumna Piper Adonya takes indspiration from her own childhood Black Barbie in her artwork.

BARBIE ON DISPLAY CONT.

"When I was young, I was up in trees and playing in the dirt," Busch said. "Barbie was an indoor doll with makeup and high heels which were not my type. It always seemed to me that Barbie's main goal was to look good, not to actually do anything."

Though Busch had rather negative feelings towards the doll when she was younger, she wore high heels to the panel instead of her Birkenstocks to symbolize her new appreciation for Barbie.

Kendall College of Arts and Design alumna Piper Adonya shared her stories about her childhood and what Barbie meant to her. The first Barbie she owned was Black Barbie which inspired her artwork that's displayed in this exhibit. As a child, she felt like she didn't belong because her ethnicity was ambiguous. But when she played with her Barbies, it was her world, and everyone fit in.

"My dad told me once, 'God made you look the way that you do so that everyone else will feel comfortable.' And it instilled in me this thought that what we look like matters, and what we produce matters," Adonya said during the panel. "I can't choose my features, but I chose my Barbies. I realized that was the first moment that I fell in love with everyone seeing them-

selfes represented."

As Adonya prepared for the panel, she had to think deeper about what Barbie really meant to her.

"Everyone has a Barbie story, whether you played with her or you didn't play with her, there's a story," Adonya said.

Professor and chair of the KCAD fashion studies program Lori Faulkner discussed the history of how the Barbie doll came to be and how she made her way as a fashion icon. She stated that she got to cover a more light-hearted topic, fashion.

"I decided to talk about the fashion history of Barbie because we're here in a room full of product design that has made a difference," Faulkner said during the panel. "You can't have Barbie without what Barbie is wearing."

Faulkner was inspired by her mother to start her career in fashion. She created her own collection of Barbie outfits titled "Visions in Pink" which are displayed in the art gallery. These clothes for Barbie reflected the Barbie doll Faulkner had when she was a kid.

"I had one Malibu Barbie doll and that was it," Faulkner said. "My mom wouldn't let me get anymore because I had one. So, when I got older, I said I was going to collect all the Barbies and designing these outfits came full circle. I'm thinking in terms of Malibu Barbie

pink everything because that was my Barbie experience."

Sonography freshman Emily Anderson attended the event to learn more about the history of Barbie and how others viewed the toy she grew up playing with. She viewed Barbie as a role model when she was younger.

"I thought it was interesting to hear about how Barbie has influenced so many people around the world," Anderson said. "When I was a little girl, Barbie was my favorite. I loved playing with dolls and watching all the Barbie movies. Some of the lessons Barbie taught me as a little girl continue to be an inspiration to me today. I am encouraged to follow my dreams and use my talents and passions to stand out."

Interest and talk about Barbie have increased since Greta Gerwig's film that came out in June 2023. Because of this, people are analyzing the "Barbie" movie as it runs deeper than the average pretty doll.

The Barbie exhibit will be in the Fine Arts Gallery throughout the rest of February and includes artwork from the panelists and other artists. The Gallery is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the David L. Eisler Center.



Panelists Dr. Melissa Smith, Lori Faulkner, Piper Adonya and Dr. Tracy Bush discuss the Barbie Movie.

Photo by: Brianna Wichman | Freelance Photographer

Students shine on a starry night

Ferris community goes to prom

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

Over 100 people filled the ballrooms with a vibrant atmosphere for an evening of dancing and drag.

A student organization known as DAISE hosted Ferris' first "second chance prom."

DAISE stands for Diversity Advocacy for Identity and Sexuality Empowerment. The group collaborated with the LGBTQ+ Resource Center and the Disability Services office to organize the dance.

For students who graduated during the COVID-19 pandemic or were unable to attend a high school prom as their true selves, this event offered them a second chance.

The prom theme was "Starry Night." The decorations were centered around this theme, featuring shades of blues and purples, along with an abundance of stars and other celestial elements.

Becca Osborne is the advisor for DAISE and the director of the LGBTQ+ Resource Center. They believed that the experience was incredible and that the event couldn't have gone better.

"This was kind of a test pilot for having a big campus formal," Osborne said. "This was the first time that this RSO was able to do such a big event. I think it was a success, and I'll sit and talk with the students, but we would like to make this recurring for sure."

Osborne also described how proud they were of the students who planned the event.

"The students did everything," Osborne said. "They planned the room, made reservations, contacted all the vendors, called the drag queens and more. They ordered the food and took care of everything."

Forensic biology sophomore Kymani Martin is a board member of DAISE. She had a great time at the event and was happy to be a part of planning it.

"DAISE took a lot of time to plan this with other RSOs on campus, so it was a pretty nice event, and I am happy with the turnout for our first one," Martin said.

Artificial intelligence sophomore Jhanvi Murugan also had a nice experience at the event. Murugan also expressed her intention to attend another event like this in the future.

"They had some drinks and I met some of my friends," Murugan said. "We dressed up and they played some music and we danced. We also took some pictures. So that was nice, and it was nice to hang out with everyone at this event."

The Second Chance Prom enjoyed a turnout that DAISE was proud of, with attendees like Martin and Murugan expressing their enthusiasm and contributing to the overall positive impact of the event.

After a high turnout, members of DAISE are hopeful for more large events in their group's future.

Follow the Torch's cultures section for ongoing coverage of campus events.



Photo by: Isabelle Marks | News Reporter

Kymani Martin (left) and Kya Ceburn-Adams (right) dress up in sparkly gowns.



Photo by: Isabelle Marks | News Reporter

Katlynn Sturis (left) and Nicole Ly (right) smile and hug in the starry night.

For the love of jazz

Festival of the Arts continues with winter jazz concert

Ni'jah Rankin
Freelance Reporter

Fifty people came together on a snowy night in Williams Auditorium to bob their heads and tap their feet to Ferris' winter jazz band concert.

On Feb. 15, as a Festival of the Arts event, the concert covered seven diverse styles of jazz. The set included songs by Duke Ellington and Bruno Mars and was directed by music professor Matt Moresi.

Moresi has been involved in the jazz scene since he was a baby. Moseri wants to enlighten others about important details and insights behind the genre.

"My dad would take me to jam sessions when I was an infant," Moresi said. "[Now,] I'm trying to help others understand and enjoy."

As the genre originated in New Orleans, Moresi notes that the history of jazz was originally introduced to the world by Black people.

"Jazz is definitely a Black art," Moresi said. "It's a significant part of American art that came directly

from Black people."

Biology senior Melissa Akin played the alto saxophone during the concert. Jazz has taught Akin more about different people and cultures. Because of the genre, she feels she's able to appreciate diversity.

"[Jazz has] let me play a lot of different genres of music," Akin said. "It's branched out and you see different cultures expanding into jazz and making music."

Secondary English freshman Kyren Passenier is a member of the jazz band. Though he has played the trumpet for 10 years, this was his first year in the jazz band. He has enjoyed his experience of learning more about the music and meeting new people.

"It's just honestly been a really welcoming experience," Passenier said.

Business administration and entrepreneurship sophomore Jaala Irvine went to the concert because of her interest in and love for the genre.

"I got into it recently and I love our jazz band," Irvine said. "It's just good every time."

Moresi's intent for the atmo-

sphere was to create the same feel as the way jazz was originally introduced in nightclubs.

"[I wanted to] create something that feels relaxed and enjoyable," Moresi said. "Find music that

makes the audience bob your head or tap their foot."

Irvine described the atmosphere just as Moresi intended it to feel.

"It's very welcoming," Irvine said. "It's just something you can

always bob your head to."

For more information on the Festival of the Arts, visit <https://www.brkota.org/>.



Photo by: Jack Starkey | Freelance Photographer

Ferris State's jazz band performs at Williams Auditorium.

Grand fundraiser for disc golf

Ferris' disc golf team raises \$1,000

Kate Babel
Freelance Reporter

Despite the snowy morning weather, Ferris' disc golf team braved the cold by hosting a fundraiser for their upcoming trip to nationals.

The fundraiser took place on Feb. 17 at the disc golf course in Northend Riverside Park with 35 people in attendance. The event was hosted by tournament directors Ethan Boswell, an accounting sophomore, and Owen Wolfson, an architecture freshman.

Wolfson stated that the fundraiser was planned to get the team involved with the community and to raise money to take the team to the Disc Golf National Championship.

"We're going to go down Rock Hill, South Carolina to play against hundreds of other kids from colleges and hopefully take the win," Wolfson said.

Over time, the disc golf team has continued to grow as a fun sport. During their time on the team, Wolfson and Boswell prepared this event as a way of gaining community interest.

Boswell co-created the fundraiser as a way of bringing disc golf into the campus sports limelight.

"We wanted to grow our presence as a team on campus," Boswell said. "Not a lot of people know that we even have a disc golf team, let alone that we've won multiple national championships. So, we wanted to put our name out there."

Coach Leonard Johnson stated that the main goal of this fundraiser was to support the team and philanthropic effort.

"We've hosted tournaments before where people bring canned food items, and then we would donate them to a food bank," Johnson said.

Disc golf has been a part of Ferris since 2006 when Johnson first formed the team. As a retired Ferris professor of 25 years, Johnson still shows his support for the team. For him, it's not only the sport that he comes for but the joy it brings to the students.

"I started professional disc golf in 2000, but in the 70s I was an ultimate frisbee player in college," Johnson said. "[Now,] I'm more of the behind-the-scenes supporter.

These players are so good and they're much better than I am. They just teach each other and are committed to practice. It's the enthusiasm that the students bring to it, it's never-ending. It's why I went into teaching in the first place."

Johnson states that disc golf is an inexpensive way to stay active and it's suitable for all ages. He and Boswell have seen a large increase in people's interest in the sport over the years.

"We see people out there all the time that are of all age groups, from kids that are 10 years old to adults that are 70 and 80 out here," said Johnson. "So, the appeal to the community has really ballooned in the last few years."

For Wolfson, disc golf is a way to

grow and socialize with new people as a freshman. He feels that the sport makes his transition into college life easier.

"I was extremely nervous coming in as a freshman as most are," Wolfson said. "This team has really helped me grow as a person and overall have friends that I can rely on. It's a great community and it gives me a lot of relaxation time because it's fun to get out here."

The next disc golf tournament takes place in Lexington, Kentucky on Feb. 24. For more information on the disc golf team, visit <https://www.ferris.edu/student-life/u-rec/students/clubsports/discsports.htm>.



Photo credit : Jack Starkey | Freelance Photographer

Mechanical engineering freshman Devin Dennison uses his putter for a close throw.

Scan to view the Festival of the Arts calendar



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

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Opinions

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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Fund student journalism

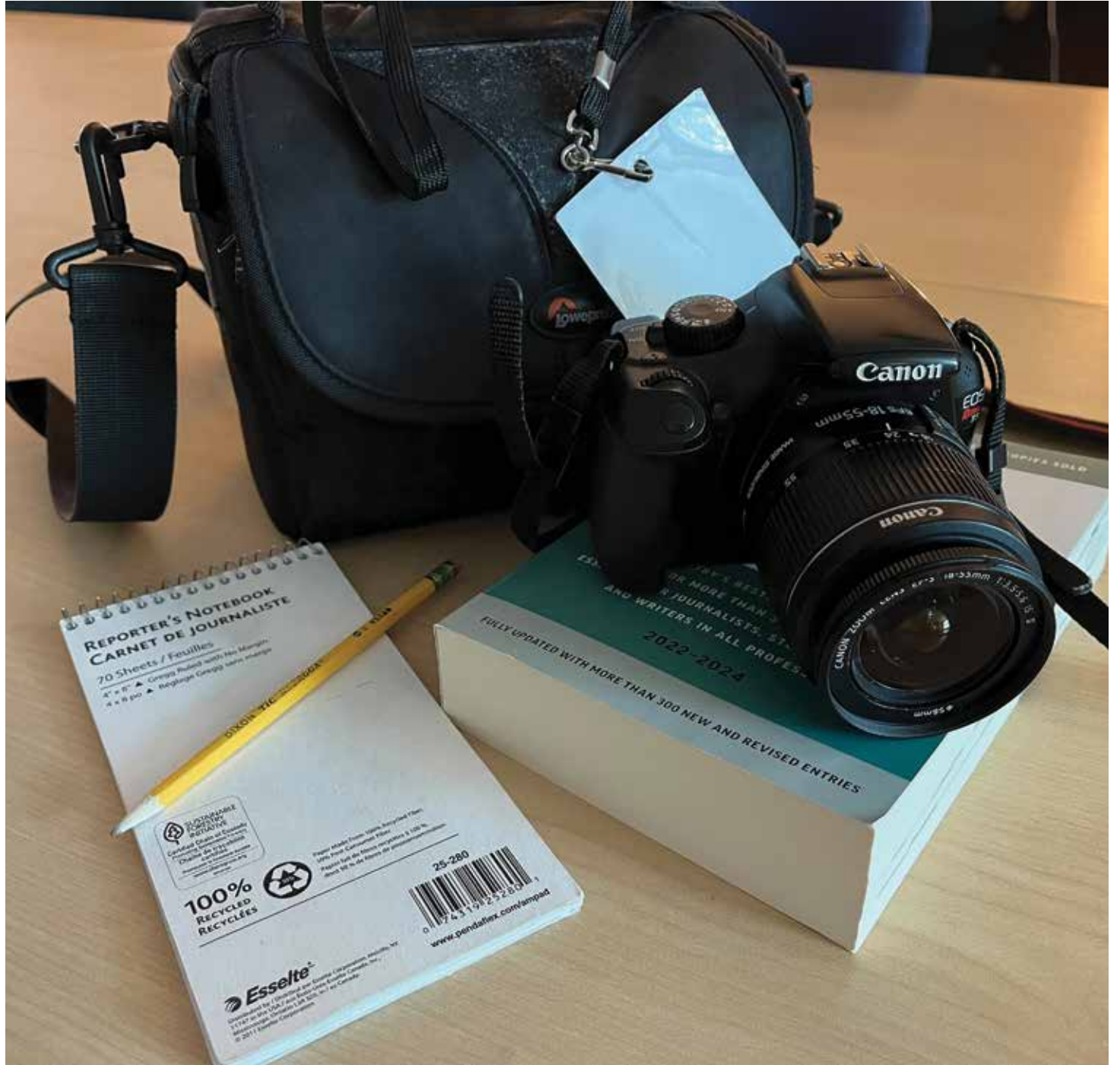


Photo by: Jessica Oakes | Editor-In-Chief

Student journalists share everything from cameras to AP Stylebooks to navigate their education and careers.

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Jessica Oakes *Editor-In-Chief*

I receive a wide variety of reactions when I tell people that I'm a journalist. My least favorite is when I'm told I'll need to marry rich.

It's no secret that people don't run to a career in journalism for the money. Low wages and competition push a lot of people with journalism degrees into marketing, something I've vowed to avoid.

One way to keep media fields full of hardworking and trustworthy people is to fund our academic programs.

When I see schools like Penn State gradually pulling all general funding from their newspaper, I get worried about what will happen to small schools and their newspapers.

Ferris' journalism program is

small. It is so small; it is attached to another program, technical communication. Of course, this should not be considered an immediate weakness.

With few people in the program, I have been able to learn through great one-on-one instruction, something Ferris prides itself on. I've also been able to climb the ladder at the wonderful Torch newspaper. From here, I see a small portion of how our budget works—more specifically, how we make it work.

Over this past year, I've learned that the Torch functions on an annual budget roughly of one-third of what Ferris' Student Government Association currently has to their name. We use this to print 31 weekly newspapers and employ over 30 students.

We are 93 years strong and I want us to reach another 93 after

I graduate. However, this won't be possible without continued financial support. One of the hardest parts of this job is asking hardworking, busy students to put a lot of their time into a job that doesn't have the resources to pay them what I think they deserve.

Without proper funding for student journalism, we will leave our right and responsibility to the free press in the hands of absolutely anyone.

Social media has allowed everyone with internet access and a following to feel like a journalist. I appreciate social media for its ability to share important news quickly, but we should not passively allow traditional media to be co-opted by users—human or artificial—on X.

To me, a fully student-run newspaper is the perfect environment for some of the most genuine and important reporting out there. We

are a team of people who commit all of our working hours to study and working within this craft. We know our stories on such a deep level because of our connections to campus and each other.

Together, we tell stories that other students are interested in reading. Our entire editorial staff is made up of students, giving us a small look into professional independence.

I want future members of the Torch, and similar newspapers across the country, to have even more opportunities than I did. They deserve to travel, attend conferences, use current technology and work for needed scholarships.

If we want to see humanity and reason survive in journalism, we need to invest in journalists. This starts at school.

NFL's anti-hero changing the game

It makes no difference who's shown in between plays



Graphic by: Harmony Goodman | Production Manager

Blase Gapinski
Freelance Reporter

Over the course of the 2023 NFL season, Taylor Swift was one of the larger names to receive attention during games. NFL fans weren't exactly welcoming of her, with boos erupting throughout stadiums and nasty remarks being made online claiming it takes the meaning out of football and ruins the game. As an avid NFL watcher and supporter, I enjoy seeing Swift shown on screen because of the positive impacts she has already made throughout the league and will continue to just by being featured at games.

Swift was the last thing on my mind at the beginning of the season, and rightfully so, as she's a musical icon. She attended one of the first regular season Kansas City Chiefs games which sparked rumors between her and starting tight end Travis Kelce. She continued to show up and show her support for the team and eventually, the two confirmed their relationship. Each game she attended, the cameras would find a way to pan to the suite she was in after Kelce made a play.

Swift is bringing a whole new demographic to the game. According to Nielsen Holdings, within the first three weeks of her making regular appearances at Chiefs games, female teen viewers increased by 53%. The 2024 Super Bowl only showcased her for less than a minute and it brought the most female viewers the finale game has ever seen. Not even a whole minute of one woman being shown almost

brought an even ratio of male and female viewers.

That is something all football fans should want. The way I look at it, the more eyes on the sport, the better. It shouldn't matter why they are watching or what gender they are. This game should be bringing people closer together.

It is America's pastime. Instead of getting upset at one woman attending one team's games, we should be embracing her and welcoming the new fans she brings.

It's the same reason Eminem appears at Detroit Lions games, and Bradley Cooper shown watching the Philadelphia Eagles. Celebrities showing support for a team are going to bring in more viewers. The NFL is a business and will try to bring in new viewers however they can.

Showing her on the screen doesn't interfere with the game at all. One thing I personally have seen fans saying online is she has nothing to do with the game, she shouldn't be shown merely spectating. She takes too much time out of the four fifteen-minute quarters and doesn't deserve the spotlight.

Throughout the week, I try to catch as many NFL games as possible. Every team has celebrities that come out and show their support. They are forced onto the broadcast for a couple of seconds and then the game resumes as scheduled. I don't see how this could ruin the game.

I have yet to see Machine Gun Kelly receive any backlash for attending games in Cleveland. I don't like any of Machine Gun Kel-

ly's records, but that doesn't mean I should stop watching the Browns. If that's the case, good luck finding a sporting event that a celebrity is in attendance and isn't shown on screen.

The time that Swift is on screen is very limited. A typical NFL game takes around three hours from start to end. This includes game time, commercials, halftime and Swift showings. Out of that time this season, Swift was shown an average of 25 seconds while in attendance.

When there is time between plays, the broadcast will cut to one of the many drone cameras to showcase the stadium and fans' reactions. The game continues regardless of who is shown. Swift may just be watching, but she is also dating one of the best tight ends in the NFL. They aren't just showing her because she sells out stadiums, they are showing personal sides of her and Kelce that aren't seen. They are human too, and the coverage of them holding each other and celebrating after games puts that in perspective.

As long as Kelce and Swift are together, the NFL will continue to put her in the spotlight, and I am all for it. It is a great way to close the gap between male and female viewers. It shows the personal aspects of her and Kelce that make them human. Most importantly, she is inviting more people to watch the amazing sport of football.

Finding comfort in dressing comfortably

Sweatpants are a fashion statement

Giuliana Denicolo
Culture Editor

Ever since I was a little girl, I have always loved fashion. It's been a hard thing for me to show because I enjoy being comfortable, especially when I'm at school. Because of my love for comfort, people seem to be shocked when I say my thing is fashion. Here's what I think: comfort can, and does equal fashion.

At every family event, I would dress myself up in a fun dress or a cute skirt, with tons of jewelry, my hair done and some lipstick too bright for me to be wearing as a child. I had a family friend who always called me "her little fashionista" and boy, did I love to hear those words.

In every instance, I was a fashion girly. I spent my entire time playing with dolls by dressing them up and brushing their hair. After hours spent at Justice, I'd come home and throw a fashion show for my mom. I had two of the same skirts so I could wear one when the other was in the wash. Every time I'd wear a skirt, I'd twirl to see if it was flowy enough.

Suddenly, growing up got to me and it was uncool to wear what I spent my life wearing. When I was in my late years of elementary school, my mom just bought me this pink sparkly sweater dress with a tutu frill hem that I'd been wanting. I got laughed at so badly by kids at school that I went home crying, threw off the dress and begged my mom to take it back. That was the end of my girliness.

I started wearing basketball shorts and Jordans to completely erase any correlation between me to anything considered "girly." As I went through my middle and high school years, I didn't do anything to my hair, I didn't wear makeup or jewelry and I tried my hardest to blend in. Eventually, this just became my style and dressing up was only for special occasions.

Fashion wasn't a thing for me to embrace anymore. It felt like something that needed to be hidden. Now that I'm in my twenties, I still find it difficult to embrace my style. I struggle to wear dresses and skirts to this day. But I try to find ways to implement my style in a school-friendly, comfortable way.

Comfort for me goes way past

what clothing is pleasant to wear. It's not just that sweatpants are comfortable, but that they're safe. To me, dressing casually is safe because it doesn't grab too much attention. I fit in just like anyone else.

One year, I received a Torchie award that said, "is a fashion minor, but wears sweatpants." This and many other sly comments made me feel like a phony. How could I be into fashion when I look like a bum every day?

Every morning, I choose to put on a comfortable outfit. Something that fits, that makes me feel good about myself and that can get me through the day. Along with that, I style my hair, I put jewelry on, sometimes I wear makeup, I make sure my socks match and I change up my shoes. I am intentional about what I put on my body, and how it makes me feel.

At the end of the day, fashion is whatever you want it to be. I choose to prioritize comfort and I've learned that I get to do that. After all, I'm not trying to impress anybody but myself.



Photo by: Giuliana Denicolo | Culture Editor

Giuliana dressed up from a young age.

Sports

Dylan Rider | Sports Editor | riderd1@ferris.edu

Bulldogs dammed off

Bulldogs swept by Bemidji State Beavers in road series



Senior forward Antonio Venuto collides with an opponent from Bemidji State at the second game the teams played against each other on Jan. 6.

Photo courtesy of Ferris Athletics

Connor Grypma
Sports Reporter

The Bulldogs lost both matchups against the Bemidji State Beavers on the road on Thursday, Feb. 15 and Friday, Feb. 16.

Ferris State (10-20-1, 6-15 in CCHA) split their previous series with the Beavers (13-15-2, 11-7-2 in CCHA) earlier this season and fell short this past weekend with a 3-2 overtime loss Thursday and a 4-1 loss Friday. The series sweep extends the Bulldogs losing streak to four consecutive games.

Head coach Bob Daniels remained positive despite the overtime loss on Thursday.

"We did some things really well," Daniels said. "We generated a lot

of scoring chances we just couldn't capitalize, especially in overtime. Logan [Stein] had a great game in the net just lost sight of a few rebounds, but I give the guys a lot of credit for taking it to that extra period and giving us a chance."

The Bulldogs went down 1-0 in the first period on Thursday before senior forward Jacob Dirks tallied his second goal of the year to tie the score early in the second. The back and forth continued with a Beaver goal midway through the second followed by senior defenseman Drew Cooper getting his first goal of the season to even the game at 2-2.

Cooper's goal forced the game into overtime, but the Beavers scored less than two minutes into

the period handing the Bulldogs just their second overtime loss this season 3-2.

Cooper remained focused on the team's aspirations despite his first goal of the year.

"We definitely haven't been able to achieve the results we have hoped for recently," Cooper said. "But we showed a great team effort to come back and take that game to overtime. We've shown that we can play with the best teams in our conference this year, and no one in the locker room has lost sight of that."

The Bulldogs cashed in quickly on Friday with a power-play goal by senior forward Stepan Pokorny to take an early 1-0 lead. Ferris kept the lead into the second period be-

fore the Beavers scored two goals in the first five minutes to go up 2-1. The Bulldogs fought to stay in it but gave up two more goals late in the third and fell 4-1.

Daniels felt the team lost a bit of their touch in the back half of the series.

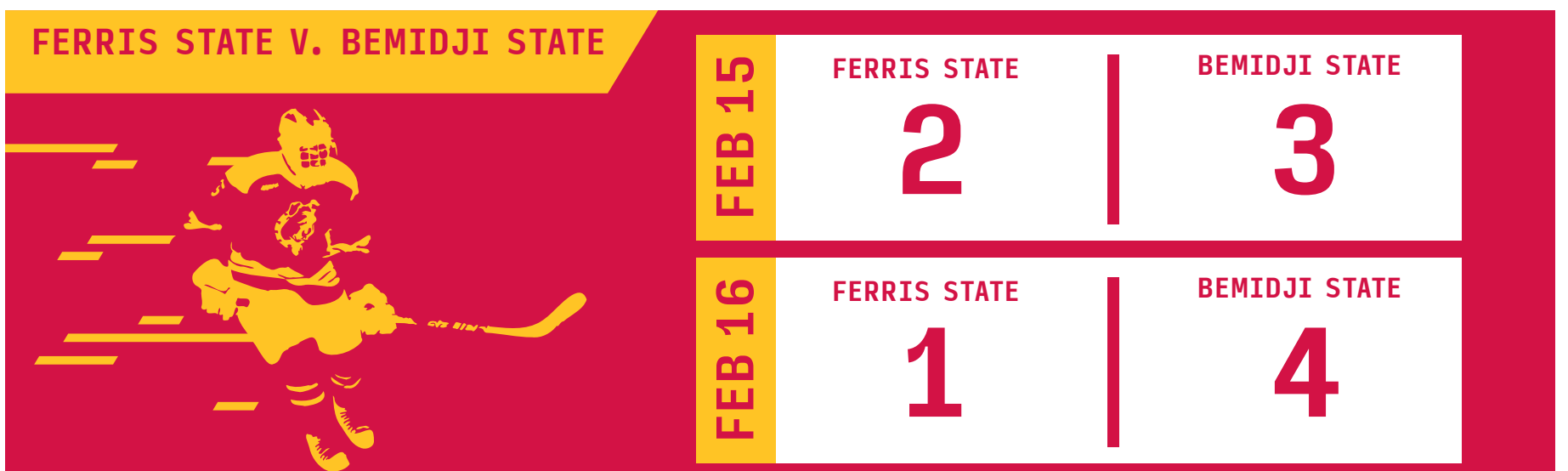
"Just didn't seem like we had that extra gear," Daniels said. "We hung on there for a while, just couldn't keep it going into the final period. If we could find a way to generate more scoring chances off of our defense it could be a whole different story."

With the regular season coming to a close, the CCHA playoff tournament is on the horizon. Freshman defenseman Trevor Taulien is excited for the opportunity to make

a collegiate playoff debut. "I've always dreamed of playing DI playoff hockey," Taulien said. "It's gonna be fun. Coach has done a great job getting us ready for it this year."

The Bulldogs have three conference matchups remaining against the Northern Michigan Wildcats and the Lake Superior Lakers before heading into the CCHA playoffs in early March.

Ferris will return to the ice this weekend for their last home series against the Northern Michigan Wildcats on Friday, Feb. 23, and Saturday, Feb. 24 for senior night. Puck drop is set for 7:07 p.m. on Friday and 5:07 p.m. on Saturday for a senior night celebration following the game.



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

Women's basketball exits weekend with split

Bulldogs drop one to Saginaw Valley, beat Warriors



Sophomore Mya Hiram shoots over an off-guard defender from the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals on Feb. 15.

Photo credits: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Caden Hofmann Sports Reporter

The No. 4 nationally ranked Ferris State women's basketball team split their weekend homestand with a loss to the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals on Feb. 15 before they bounced back and captured a win over the Wayne State Warriors on Saturday, Feb. 17.

The first contest of the week saw the Bulldogs' (18-2, 12-2 in GLIAC) perfect 7-0 record at home be snapped at the hands of the Cardinals (9-16, 6-9 in GLIAC), as Saginaw upset Ferris to the tune of 47-44.

Ferris was without starting point guard and fifth-year senior Mallory McCartney. Neither team could get it going on offense as neither team shot over 35% from the field. The game was back and forth, which led to the Bulldogs entering the fourth quarter with a five-point lead. The women did not get the shots to fall in the final period and were outscored 16-9 in the final 10 minutes of the contest. The biggest key to the loss was the rebound battle, as the Cardinals outrebounded Ferris 39-28.

Senior guard DeShonna Day was a huge bright spot for the team on Thursday, as the Muskegon native had a solid defensive performance with five steals and two blocks.

"In practice, our coach told us that we can gamble, if you see the ball in the air and you can get it, just go." Day said.

In addition to the great defense, Day was also the game's leading scorer with 12 points.

Head coach Kurt Westendorp looks to put this one past him stating.

"You got to let this one sting until you show up tomorrow," Westendorp said. "We show up every day and focus on what is next."

Looking to bounce back, Ferris took on the Wayne State Warriors (16-8, 9-6 in the GLIAC) in a massive conference battle on Saturday, Feb 17.

The Bulldogs seemingly put Thursday's loss behind them with a 10-point victory over the Warriors (16-8, 9-6 in the GLIAC).

Ferris started slow, with the team being down to the Warriors 20-14. After the first quarter however, they picked up the pace and started to settle in on offense and did not look back, defeating the Wayne State Warriors 74-64 in a game that was not as close as the score suggests. The Bulldogs were in control the entirety of the second half.

Ferris controlled the fast break points, outscoring the Warriors 29-12 on the break turning defense into easy offense.

"We are never trying to get a re-

bound and go slow," Westendorp said. "Whenever we can turn our defense into offense, that is always a point of emphasis in practice and games."

McCartney returned for Saturday's contest and nearly posted a triple-double against the Warriors, putting up 17 points, nine assists and eight rebounds.

"It feels amazing to be back," McCartney said. "I get to play with the people I love and have fun with them. This one was a lot of fun for sure."

Looking ahead, Ferris will play two games next week. Both will be away, on Thursday, Feb 22. at Grand Valley State at 6 p.m. and Saturday, Feb 24. at Davenport at 1 p.m.

The Grand Valley State game will have major conference title implications, if Ferris can win they will set themselves up for a possible regular season conference championship as both teams would be 13-2 with only three more conference games to go.

"Anytime you play Grand Valley it's a big game, you can't hide from it," Westendorp said. "You have to embrace it you have to have fun with it. It is two of the best, there's something on the line."



Photo credits: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

Senior Mallory McCartney outpaces her rival from Wayne State.

Men's basketball sweeps homestand

Bulldogs defeat Saginaw Valley and Wayne State at Jim Wink Arena



Junior Jimmy Scholler maneuvers around a defender.

Photo credits: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Jeffery Walker
Sports Reporter

The Ferris State men's basketball team picked up two interconference wins in their two-game homestand against the Saginaw Valley State Cardinals on Feb. 15 and the Wayne State Warriors on Feb. 17.

Ferris' last two losses have come against the GLIAC's top two teams, as they lost to Northern Michigan on Feb. 1 and Lake Superior State on Feb. 10. The Bulldogs (19-6, 9-5 in conference) currently sit in third place in the GLIAC standings.

In Thursday's game against Saginaw, the team prevailed to win the game 78-72, as they got revenge on the Cardinals from the loss earlier this season.

The Bulldogs needed to respond with a good second half after being down by four at the half. It was the team's defense that was crucial in getting the victory. The Cardinals shot 50% (16-for-32) on field goals and 41.7% (5-for-12) from three-point range in the first half. In the second half, the Bulldogs defense held the Cardinals to 34.4% (11-for-32) from field goal range and 37.5% (3-for-8) from three-point range.

Junior guard Jimmy Scholler believes the team's emphasis was on having a better defensive outing.

"We kind of were really hyper-focused on our defense," Scholler said. "We kind of struggled with that for the past couple of games and we did a really good job in the second half of turning that around."

The Bulldogs then shifted their focus to Wayne State, which the team would win after being down by one at the half. The team's bench played a big role in this game as they scored 39 points. Defensively, the Bulldogs made big stops and big shots that helped them pull away with the win outscoring the Warriors 41-32 in the second half to win the game 77-69.

Senior guard Amari Lee and junior guard Ethan Erickson, who came off the bench, made big-time

contributions. Erickson scored 26 points, with 18 of those points coming in the second half and Lee added eight points off the bench. Lee's assists showed up big for the Bulldogs, as he led the team with seven assists.

Erickson speaks on the bench's big game and gives a shoutout to the starters and what they do making it a full team effort.

Erickson thought that both the starting and bench players were able to play cohesively in the win.

"It might have been our bench scoring but a lot of our starters are the ones setting the screens and getting us open," Erickson said. "So, thanks to them."

The team's effort got them two wins at home, as they enter the last two weeks of regular season play. The team is getting healthier after injuries to Amari Lee and Ethan Erickson, who have since returned to play. The Bulldogs are still without junior forward Reece Hazelton, but the team's health is trending in the right direction at the best time as the regular season ends.

Head coach Andy Bronkema says he likes the effort he saw from his team in moments from the game and wants to see more of it.

"In this homestand here, I didn't think we played as hard in the first half as we did against Saginaw," Bronkema said. "But in the second half, we played hard [and] we played smart. We've got this thing going now where the guys just are figuring out, 'Oh that's what it feels like, that's what it feels like just to give everything I have and I have nothing left' and that's why it's so important, so I want to continue that theme."

Continuing that theme is what the Bulldogs hope to do, as they prepare to go on their final road trip of the regular season. Ferris will face off against rival Grand Valley State on Thursday, Feb. 22 with game time set at 8 p.m. The Bulldogs will continue their weekend on the road with a matchup against Davenport on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 3 p.m.

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Photo credits: Ciara Brooks | Torch Photographer

Senior guard Amari Lee attempts a layup.