



The Ferris State Torch

94 YEARS OF ILLUMINATING THE TRUTH

Big Rapids, Michigan

Oct. 9, 2024

www.fsutorch.com

Homecoming edition



Photos by Jordan Wilson, Sam Mulder, Bryann Hill and Ciara Brooks

News

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

Nate Jackson roasts Ferris

Comedian Nate Jackson headlines Homecoming comedy show

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Ferris students, staff and community members sat in Williams Auditorium on Oct. 2 to be roasted, and have a laugh with comedian Nate Jackson.

The comedian was the headliner for the show this year, accompanied with performances from Molly Kearney, who uses they/them pronouns, and Atsuko Okatsuka.

Kearney opened the show, with mixed enthusiasm from the audience. While there were some chuckles in the crowd about Kearney's college experience, they were also met with sounds of crickets playing on phones.

When Okatsuka took the stage sporting her Brain sweatshirt, a callback to a commercial she was in, she was met with slightly more enthusiasm than Kearney. With jokes about tandem biking with her husband Ryan, to upgrading her tandem bike to fit three people if her husband were to pass, and she moved on. Okatsuka navigated the stage with a set about relationships. The laughter for Okatsuka wasn't nearly as enthusiastic as it was for Jackson, who is known from his comedy on platforms such as Instagram and Tik Tok for his crowd work during shows.

He had several rules be-

fore he began his crowd work roasts, with one of the few rules being that the audience couldn't take offense to any jokes, as he would be making eye contact with the crowd for an okay. He described how it was normally "Karens" who would do this, specifying that they sucked out the joy like dementors sucking souls.

The Ferris show was no exception with students such as sports communications sophomore Katie Stauffer being involved. Stauffer works as a mascot for the West Michigan Whitecaps, a minor league baseball team, and Jackson was fascinated with Stauffer's side job. She came to the front of the auditorium to show Jackson the mascot and was able to partake in a several minute conversation about her involvement with the Whitecaps.

"I thought it was so much fun," Stauffer said. "I thought it was really cool. I've never done that before, so that was interesting."

Stauffer wasn't the only one who Jackson interacted with. When Jackson took stage, he saw the spread out crowd and invited students, like artificial intelligence junior Randen Brown, to move closer to the center of the auditorium to feel more involved with the show.

"I was a little shocked, because I was on my phone at the time, but I understand

he wanted to get everybody kind of grouped together as, like, more of a community thing, because I was sitting off to the side," Brown said. "I sat there on purpose, did not get called out by one of the comedians, but I was fine with it."

Jackson also spent time working the crowd to get them to fall in love. He asked for volunteers to describe what they were looking for, and then asked other audience members if they matched the description. Even those who weren't part of the direct matchmaking enjoyed the comedian's efforts.

"I think this was a very good group of comedians and personalities that bring in for Homecoming week, and hopefully that started off everyone's Homecoming week good, and some good this weekend," Brown said. "I really enjoyed it. I liked all the comedians, and I enjoyed, also the last part where you was asking people questions about the make you try set them up on dates and that type of stuff."

The comedian had advice for anyone looking to go to a comedy show, whether it's their first one, or their 100.

"I think comedy is about healing through laughter. And I use my voice to instill that, because I've been their age and had what they go through pressure wise, they haven't



Photo courtesy of Hannah Crouch

Nate Jackson reacts to students heckling him from the crowd.

"I think comedy is about healing through laughter. And I use my voice to instill that, because I've been their age and had what they go through pressure wise, they haven't been my age and seen it from my vantage point"

been my age and seen it from my vantage point," Jackson said. "So give a little bit that's always like, you know, don't like, meet, mix, meet other people and stuff. Don't just stick with your friend group, you know, mix it up. You got

people, that support you and there's people that can love you, that may not look like you. Right now you're with people that all look like you. Mix that up. Diversity is your friend."

The next event that Enter-

tainment Unlimited plans to put on in Williams Auditorium will be the spring concert next semester. There are currently no plans set in stone for who will be performing at the concert.

MICHIGAN NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Paradise- The Upper Falls in Tahquamenon will be getting an upgrade starting next week.

The announcement came Monday when the Michigan Department of Natural Resources announced that the Upper Falls renovations would begin next week according to 9 & 10 News. The upgrade will be a 900-foot-long accessible ramp alongside the treeline.

Tahquamenon Falls State Park Supervisor Kevin Dennis discussed the reasoning behind the upgrade.

"The new, accessible boardwalk will replace the aging stairway structure that leads to the brink viewing platform," Dennis said. "Despite construction, the majority of the viewing area remains open and accessible this fall

through next summer."

The current structure currently has a set of 93 metal stairs and wooden rails.

The funds for the new structure came from part of the \$3.275 million that was received as a relief fund. These funds were a part of Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's American Rescue Plan Act of 2021.

The new ramp will include benches and wind throughout the forest to allow visitors to view the 200 foot falls.

The other viewing areas for the Upper Falls will remain open during the construction of the new ramp, including the brewery.

Construction on the upgrade will begin on Oct. 14 with the target end date for the project to be Aug. 1, 2025.

GLOBAL NEWS UPDATE

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

U.S. Gulf Coast- Hurricane Milton became a category five storm on Monday.

Florida was told to prepare for the largest evacuation effort in years according to BBC News.

Hurricane Milton also came several days after Hurricane Helene hit the Gulf Coast as well.

President Joe Biden also allocated almost \$140 million in federal funds for relief.

Biden also sent 1,500 soldiers to North Carolina to help the National Guard and Government officials.

It is expected that the clean-up will take several years for areas hit

by both Hurricane Milton and Hurricane Helene.

Roads are expected to stay closed with winds getting up to 160 miles per hour in areas in Florida.

Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia are all expected to be hit by the hurricane in addition to Florida.



Homecoming ambassador crowned

Ambassador announced and given trophy by President Pink



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

2024 homecoming ambassador Hannah Cunningham poses with Jeanine Ward-Roof and President Pink during the Homecoming halftime.

Kate Babel
News Reporter

On Oct. 5th, Dental hygiene senior Hannah Cunningham, accounting junior Nicholas Green, construction management senior Joshua Hoover and medical laboratory sciences senior Allison Hoover, all eagerly awaited for the announcement of the winner for the title of Homecoming ambassador.

In the end, Hannah Cunningham was awarded the title of Homecoming ambassador. Fellow candidates congratulated her, and hugged her as Cunningham received the red sash and bulldog trophy. They each congratulated each other on their hard work and stayed for the group picture as halftime came to a close.

Representing the Order of Omega Registered Student Organization an honor

society for all of Greek Life on campus, dental hygiene senior Cunningham heard cheers from her RSO from the stands, as well as her supporters.

"It feels amazing," Cunningham said. "This was a great opportunity and I'm really glad I get to represent Ferris State as the 2024 Homecoming ambassador," Cunningham said. "It feels really good. I feel extremely accomplished right now. I think I was up against three other really good candidates who also brought something different to the table, and just being honored for like what I've done on campus the last four years has really been an amazing opportunity,"

Cunningham described this as an "amazing opportunity" that she got to do. The Order of Omega strives for campus involvement and academic excellence. The or-

der also works to recognize the fraternity men and women who have attained a high standard of leadership in their organizations. As a Zeta Tau Alpha alumni, according to her Instagram page, one of Cunningham's achievements included being named Greek Life's President of the Year.

"I couldn't do it without the amazing support from the other women of the Zeta Omega Chapter, our advisors and mentors and most importantly my amazing family who has been my rock from the start," Cunningham said in her post.

During the Homecoming game before halftime began, Cunningham described how she wanted to represent herself and her RSO. Saying that she had "accomplished a lot through her time at Ferris".

"I promoted myself through my program, dental hygiene and endorsing Order of Ome-



Photo by: Jordan Wilson | Multimedia Editor

Homecoming ambassador candidates Nicholas Green and Allison Hoover await the announcement for the winner.

"I think I was up against three other really good candidates who also brought something different to the table, and just being honored for like what I've done on campus the last four years has really been an amazing opportunity"

ga and my other RSOs," Cunningham said. "It was really you know, putting myself out there. I got to talk to a lot of different people about you know what I wanted to do, how I wanted to represent myself as the Homecoming ambassador. And meeting the other candidates was also great and seeing what they had to bring to the table. So I definitely think it

was something that broke me out of my comfort zone but also allowed me a great opportunity to meet students at Ferris"

Win or lose, each of these candidates had expressed personal growth and achievement during their candidacies. Cunningham's candidacy included loads of support and accomplishment. She will continue to do so by

being a positive influence towards other students on campus.

"I want to get others involved on campus. I want to represent, I want to help entertainment unlimited and kind of be that like kind of a good representation for what Ferris State is all about," Cunningham said.

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Pro Shop renovations

Renovations at the Wink Arena Pro Shop



Photo by: Ember St. Amour | News Editor

The newly refurbished Pro Shop includes updates to the skate counter, flooring and more.

Isabelle Marks
News Reporter

The renovated Ferris State Pro Shop and the Brutus Bistro reopened on Friday, Oct. 4.

The Ferris State Pro Shop will offer apparel and other Ferris-branded items to fans and students. The Brutus Bistro offers food and drinks. Both facilities have been taken over by Ferris Auxiliary Services.

Auxiliary Services are in charge of dining as well as

Ferris Outfitters.

Associate Vice President for Marketing and Communications Dave Murray offered insight into the changes at the Brutus Bistro.

"There are actually no changes to the Bistro other than the menu items. Campus Dining determined the most popular items and will offer the same things at both the Bistro and the Concession stand," Murray said. "The goal is to eliminate the need for customers to stand in one line, then get in another

if they wanted something from both. We think this will make for a far more enjoyable experience for our students and fans."

Assistant Athletic Director for Facilities and Game Operations Tim Blashill shared his excitement about partnering with Auxiliary Affairs to run the Brutus Bistro.

"Kim Rademacher is the executive director for the Bistro, in terms of Auxiliary Affairs, and that kind of happened last year when she wasn't here yet. So she's

done a lot of good work to streamline that," Blashill said. "The concessions are going to be a little more similar, which is probably a smart move in terms of how many people we get for hockey games, basketball games and different events like that."

Blashill shared that he is very excited about the changes at the Brutus Bistro and how it will improve the game experience as it will have better food and be quicker than before.

The Pro Shop had actual renovations done to it. Murray explained the renovations.

"There was some renovation work in that area. Campus Outfitters made some changes to the Pro Shop, offering fans new and exciting apparel and other items we know fans will enjoy," Murray said. "There were a number of changes to that store, including providing more space for merchandise. You'll see some additional branding being installed in the weeks to come."

Ticket Manager and Ice Operations Assistant Tony Hufnagel explained the split of the Pro Shop.

"There are some good changes from last year. We split the pro shop, so we have a skate shop now and a place for apparel to be sold," Hufnagel said. "I know we're all really excited about having hockey jerseys back on sale. We get a lot of questions about those."

Blashill is very happy with the renovations to the Pro Shop and he's appreciative of the staff that made the renovations possible.

"Great job by our facilities people. Karen Simmon was the project manager and did a really good job along with all of our trades," Blashill said. "They made this a reality so they really did a good job, and we're excited that it's going to be ready for hockey."

Hufnagel agreed that the faculty did a great job on the renovations and is excited for the changes.

"Just being able to sell athletics attire in the sports complex is really cool. We're excited to have it fully running. Last year we had a little bit of that stuff, but we're going to be full go this year. We will have our skate shop open as always too. These are some nice renovations. Facilities and staff always do a nice job on all the renovations."

You can visit the renovated Pro Shop and the Brutus Bistro now.

ON THE RECORD

Ember St. Amour
News Editor

Officer assistance please

Sept. 25, 4:18 a.m. - Officers were called to assist the county in a double arrest. They needed a female officer to search a female prisoner.

Key it up

Sept. 28, 2:30 a.m. - Someone reported that their vehicle had been keyed in Robin Court. The case was closed due to lack of leads.

Email Offended

Sept. 29, Unknown - A student was upset about a message they received from Student Life. Officers responded to see if it would be a criminal issue and decided it was not.

House party

Sept. 30, 12:55 a.m. - Officers responded to Finch Court for a noise complaint. When officers arrived, they saw six people in the apartment, and they were asked to turn down the music.

Roommate spat attack

Oct. 2, 2 a.m. - Roommates in Finch Court had a disagreement that escalated. Officers were sent over to keep the peace. The case was turned over to judicial referral.

Culture

Blase Gapinski | Culture Editor | gapinsb@ferris.edu

Party at the power lines

Weekly tradition dates back decades



Photo by: Dylan Rider | Editor-in-Chief

Local Nick Bailey fuels the flames with additional pallets while students socialize amidst the fire.

Blase Gapinski
Culture Editor

Every Thursday night, students travel down a long stretch of backroads to make a treacherous journey through a two-track for a weekly event known as “The Lines.”

Around 9 p.m. on Thursdays, students and community members risk their vehicles getting stuck in the mud to partake in a traditional backwoods bonfire that has been going on for almost 40 years. Despite the rugged appearance of the trails and dark forest, “The Lines” are transformed into a vibrant scene where the atmosphere buzzes with excitement and camaraderie.

Amid the Michigan outdoors, the fire is hosted underneath an array of powerlines, where the name of the gathering originates from. Country music and classic rock and roll fill the air as

the raging fire and night sky illuminate the wooded area. Due to the high potential of transportation getting glued within the sand and mud, it isn’t recommended to travel there unless your vehicle has all-wheel drive or four-wheel drive.

Ferris construction management alumnus Jaden Riley provided insight into The Line’s history. He was fortunate to have met with the group whose collective spirit laid down the foundations of what “The Lines” are today.

“The Lines” was started in 1984 by a group of college students and townies who came together to start something anyone and everyone in the community was welcome to,” Riley said. “The reason the party began on Thursday nights is because back then, the university wasn’t open on Fridays. The weekend started on Thursdays, so everyone would come out here to have a bonfire and have a

good time.”

“The Lines” is an event that embodies the spirit of Michiganders. The sense of community and local pride that comes out once a week for this gathering is unmatched, as over 100 students and locals show up to participate. Riley continues to show support for the Lines even after graduating due to the patriotic atmosphere.

“This is the experience of what it is to be an American. This represents our freedom because we are all able to come out here to enjoy the sense of nature and living,” Riley said. “This is a culture and it is the type of party where there isn’t an invite list. The more people and new faces that show up the better and without all of them, this tradition wouldn’t be alive today.”

Heating, ventilation, air conditioning and refrigeration freshman Daniel Zandi has attended the Lines since

his first week of college. One of the most memorable experiences he and his friends have had at the Lines is rescuing someone’s car buried in the dirt. One of the issues of “The Lines” have faced is vehicles getting stuck in the middle of the trail, which blocks the entry and exit. Zandi mentioned how instances like that can potentially be dangerous, and a way to prevent that is ride-sharing.

“Many people underestimate the trails and assume it’s accessible for everyone,” Zandi said. “It’s a welcoming place for everyone but I must say, if your vehicle doesn’t at least have four-wheel drive, I’d recommend finding a ride.” Zandi enjoys going to the Lines as he describes it as a place to go for fun while still being able to relax. He has met many new friends while attending the Lines and continues to go for the new thrills each week brings.

“It’s one of the coolest things that I’ve done since coming to Ferris, and it’s why I go back,” Zandi said. “You take this awesome dirt road up here which is always a nice time. There’s also the huge bonfire and lots of unique cars and trucks. I think the main reason people keep coming back here is for the homey atmosphere.”

Business and administration sophomore Connor Krolczyk has been making his appearance at “The Lines” since he started school at Ferris. He grew up in a small town where events similar to the Lines were common so he attends for the sense of nostalgia and good times.

“It’s the place to be on Thursday nights,” Krolczyk said. “It’s the type of thing that you can’t miss out on because it’s a ceremonial way to start the weekend.”

Krolczyk and his friends try to take care of the area after the gathering is over by

bringing left-behind trash to designated areas. He highlighted the importance of respecting regulations set by the Department of Natural Resources and making responsible decisions.

“People are worried about getting in trouble with law enforcement because of the burn bans but as long as we follow those, no one out here is doing anything wrong,” Krolczyk said. “Whatever you do at the Lines is fine but if you’re there and are drinking, don’t get behind the wheel.”

“The Lines” represent more than a weekly gathering. It represents the body and spirit of students and locals who have come together for decades to enjoy the warmth of the bonfire and thrill of the outdoors. It’s a place for others to connect and share their similarities to forge lasting connections that will carry on long after the flames have faded.

Dodge this

Students play dodgeball in honor of Homecoming week



Photo by: Shaunti'ara Reynolds | Freelance Photographer

Music and entertainment business senior Jayden Anderson unleashes a throw.

Tate Zellman
Freelance Reporter

Entertainment Unlimited put together Homecoming dodgeball, allowing students to have fun with friends and the campus community in celebration of Homecoming week.

Taking place at the Student

Recreation Center, roughly 30 students came to play some dodgeball. Members who were part of and not a part of Entertainment Unlimited participated in the rounds. The largest game was nine against nine, where participants battled to be the last team standing. Participants could also try chucking a ball

into the opposite basketball hoop to bring a teammate back into the game. The teams also made it a point to be cordial with each other throughout the matches, as good sportsmanship was expected by everyone playing.

Professional tennis management sophomore Remy Book participated in every

game while he attended the event. When describing the importance of the community coming together, he used the term "camaraderie."

"It brings everything together," Book said. "It makes a family vibe. It makes it more welcoming for incoming freshmen and other students that don't know people

as much on campus, and it makes it easier for them to get introduced to more people and make more friends."

President of Entertainment Unlimited and public relations senior Vinny Short gave a rundown on how the idea of Homecoming dodgeball came about.

"It's important for people to have a good time while they're here on campus," Short said. "It's Homecoming week and that's the main reason why we're doing it. We wanted to provide something interactive for students to do during Homecoming week. It's a tradition that we do something kind of competitive and this year we wanted to do dodgeball, and everyone jumped at the idea because kids love dodgeball. We thought it would have a great turnout because it's fun to do for Homecoming week on a Thursday night."

Short mentioned the importance of hosting these events for the student community and how similar events they have hosted in the past received large turnouts.

Medical laboratory sciences senior Allison Leslie, who

is a Homecoming ambassador candidate, described what it felt like to play dodgeball with students all across campus.

"It's cool to see this many people come out and do stuff like this," Leslie said. "And it's not just a small club, it's people from all different grade levels, all different majors and it's really cool that it's something that everyone has a common interest about and that's what makes it awesome to see everyone come together."

Leslie additionally stated that she wouldn't have come to the event if it wasn't for her being a Homecoming ambassador and it was more fun than she anticipated. She hopes people learn to come out of their shells and get involved on campus, so they can make new friends and learn new things.

Entertainment Unlimited plans to host more events for the rest of the semester to offer fun and unique opportunities where students can get involved on campus at no cost.

Torch Tunes

Sounds of October

Aiden MacLean
Freelance Reporter

As the crisp air of October settles in and the spooky season creeps upon us, it's time to create the ultimate soundtrack to capture the haunting, cozy and nostalgic vibes that come with the fall.

Whether you're carving pumpkins, sipping on a warm drink or getting in the Halloween spirit, these tracks are here to make your October even more memorable.

Monster Mash – Bobby "Boris" Pickett

What better way to kick off a spooky playlist than with a timeless classic? "Monster Mash" is the quintessential Halloween anthem that's been a fan favorite since 1962. With its eerie sound effects and playful lyrics, it captures the fun side of Halloween while getting everyone in the mood for ghoulish festivities. No spooky playlist is complete without this!

Ghost – Mystery Skulls

If you're looking for a modern take on a ghostly theme, Mystery Skulls' "Ghost" brings electro-funk vibes perfect for a Halloween party or a chill October evening. The catchy chorus and upbeat

tempo create a spooky yet feel-good atmosphere, adding some groove to your fall.

Season of the Witch – Donovan

With its psychedelic sound and haunting lyrics, "Season of the Witch" is a must-listen during October. This 1966 classic captures the eerie and mystical feelings that come with the transition into fall. The song's timelessness and hypnotic melody make it a perfect backdrop for late-night walks or decorating your space with cobwebs and skeletons.

Somebody's Watching Me – Rockwell

For a blend of paranoia and fun, Rockwell's "Somebody's Watching Me" is the ideal mix of spooky and danceable. With a hook that immediately pulls you in, it's hard not to feel the thrill of being watched when this track comes on. Michael Jackson's iconic vocals on the chorus elevate the song, making it perfect for any Halloween gathering.

Thriller – Michael Jackson

Speaking of Michael Jackson, "Thriller" remains the ultimate spooky season anthem. The iconic music video and Vincent Price's eerie

narration make this track synonymous with Halloween. Whether you're preparing for a costume party or getting in the mood for a horror movie marathon, "Thriller" is the perfect track to set the tone for the season.

I Put a Spell on You – Screamin' Jay Hawkins

For a truly haunting tune, Screamin' Jay Hawkins' "I Put a Spell on You" is both eerie and enchanting. His raw vocals and the dark, bluesy production make it feel like a spell has indeed been cast. This track succeeds in setting a mysterious, slightly chilling mood during October nights.

Disturbia – Rihanna

Rihanna's "Disturbia" is another modern-day hit with spooky undertones. The pulsing beat and edgy lyrics make it feel like a descent into madness, perfect for a late-night drive or Halloween dance party. The song's darker energy aligns perfectly with the eerie atmosphere of October.

Time Warp – The Rocky Horror Picture Show

"Let's do the Time Warp again!" If you're familiar with The Rocky Horror Picture Show, then you know this song's magic. It's a quirky,

upbeat track that brings out the theatrical side of Halloween. Whether you're rewatching the cult-classic film, or simply need a playful and nostalgic song, "Time Warp" is always a hit for the spooky season.

Halloween Theme – John Carpenter

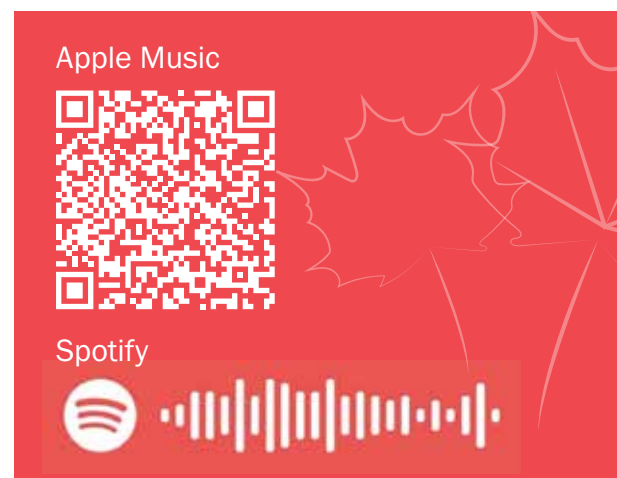
For those who want to dive straight into horror, nothing quite sets the tone like John Carpenter's Halloween theme. The simple, spine-tingling piano melody is iconic in the horror genre and instantly makes you feel like Michael Myers is lurking nearby. This instrumental track is perfect for creating a suspenseful, eerie ambiance during the lead-up to Halloween.

Bury a Friend – Billie Eilish

Billie Eilish's "Bury a Friend" offers an unsettling, creepy vibe with its haunting production and whispery vocals. The song, which feels like a walk through a nightmare, captures the more chilling side of October. It's ideal for moments when you want to feel immersed in the eerie atmosphere of the season.

Spooky, Scary Skeletons – Andrew Gold

Torch Tunes: Sounds of October



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

For a bit of fun mixed with some spooky energy, Andrew Gold's "Spooky, Scary Skeletons" is a viral hit thanks to its playful lyrics and spooky skeleton imagery. Its catchy melody and Halloween-themed lyrics make it a great addition to any October playlist, especially for lighthearted, festive moments.

Hex – Ark Patrol

Closing out the playlist, "Hex" by Ark Patrol offers a more subdued, atmospheric

sound perfect for those late October nights. The down-tempo beat and ethereal vocals create a moody and mysterious vibe that aligns with the witchy energy of the season. It's the perfect song for a chill Halloween evening or relaxing after a day of spooky fun.

Find the full playlist here and prepare to soundtrack your October with these spine-chilling tunes!

Peace before the big game

EU and CSI host bonfire as last event before Homecoming game



Photo by: Bryann Hill | Freelance Photographer

Students relax and enjoy the warmth of the 2024 Homecoming bonfire across from the Rock Cafe.

Ni'Jah Rankin
Freelance Reporter

The Ferris State Center for Student Involvement and Entertainment Unlimited hosted a Homecoming bonfire on Friday, Oct. 4 at the south athletic fields.

CSI and Entertainment Unlimited hosts a bonfire every year as a part of their list of Homecoming events. The bonfire showed a turnout of Ferris students and visitors alike, with a variety of games, music and foods for all to enjoy.

Advisor for Entertainment Unlimited and activities coordinator at CSI Ben Avery believes that the bonfire gives a more relaxing opportunity for students to socialize compared to other events like the comedy show and the dodgeball game.

"We hope to provide a little bit of everything for all of our students with different tastes and different preferences," Avery said. "This is just a great opportunity to relax, and enjoy some good food and some live music."

Entertainment Unlimited and CSI made a few changes to this year's bonfire, includ-

ing changing the location to the south athletic fields from the David L. Eisler Center parking lot and shifting to live music. Avery thinks that this changed the environment of the event and helped promote student involvement by making the location more accessible and being able to form connections to the music with live artists, which were an indie-folk duo called Stanley and Quiggle.

Criminal justice freshman Yena Porter came to the bonfire, not only to support her brother, who is Jamie Quiggle from Stanley and Quiggle, but also to go out for something fun instead of just for classes. She thinks that events like this are a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends that could last for years because of the various activities available at the bonfire to bond over.

"It's easy to meet people because there's a lot of different activities going on," Porter said. "So, if you're by yourself and you want to play corn-hole, you could play and meet other people."

The programming coordinator for Entertainment Unlimited is a sophomore in

the music and entertainment business Alex Rineer. She played a large role in finding the artists for the event. Rineer believes this year's homecoming bonfire brings a laidback environment where students can come and stop by, listen to music and lay a blanket with friends.

"I feel like we're more in nature and we're not all standing on the pavement," Rineer said. "Especially with the band, because it's live music, and we can interact with it more and kind of it get a sense of who they are."

Students around campus came to the bonfire to hang out with their friends, get some free s'mores, and even participate in different yard games ranging from cornhole, spike ball and participants even played catch with footballs. On the field, there were not only Ferris students but friends of Ferris students, coming to hang out with them and enjoy the Homecoming weekend.

Rachel Levere was one of the visitors who came for homecoming weekend to hang out with her Ferris friends at the bonfire. She thinks that it was a great

event to come and see what Ferris is all about because of the games, events and various foods that come out for homecoming.

"I have a few friends that

go here and it's a great time," Levere said. "The food and the games are all good, and cornhole never gets old."

The Center for Student Involvement and Entertain-

ment Unlimited hosts events throughout the year and will continue to host different activities that are designated to engage the entire student population.

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TORCH

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Opinions

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The Ferris State Torch is published on 27 Wednesdays throughout the academic year. This student-run newspaper is printed by The Pioneer Group.

Our Location:
Arts and Science Commons
1016
820 Campus Drive
Ferris State University
Big Rapids, MI 49307

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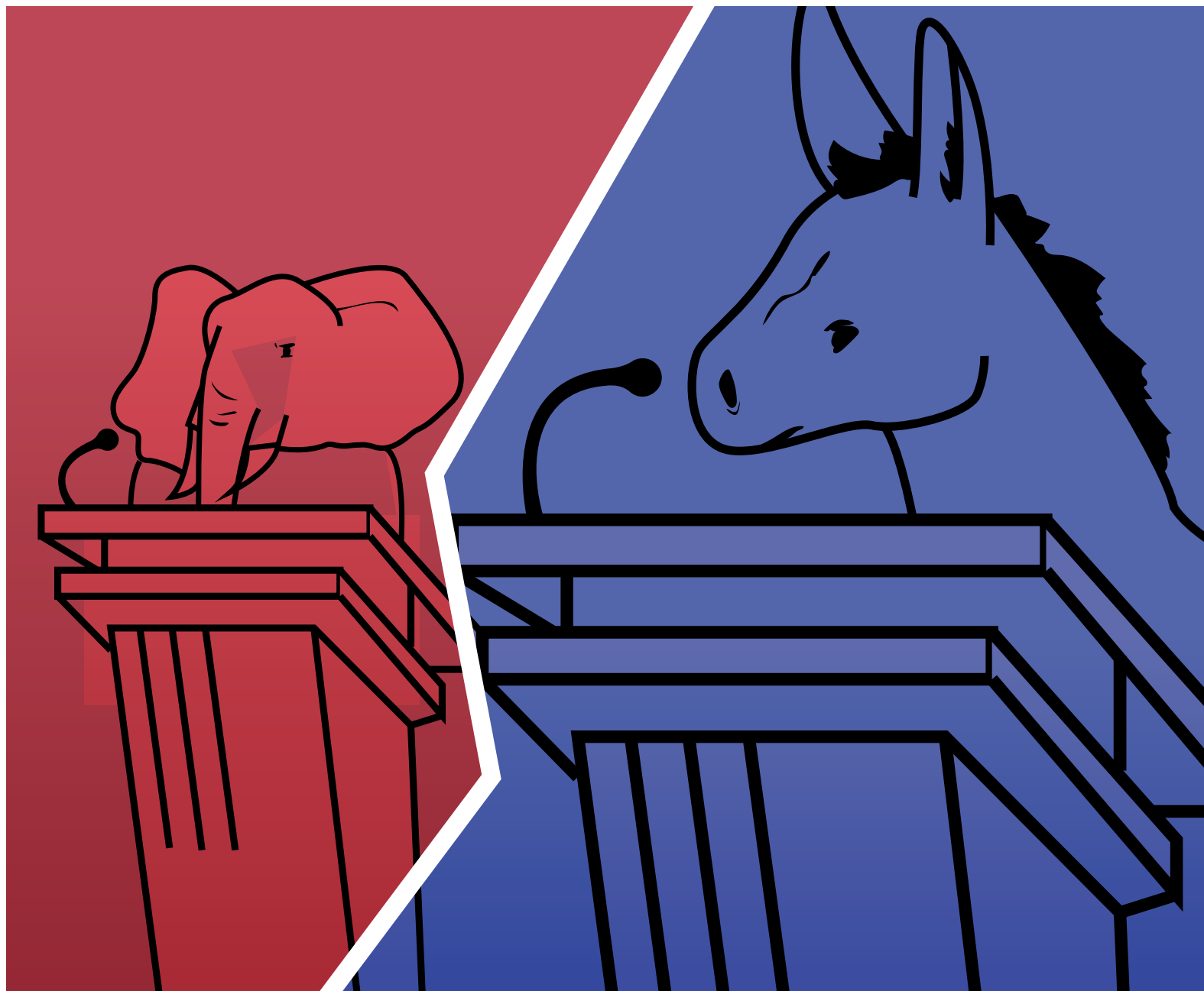
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EDITOR'S COLUMN:

Slivers of normalcy

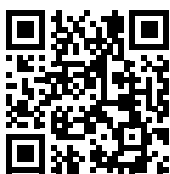
Vice presidential debate offers refreshing reminder



Graphic by: Hailey Nye | Production Assistant

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Dylan Rider *Editor in Chief*

The political landscape has been chalked full of absurdity and division. This has seemingly increased in the past decade and felt like a new standard.

However, on Oct. 1, roughly 43.15 million viewers and I were reminded that perhaps the political environment we've been witnessing isn't standard. This was when Ohio Sen. JD Vance and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz faced off in the quadrennially occurring vice presidential debate.

Instead of wild lines regarding immigrants eating pets or enormous amounts of bickering between moderator and candidate, the debate

was boring.

Now, it's a given that the vice presidential debate isn't as important as the presidential or as watched. It's also true there are smaller memes that have come out of the vice presidential debate like Walz staring into the camera.

But that's not very comparable to the debates we've witnessed in the past eight years. Love him or hate him, Donald Trump's ability to say sensational and outrageous things has always been a crucial piece to his debating and campaigning since 2016.

It's no surprise that Trump's strategy has changed the playbook for how Republicans campaign. This change is what I believe to have upended the

"normalcy" in politics. Often adopted by Trump allies and "MAGA Republicans," this has become widespread.

While viewing the debate, a comment from the New York Times's coverage struck me.

"What's striking about this debate is how relatively normal it feels, just as the Pence-Harris debate did four years ago and the Pence-Tim Kaine debate did four years before that," Maggie Haberman wrote. "The debates that Trump participates in are unlike anything in modern U.S. political history."

What's described as "Midwest Nice" dominated the debate, with Walz and Vance exchanging affirmations of each other's beliefs and sympathies where appropriate.

On top of this, neither side

made real attempts at "zinger" lines at the expense of their opponent. The debate focused on policy and why each of their running mates is not fit to run this country.

Post-debate conversations that I heard were based on how the vice presidential candidates felt and sounded like actual presidential candidates should.

Political gaffes and lunacy have always slithered their way into the world of politics, but those have come to a lesser degree. For a college student with no real hope for the political landscape or the country, this new world in politics has become exhausting.

Absurd claims after absurd claims, fruitless outrage after fruitless outrage. It feels hopeless. So where do we go

from here?

It'd be worthless to wag my unimportant finger at multimillion-dollar political parties and cry about it being their fault. Would the nation be better if both parties embraced decorum? Sure. Would we learn and practice the same? Possibly.

We can choose to wait and wait for this to happen, or we can embrace it at the civilian level. The rhetoric only continues if it works on us.

Until we get to this point, we'll be staring at an absurd landscape. Something we'll only get an escape from with slivers of normalcy from a debate without massive consequence.

All along the river walk

Getting away from assignments and stress

Connor Fuller
Copy Editor

I had never given exploration a chance before my second year at Ferris. However, after a couple of weeks of riding around town on my bike and getting out of my dorm, I now feel I missed out on what I think should be a vital part of the college experience.

During my first year at Ferris, I had never considered bringing my bike as an inconvenience to maintain, especially during the winter months. Another reason was that I had not ridden a bike seriously for years and thought it would be tiring. I am not an athletic person, so owning a bike to travel around campus made it seem like baggage left without second guesses.

This changed after I started riding downtown to explore the area. Downtown Big Rapids is a 15 to 20-minute walk. If you don't have good walking shoes on hot days, your feet can become sore and develop a blister or two. My mother offered to bring my bike to make getting around campus easier, and I took some investment in her offer as I wanted to try something new for my second academic year.

With stress about weekly deadlines that have me working late into the night, making me anxious that my goals are no longer worth it. I had the opportunity to bike around Big Rapids near the river, exploring what shops and exhibits are open allows for an escape that can take that stress away. I could chat with community members briefly, which reminded me

that life is more than assignments and deadlines. It lets me know there are always places I can sit down for ice cream, such as at Kilwins, or sit by the riverside, watching the wave's white crests make quiet progress against one another.

I appreciate these moments as I feel no longer bound to campus. I am not only a student at the university but a member of the city, and I always have somewhere to go to, either looking for fine scenery or local charm.

I do wish there were more bike racks around Big Rapids. With downtown comprising of busy intersections and afternoon traffic like coastal currents, I can see the doubt that comes with installing bike racks in places where it can be an inconvenience.

I think the college experience is learning to be free and how to avoid sitting in a room for hours on end. This involves connecting with your surroundings and leaving behind codes like being home before midnight. To find peace and greet others like a community, along with being active in walking, jogging or biking. This kind of activity is great for exercise, but if I never strived for that end goal, I would still go through with it, only to interact with the city I am paying to live in.

"Accumulating at least thirty minutes each day of moderate-intensity physical activity can contribute to a range of health benefits," According to Jan Garrard, Chris Rissel and Adrian Bauman in "City Cycling." They wrote that "health benefits include chronic disease prevention and favorable impacts on



Photo by: Connor Fuller | Copy Editor

The Big Rapids river walk follows alongside the Muskegon river for 3.5 miles.

antecedent risk factors such as elevated blood pressure and obesity."

This activity also brings me clarity, whether through a free period or a small time frame before continuing to assignments. My venture away in this town truly allows me to walk out, lock my door and see something normal but refreshing. Along with calm strolls, I also enjoy biking as it gives me the long overdue exercise that makes

up for time spent in my dorm in a seated position.

Vigorous exercise "decreased stress levels and increased people's feeling of being balanced more effectively than less strenuous exercise.", according to researchers Isabelle D. Wolf and Teresa Wohlfart, in a study concerning different kinds of physical activity in parks.

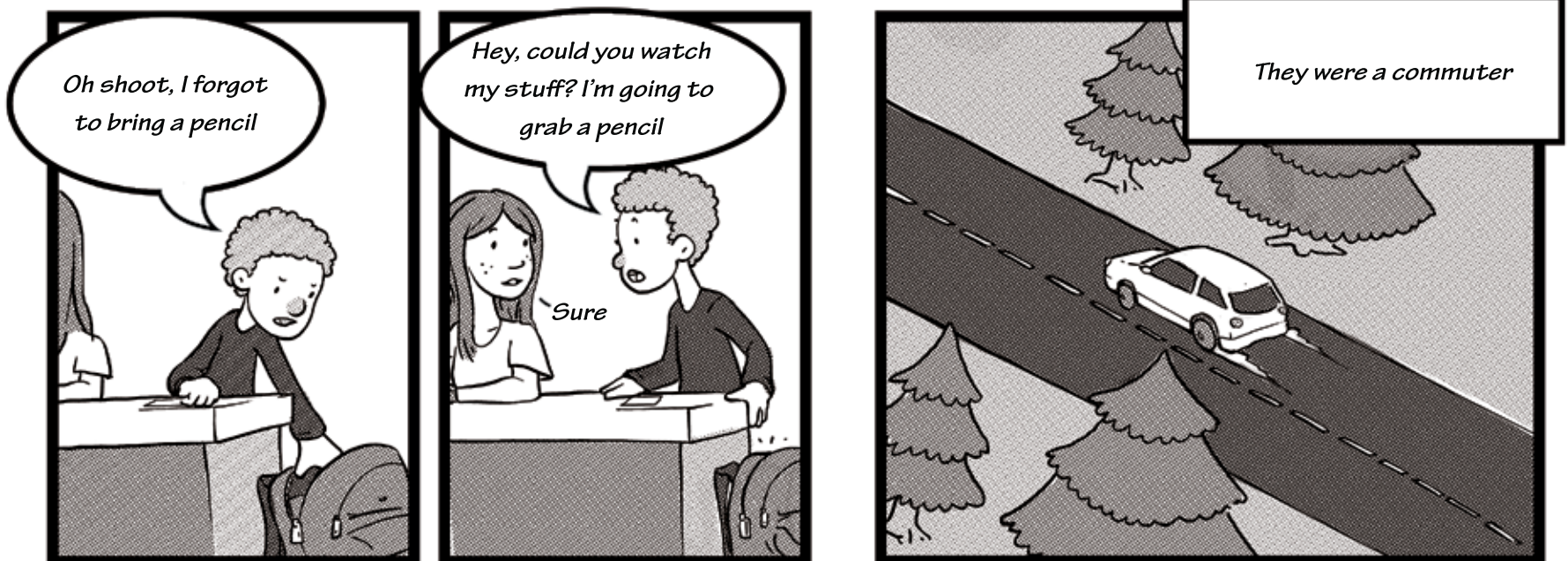
If you ever feel anxious or stressed from classes,

I recommend getting out and spending only an hour in downtown at Kilwins, Artworks or Belle's Coffeehouse. One can also take a walk in Mitchell Creek Park, or by the River Walk that gives a good view of the Muskegon River.

On these walks, I remember that my life is not entirely made up of exams, papers, deadlines and presentations. Along with special breaks that are over before they even start. I also feel comfortable

in how I return home without needing to have acquired something profound, such as a meaning to life, something I find entrapping. Finally to know that parts of my local world have not yet been cast in cement and highways.

Commuter issues



Comic by: Blake Flanery | Cartoonist

Sports

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Bulldogs conquer Lakers

Bulldogs secure homecoming victory with 55-16 win



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Senior Emari O'Brian dives for a touchdown after receiving a pass.

Caden Hofmann
Special Editor

In their GLIAC opener and homecoming game, the No. 5 ranked Ferris State football team (4-1, 1-0 in the GLIAC) took down conference newcomer Roosevelt (0-4, 0-1 in the GLIAC) on Saturday, Oct. 5 by a score of 55-16.

Going into the game, Ferris had won each of their last six homecoming games and now has an all-time 43-38-2 record.

Head coach Tony Annese gave much credit to the defense and big playmaking for the homecoming win.

"Once our defense settled in we made some really good plays," Annese said. "We got to clean up that touchdown we gave them on offense but all in all there's a lot of different concepts we had working for us and I can't wait to come back to the field with these guys next week."

It was a slower-than-usual start for the Bulldogs as they scored just seven points in the first quarter after scoring

35 the week prior.

The game was tied 0-0 for most of the first quarter. That was until junior running back Kannon Katzer hauled in a 65-yard receiving touchdown from junior quarterback Trinidad Chambliss.

Katzer led the Bulldogs in rushing and receiving, going for 69 yards on the ground and 83 through the air.

Chambliss led the Bulldogs in passing, completing 60% of his passes (18-30) for 224 yards and three touchdowns. Chambliss also had 43 yards and a touchdown on the ground after his 43-yard scramble in the second quarter.

Ten different Bulldogs caught a pass versus Roosevelt, which showcases the all-around offense that Ferris has made happen five games into the season. Ferris totaled 448 yards of offense and allowed 265.

Katzer believes that the Bulldogs' versatility is what makes them so dangerous.

"We have a lot of threats on the outside," Katzer said.

"It makes us really hard for any team to go against because they have so much to prepare for."

After the slow first quarter, the Bulldogs scored 21 points in the second and took a comfortable 28-10 lead going into the half.

Roosevelt's lone touchdown came on a fumble recovery during the middle of the second quarter.

Ferris reached the endzone four more times in the second half and held the Lakers to three second-half points.

The Ferris defense added to the scoreboard late in the second quarter as junior cornerback Gyasi Mattison returned a Laker interception 49 yards for a touchdown.

The Bulldogs' No. 4 ranked rushing defense in the nation was on display again as they held Roosevelt to just 79 yards on 28 rushing attempts. This is the fourth time this season that Ferris has held their opponent to less than 100 rushing yards.

Junior linebacker Sefa

Saipaia credits the success on defense to their cohesiveness and talent.

"We are deep in every position, we have a lot of real good guys everywhere," Saipaia said. "Ultimately it's a team game, we are just a unit and that is the mentality that we have."

Despite the Bulldog win, the Lakers dominated the time of possession, holding on to the ball for 35 minutes compared to Ferris' 24 minutes of possession.

Annese gave Roosevelt credit for keeping the ball away from the Bulldogs.

"They kept such a slow pace while we are trying to keep a fast pace," Annese said. "It was really a tale of two different styles."

After the homecoming victory, the Bulldogs will hit the road for an interconference matchup with the Wayne State Warriors this Saturday, Oct. 12. Ferris won this matchup handily last season with a 63-19 takedown.



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer
Slot receiver Brady Rose narrowly misses a defensive tackle.

Shootout showdowns

Ferris earns two shootout victories in opening weekend



Junior Xavier Jean-Louis passes the puck near the boards.

Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Connor Grypma
Sports Editor

The Bulldogs won their first two matchups of the season in a shootout against the Miami (OH.) RedHawks on Friday, Oct. 3, and Saturday, Oct. 4.

The shootout wins will go down as ties for Ferris (0-0-2) with the regulation periods ending at 3-3 on Friday and 4-4 on Saturday.

Head coach Bob Daniels had high praise for his team and the season's start after the two close matchups.

"I give the guys high marks," Daniels said. "There were multiple instances where we fell behind by a goal and each time we responded. The new guys have done a great job of inserting themselves and they were really excited to come out here

and play a game. Games like these are really good for them and the fans."

Friday's season opener opened up slowly for the Bulldogs as they trailed the RedHawks 1-0 early on behind a buzzer-beater goal late in the first period. Ferris quickly responded just 23 seconds into the second period when sophomore forward Holden Doell cashed in to tie up the score.

The Bulldogs traded another pair of goals including a shorthanded score from sophomore forward Cole Burtch, his first goal with the Bulldogs after transferring from Western Michigan this offseason.

With the score tied at 2-2, the RedHawks scored again midway through the third to go up by one. Just two minutes later, junior forward

Caiden Gault skated down a wide-open breakaway lane and found the back of the net to tie the score at 3-3. The tie remained through the rest of regulation.

Burtch was the first to skate for the Bulldogs and gave them the early lead with a top-corner shot. Senior goaltender Noah West turned away all three RedHawks shot attempts to seal the win for Ferris.

West credited the defense and the coaching staff for the opening night win.

"Any win in college hockey is a big win," West said. "The defense was really good. All three lines kept the shots to the outside and let me see pucks well. We gave up three but at the end of the day, I think it was just the ebbs and flows of the game. I'm glad to have a coaching staff here

that supports me and gives me their full support to go out and battle with a team of 28 brothers."

West transferred to Ferris from the University of Michigan this offseason where he appeared in 11 games in three seasons for the Wolverines. He earned the start for the Bulldogs on opening night turning away 27 shots on goal.

The high-scoring contests continued into Saturday where Ferris once again triumphed in the shootout this time behind two regulation goals by sophomore defenseman Trevor Taulien.

The Bulldogs kicked off the scoring with a tally from junior defenseman and team captain Travis Shoudy midway through the first period. The RedHawks evened the score at 1-1 on a power-play

goal just two minutes later.

Taulien saw both his goals come in the second period, yet the RedHawks also scored twice in the period to remain tied at 3-3 heading into the final period. Taulien scored two goals in his freshman year last season for the Bulldogs and has already tied that number just two games into the 2024-2025 campaign.

Senior forward Nick Nardecchia added a rebound tally to the Bulldogs' scoring output midway through the third alongside another tying goal from the RedHawks. Despite six shots in the overtime period, the game was sent to a shootout for the second consecutive night.

Miami took the early 1-0 lead when Burtch's shot hit the bar and bounced away. The Bulldogs tied the score

with a goal from junior forward Connor McGrath and West sent away the final two Miami shot attempts. Junior forward Max Itagaki sealed the deal for Ferris with his game-winning goal on the final shot of the shootout.

The Bulldogs are set to continue their season next weekend against the Western Michigan Broncos in a home-and-home series. Ferris split their series against the Broncos last season including an eight-round shootout victory.

Puck drop is set for 7:00 p.m. at Western Michigan on Friday, Oct. 11, and 7:07 p.m. at home on Saturday, Oct. 12.

Unstoppable force

Bulldogs sweep home opener weekend to remain undefeated



Photo by: Sam Mulder | Torch Photographer

Senior Syann Fairfield jumps to spike the ball.

Nolan Matthews
Sports Reporter

The No. 5 ranked Ferris State volleyball team faced off against divisional opponents in the Wisconsin-Parkside Rangers and the Purdue Northwest Pride for their home opener weekend.

The Bulldogs (14-0, 6-0 in the GLIAC) kept their unbeaten streak alive this weekend with a victory against Wisconsin-Parkside (7-7, 3-3 in the GLIAC) by a score of 3-0 on Friday, Oct. 4, as well as a Bulldog victory over Purdue Northwest (3-10, 1-5 in the GLIAC) by a score of 3-0 on Saturday, Oct. 5.

With their weekend sweep, the Bulldogs' 14-0

start marks the best record in program history through 14 games, beating out their 12-0 start in 2015.

Ferris dominated the first two sets against the Rangers, winning the first set by a score of 25-20 and winning the second set 25-18. The third set saw the Rangers lead for most of the set before the Bulldogs took the lead midway through to win the third set 25-23.

Head coach Tia Brandel-Wilhelm praised the Rangers for giving the Bulldogs trouble in their close third set.

"Wisconsin-Parkside really turned up their game and they really turned on their offense, they had a great third set by changing their

strategy up," Brandel-Wilhelm said. "They are a very well-coached team, I don't think we adapted quite fast enough to that, but I thought we picked it up towards the end."

Senior outside hitter Olivia Henneman-Dallape led the Bulldogs this match with 16 kills and 17 points, senior setter Kaylee Maat led with 35 assists and 11 digs and senior middle hitter Chelsie Freeman had six kills and 10 points.

Freeman credits her teammates to helping her succeed in her role.

"I think this past weekend I was able to rock my role and execute on the court in a way that helped the team be successful," Freeman said.

"My teammates allow me to be successful on the court by them doing an amazing job on executing what we had planned for the game and us playing as one is what allows everyone to be successful on this team."

The Bulldogs vehemently beat the Pride, winning the first set 25-13 and then winning the second set 25-16. Ferris ultimately won the third set 25-20 despite the Pride giving them trouble.

Henneman-Dallape led this match as well in kills with 11 and in points with 13, senior outside hitter Claire Nowicki had eight kills and 8.5 points, while senior middle hitter Syann Fairfield had seven kills and eight points in the match.

Maat spoke about how they were able to dominate the Pride on offense.

"Coming in, we wanted to spread it out and see how many hitters we could get involved and how many people we could get off the bench to see some action," Maat said.

The Bulldogs will look to improve on their historic winning streak with more GLIAC

conference play this week. Ferris will have traveled to Grand Rapids to face off against Davenport on Tuesday, Oct. 8 then come back home for matches against Saginaw Valley State on Friday, Oct. 11 at 6 p.m. and then on Saturday, Oct. 12 at 3 p.m. against Lake Superior State.

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