Houck no-hits! Sophomores team up to shut down Wagner in 6-0 win — SEE SPORTS, A7

AUDIT FALLOUT: SECOND IN A SERIES

CENTS & ACCOUNTABILITY

Whoa, gravity! UCF students experience the weightlessness of Zero G flights — SEE NEWS, A2

Football player dies at workout Coaches suspend spring practice

MADAR NAVI Staff Writer

Over the course of several years, UCF has loaned $74 million of university revenue to the UCF Athletics Association Inc. and has yet to begin repayment, despite missed deadlines. The loan, according to the Office of the Auditor General, violates Florida Statutes and cannot be accounted for.

Since 2003, the university also transferred $49 million of student athletic fees to the association from money charged to students' tuition at $11.72 per credit hour. "We send bills to them and they pay the bills. We just use the university as a bank. It's just a cash flow thing for us," said Brad Stricklin, assistant athletics director for business and finance. "It's just a cash flow thing for us.

Stricklin said that because revenue for the association wasn't sufficient at the time, the university never had the authority to give the loans and the problem, audit manager for colleges and universities Ted Sauerbeck said, is in its conception phase. "Since 2003, the university also transferred $49 million of student athletic fees to the association from money charged to students' tuition at $11.72 per credit hour. "We send bills to them and they pay the bills. We just use the university as a bank," said Brad Stricklin, assistant athletics director for business and finance. "It's just a cash flow thing for us.

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Students enjoy Zero G flight JUILLIAN KNOTO (colleague)

Many people have wondered what it would be like to be completely weightless, but few people have ever experienced it. A group of students for the Exploration and Development of Space (SEDS) at UCF took it a step further than wondering and experienced weightlessness through a program sponsored by Space Florida.

Space Florida is a state agency that is trying to expand the space industry in Florida. Their goal is to try to get companies to have headquarters in Florida, as opposed to more popular places, such as California.

"There are three foundations, and they are business development, improvements in workforce development and having a good education base, which is where my involvement is," said Larry Cheu, an associate engineering professor at UCF who oversees the program.

Cheu provided an experiment for the students to build. There were six groups that worked to create and design their own experiments. These were from UCF, two were middle school groups, and one was a high school group.

"I gave them the dimensions for a box, which were 14x14x14-kb, and the only restriction was that no flammable material could be used," Cheu said.

From the six groups, one person from each group was chosen at random to go on the Zero G flight completely free of charge.

"They gave them the opportunity to try out their experiments in a setting with zero gravity. This is the first time Space Florida has sponsored a program like this, because teachers who would like to promote space education in the classroom are usually the passengers on the Zero G flights.

One of the people selected to go on the flight was unable to attend at the last minute, so one of the UCF groups was able to go by two members. That group was SEDS at UCF.

Stephen Hirst, Ben Corbin and other members of Students for the Exploration and Development of Space experience weightlessness during a Zero G flight.

"We did a drawing to make it fair," Hirst said.

Hirst said he hopes to work for NASA in the future, but this was his first time working on a project like this. "I was selected to be group leader because everyone wants to get learning experience," Hirst said. "I will definitely need leadership skills for this.

Hirst said the most difficult obstacle to overcome was getting the group leader the large amount of paperwork. It took them about two months to complete their creation. There were six students working on the project, called "14 Minutes to Midnight," which happened to be the time it was finally labeled.

Corbin said they decided to create an "autonomous experiment designed to view the fluid interactions of density fluids under the influence of artificial gravity." This device creates a transparent, rectangular box filled with ball wax and half oil.

"When it is turned on in zero gravity, Corbin said, "the fluids separate into three volumes on the sides and the oil in the center."

Despite the successful outcome, this group had its fair share of setbacks, from fighting difficulty getting simple functions to work to the Federal Aviation Administration notifying them two weeks prior to the due date that they had to change their experiment due to the Federal Aviation Administration’s policies.

"It was also really tough to figure out what we would need to go on the Zero G flight. On the Zero G flight, the plane flew in a periodic manner consisting of roughly eight drops, allowing the passengers to experience 30-40 seconds of weightlessness per drop."

"Out of interest, everyone jumps within the first five percent of weightlessness. Hirst said, "so there was a lot of lessers afterwards."

Both Hirst and Corbin said they hope to have this opportunity again.

"I’d be looking forward to a Zero G flight for four years," Corbin said. "It was only rigorous about the possibility of getting sick."

Only about 5 percent of passengers actually get sick on Zero G flights. They’re given medicine before the flight to help prevent that particular side effect.

"It was the best flying," Hirst said about the flight. "It feels like the world is falling down around you."

The Zero G flights are only for four or more students participating that same day. Each flight costs more than $200 per person, so being able to take a flight at no cost truly is a great opportunity for students with strong interest in space exploration.

For more information on Zero G flights or to reserve a seat on an upcoming flight, visit www.gozero.com.

LOCAL WEATHER

Today Weather

10:00 AM

High: 82° Low: 66°

TODAY IN DETAIL

Sunny, breezy and dry, with a north wind 10 to 15 mph increasing to 15 to 20 mph.

Tonight Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers. North wind 10 to 15 mph becoming north.

Thursday

High: 73° Low: 56°

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**LAW**


**NATION & WORLD**

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**LOCAL & STATE**

Fair AZ

County police said Monday a fourth man in their car was hospitalized in critical condition. No arrests have been made.

Bendriss was on probation for his role in the death of 39-year-old Dutch tourist Lecture. This occurred in a car crash last week in Oviedo.

“We think it’s ironic – it’s just unfortu­nate that this happened to a young man and her husband had pulled into the gas station seeking directions to a mall.

Two young men pleaded guilty to second-degree negligence and theft of a vehicle decades-long prison sen­tence.

Bendriss, then 16, was the driver of their getaway car and pleaded guilty to a robbery charge in exchange for his cooperation with prosecutors.

He was sentenced to 12 years probation, starting in February.

Diepkerk's death rallied Florida's tourism industry, but the time was still struggling to recover from the lingering effects of 10-foot waves in the state in 1992 and 1993.

Bendriss, at the time, was the leader of a small group of young men who had pulled into the gas station while sitting in a car.

Bendriss told police he had been studyingbiology.

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**HIGHER EDUCATION**

What's in the news at colleges around the country

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Supreme Court seems favorable of gun rights

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court appeared ready Tuesday to end a case that tested whether the District of Columbia’s handgun ban infringes on the Second Amendment.

The justices were aware of the historic nature of their undertaking, engaging in an extended 98-minute session of questions and answers that could yield the first definitive statement by the court on the meaning of the Second Amendment since 1939.

A key justice, Anthony Kennedy, echoed Justice Antonin Scalia’s early rebuke about when he would set the stage in the proceeding that the Supreme Court appeared ready to hand over to the justices to decide

The high court’s first extensive examination of the Second Amendment since 1939 grew out of a challenge to the District’s ban on handgun possession by residents of the nation’s capital.

The court has not conclusively interpreted the Second Amendment since its ratification in 1791.

The basic issue for the justices is whether the amendment protects an individual’s right to own guns and whether that right is somehow tied to service in a state militia.

The amendment reads: “A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

Gov. Bobby Jindal, a resident of South Dakota, Maine, and national spokesperson for the Second Amendment Freedom Coalition, said the court should not decide the issue “until individual states, federal states meet to protect the people, to protect the right to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”

While the arguments ranged broadly, advocates of gun rights and opponents of gun restrictions, demonstrated outside court Tuesday.

Dozens of protesters mingled with tourists and waved signs saying “That the Washington, D.C. government knows what it is doing not our guns” or “The NRA helps preserve our rights of people or terroristic buy guns.”

Members of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence chanted “guns kill us” as followers of the Second Amendment Se­curity and Maryland Shall Shall Deserve showed “more guns, less crime.”

A line was set up to get into the court for the historic arguments, having formed two rows earlier and extended more than a block by early Tuesday.

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Sauerbeck said he believes that the ACC's rules should be strict enough to prevent illegal activity. However, he added that it would be difficult to enforce such rules, especially if players were found to be using performance-enhancing substances.

Sauerbeck also discussed the issue of player safety. He noted that the NCAA has made significant strides in improving safety measures, but there is still room for improvement. "We need to continue to work on this," he said. "It's a complex issue, but we need to be proactive in order to protect the health and safety of our student-athletes."
BRIAN MURPHY

The UCF baseball team has been successful in nearly every scenario in the 2009 season, but the Knights (10-7) win of the season was headlined by one of the most special accomplishments in baseball: a no-hitter.

Sophomore Mitch Houck and Austin Hudson combined to throw the program’s second no-hitter and its first in 19 years. During the Knights’ 6-0 victory over Wagner on Monday night,

Houck pitched the first seven innings, using a combination of big, breaking curveballs and dropping sliders to strike out a career-high 13 batters.

It was one of those things where they never really got around to seeing it out of my hand,” Houck said. “It was just devolving from tonight. It’s definitely the greatest thing that’s happened in my college career, no doubt about it.”

Houck walked the first batter of the ninth inning before being taken out of the game by manager Scottings. The Knights scored once in the inning on a sacrifice fly by the station.

The motion was quite a bit different from Houck after Hudson achieved what he had started.

“I don’t know if I’ve ever jumped that high before, to be honest,” Houck, who was sporting the remnants of shaving cream pie on his face after the game, said. “It was just devastating them tonight. It’s definitely the greatest thing.”

Monday night was also the culmination of a long road for Houck, who fought through inconsistency on the mound during his past five appearances, including 17 against Siena on March 21.

“I was excited,” Hudson said. “I knew what was going on and I was just happy that I could finish it out for Mitch and the rest of the team.”

Knights win the rubber match of their first conference series of the season against their CUSA rival.

The Knights will open a three-game series against the Golden Eagles from Friday through Sunday. It will be the first time in 180 degrees, hitting .467 as the year for both teams. The Golden Eagles took two of three games from the Knights last season.

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2nd-place Tulsa up next for UCF

Mens tennis

The UCF Men's Tennis team dropped a close contest in California against the University of California-Davis on Friday.

The Knights grabbed the doubles point with victories by Gianluca Romano and Samul Sadek and Johan Holmberg and Brock Sakey, but were unable to finish off the Aggies in singles competition.

In the 4-3 loss, UCF's Hjort Schrader grabbed 6-1, 6-4 victories, but no one else from UCF won a match.

Brock Sakey pushed Khunpol Tusa to six games, but he finally pulled out a 6-7 (9-7), 6-2 victory.

The loss ended a three-match road trip to California, in which the Knights were 2-1. They return home Friday for a three-match homestand, starting against Cornell at 2 p.m.

Women's tennis

Unlike other sports teams over Spring Break, the UCF Women's Tennis squad dominated its event over the break at the Rolling Stone Spring Break Race on Saturday.

Facing Rollins, Georgia and Washington College, the Knights swept all six events.

In the Varsity 8+ race, the lightweight and novice crews finished first and second, respectively.

In the Varsity 4+, the Knights, beat Rollins by 15 seconds. UCF also won by 34 seconds in the Varsity 4+ race.

The largest margin of victory for the Knights came in the Lightweight 4+, in which they beat Rollins by 32 seconds.

The Knights return to action this weekend to wrap up of some of the team going to Austin, Texas, for the Longhorn Invitational from March 21-22, while some of the squad will head to Florida's Gator Invitational on Saturday.

Women's golf

The Knights combined for a 5-over 544 led by a stellar performance from Stephanie Connolly, who finished in fourth place.

Connolly was one of four players in the tournament to not shoot over par, and her even-par 216 was just strokes better than the next UCF player.

Florida State won the team title, shooting a combined 540-over par, while the Seminoles' Caroline Wozniacki won the individual title with an 8-under-par 208.

Men's tennis

Although the finished eighth in the high jump, the top eight U.S.-born players are named All-Americans.

Washington State's Elia Jang-
mark, from Osaka, Sweden, won the men's title, while the women's event was won by the University of Florida for UCF.

Women's tennis

The UCF Women's Tennis team followed its 2-1 win over Syracuse with a close 4-3 loss to Dartmouth on Sunday at 9-7 on the women's side.

Like the men's team, the Knights played in two of the doubles matches for the doublepoint, but won only two of the singles matches.

Anna Tidemandi booted Jessie Adie 6-6, 7-6, 6-4 in the No. 4 spot, while Kjila McNicol beat Megan Zinns 6-4, 6-3 in the No. 3 spot.

Yakimchenkova teamed with Susan Rice for an 8-2 win in doubles, while Jennifer Caroli and Elena Suvorova grabbed the other doubles win.

The Knights continue their five-match homestand when they take on Tulsa tomorrow at 2 p.m. at the UCF Tennis Complex.

New coaches

The UCF Men's soccer team hired Jim Colfer as an assistant coach, head coach Ryan Cunningham announced Monday.

Colfer spent the last seven years at Oregon State, where he served as head coach and worked with the scout team.

The UCF coaching staff also hired a new assistant coach in Michelle Chatman, head coach Todd Dugas announced Monday.

Chatman will be the recruiting coordinator, director of operations and goalkeeper coach.

She was formerly an assistant coach at Georgetown.

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UNC tops in classroom

The report intended to provide a snapshot of academic trends by Richard Lapchick, head of the Institute for Diversity and Social Progress. "The good news is that the gaps are narrowing slightly," wrote. "The good news is that the gaps are narrowing slightly."

According to NCAA data, graduation rates for black and white basketball student-athletes in particular, and student-athletes in general," Lapchick wrote. "The good news is that the gaps are narrowing slightly."

"Higher education's greatest failure is the persistent gap between African-American and white basketball student-athletes in particular, and student-athletes in general," Lapchick wrote. "The good news is that the gaps are narrowing slightly."

UNC was the lone school among the top 4 teams in the NCAA Tournament last year. Black and white athletes continued to succeed in higher proportions. Two of the No. 2 seeds, Tennessee and Davidson (91 percent), Purdue (92 percent) and Xavier, a No. 3 seed, was close behind with a 90 percent success rate. Butler (92 percent), Notre Dame (91 percent) and Davidson (92 percent). "We've seen some real progress," Lapchick said. "The good news is that the gaps are narrowing slightly."
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YOU GET WHAT YOU PAY FOR.
Abolishing the board: a bad idea

Florida's Legislature is proposing a measure that would mean disaster for the university system.

Get this: The Legislature wants to replace the existing elected Board of Governors now. That's right. At first, they wanted to strip it of its authority to set tuition rates but now they’re thinking even that’s too much to give all to the governor.

If this amendment passes — we hope it does not — it would be the third time a major change in the way universities are governed has come to pass in less than a decade. This just goes to show how often we can comfortably be made to believe in something that we seem to know.

The university has a seat at the board, but the fact they did it reverberated throughout the system. The larger picture here is quite unsettling.

The Orlando Sentinel states that the elected commissioners would have “policy-making and oversight responsibilities in public education.” As a result, the proposal ensures that all the elected members of its policy-making powers could be questioned and cross-examined on an advisory panel with five Board of Trustee members.

Who could say no to that kind of a board? The real question is why were these citizens and lawmakers are angry at them for using the Legislature over the right to set tuition rates. It is a reason to be concerned. And if they were justoki your hands in handcuffs.

Another scandalous point was raised last week. The former commissioner of Athletics stated, “This is something we’re doing as a way to keep us on the right track,” he said. “We have to focus on the future and what’s best for the university.”

The Sentinel brought up another point about the board: “Rather than squabble amongst themselves, it should focus on upgrading the football program and the other athletic programs.” This is a point very well taken.

A strong Board of Governors is important to the university’s success. It is the responsibility of the Board to make sure that the Athletics Association needed money for things such as North Carolina or Georgia, convincing the university to build a stadium for those teams. As it now stands, we could better compete with state universities such as Georgia, as the University of Florida, to build a stadium for any other university.

As a result, they ended up bj the Department of Athletics in the upper echelon of the country. The Athletic Association was given control over the university’s athletic programs.

This may sound like an argument for the Board of Governors. But, in the end, this scandal sheds some doubt on the ethics of the Board of Trustees, most of whom are now elected commissione...
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