

STROCKTALK



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Spring practices come to an end with spring game

After several weeks on the practice field, the FIU Golden Panthers squared off against themselves in the first Blue/Gold Scrimmage, marking the end of Spring drills. The FIU defense was looking for redemption after giving up 35 points to the Golden Panther offense during the previous scrimmage, and they found it with a convincing 39-7 victory. The defense forced four turnovers on two interceptions and two fumble recoveries, and recorded eight sacks. Defensive lineman Chris Horne (Miami/Carol City) led the charge with five tackles and two sacks.

FIU quarterbacks David Tabor (Kissimmee/Poinciana) and Joe Fleming (WPB/Palm Beach Lakes) combined for 167 yards on 17 completions. Tight end Edwin Pierre (Miami/North Miami) was their main target, catching five balls for 42 yards.

It took seven defensive stops in the first half before the offense got on track – but that didn't last for long. Behind the running of Jerrid Lundstedt (Homestead/South Dade) who picked up 33 yards on one drive, Tabor and the offense had the ball first and goal at the defense's 1-yard line.

On first down, Tabor fumbled the snap, but recovered. On second down, he fumbled again, but this time wasn't so lucky, as defensive lineman Pedro Farias (Davie/Cooper City) found the ball and ended the drive.

The offense finally got on the board when Tabor directed a 75-yard, nine-play drive that ended with a 10-yard touchdown reception by Julius Eppinger (Miami/Miami Senior). The catch was Eppinger's second of the series. The first, on a first-

and-10 from the offense's 40-yard line, went for 22 yards into defensive territory.

"It turned out just the way I thought it would," said FIU Head Coach Don Strock. "The defense got embarrassed the last time they played, and they came out ready to play today. The offense figured, 'We have their number, so we'll just take it easy.'"

"But we told them all, 'The defense can't take one week off, and the offense takes off the next. That's how you get beat.' We're working with both groups for consistency. But a lot of good things happened out here during the spring game, and the effort was there on both sides."



Trading cleats for hammers and nails



This month seven FIU football players left their cleats on the field and headed to Little Haiti to help build a house for Habitat for Humanity. The players, who spent the day on the roof installing shingles, helped build "house #10," which was sponsored by the Miami Dolphins.

"Helping to build someone's home didn't even feel like work," said James Knapp, defensive back for the Panthers. "I met the little boy who will be living in the house with his family and he was ecstatic. It made me feel great to give of myself to someone who needed it."

Steve Lance, a volunteer for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for the past six years, helped bring the Golden Panthers to the Habitat project. "Activities like these help our student athletes move forward spiritually and it gives them the opportunity to give back to the community," said Lance.

Habitat for Humanity is an organization that helps qualified applicants purchase homes at low interest rates. Volunteers come together and give their time to assist homeowners in building a house. The homeowners themselves are required to spend time building their own home.

From left to right: James Carraway, Steve Lance, Lance Preston, James Knapp, Nick Carreno, John Kelly, Kris Thomas and Lazaro Leon (not pictured).





Meet the Golden Panthers

Student Athlete Profiles

#45



Name: Kyle Salas
Age: 18
Height: 6'1"
Weight: 207 LBS.
High School: Plantation High School
High School Coach: Frank Hepler
High School Football Stats: Second Team All County
High School Water Polo Stats: First Team All County
Intended Major: Engineering

Kyle Salas

LB

#27



Name: Kevin Timothee
Age: 20
Height: 6'0"
Weight: 170 LBS.
High School: Plantation High School
High School Coach: Frank Hepler
High School Football Stats: 100 yard rushing average
Intended Major: Broadcast Journalism

Kevin Timothee

CB

#81



Name: Dannon Monroe
Age: 20
Height: 6'4"
Weight: 200 LBS.
High School: Plantation High School
High School Coach: Frank Kepler
High School Football Stat: Member of district championship team (three consecutive years)
High School Scholastic: Top 18% of class
Intended Major: Accounting

Dannon Monroe

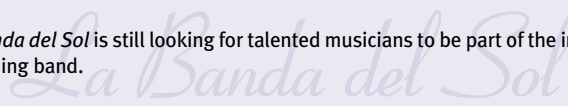
WR



Monroe, Timothee and Salas all attended Plantation High School and played under the direction of head football coach Frank Kepler. The former teammates, now continue their tradition of playing football together at FIU.

Marching to the beat with the golden panther band

FIU's *La Banda del Sol* is still looking for talented musicians to be part of the inaugural marching band.



Marching band audition dates are: Saturday, June 8 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
 Saturday, July 13 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

For more information on the band or for audition information, email Greg Martin at gmartin@fiu.edu, call 305-348-1137 or visit www.fiu.edu/~music/gpb/.

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 Reserved End Zone Package - \$54

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