Amid a sea of nearly 200 red-clothed fans, eyes fixed on flat-screen televisions in the Time Warner Cable Flight Deck of the UD Arena, sat 12 girls.

Over in the corner, leaning against the bar, was their head coach and his staff.

After a flash on the screens, in an instant, the sea of red exploded into a roar at the sight on the television graphic, and the 12 reasons for why they did so suddenly became one.

The University of Dayton women’s basketball team found themselves looking at their matchup as they secured the best NCAA Tournament seed in school history.

“Well I’m a pessimist so I thought we were going to get like a 10-seed,” head coach Jim Jabir said with a smile.

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Dayton, the No. 11 seed in the South region, takes on the sixth seed, Ohio State University, Thursday, March 20, at 12:15 p.m., at the First Niagara Arena in Buffalo, N.Y.

“It'll be a lot of outside media attention and there will be a lot that goes into the hype because Ohio State is such a monster,” head coach Archie Miller said. “When you're in the state of Ohio, you deal with it all the time and being who we are, obviously we're very excited to be in the tournament and our players will be motivated.”

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UD to face in-state rival

UD pleased with SPD outcome

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A group of University of Dayton students have been visiting stables and riding horses for six weeks with the newly-formed equestrian club.

Victoria Francis, a junior mechanical engineering major and club president said the group has two types of members. The majority are riding members who can take weekly lessons, however, one does not have to ride a horse to be a part of UD’s Equestrian Club. Other members have an interest in horses but mainly take part in club service outings or other events, she said.

“Clinics and service events gets members involved without have to actually get on a horse be cause some people are hesitant about doing that,” Francis said.

The club is slowly working to add more events and grow more members, she said.

“We kind of want to put together a show team, but obviously it’s our first semester, so we’re kind of going with the flow,” Francis stated. “We’re trying to figure out what members want, but altogether we’re focusing on developing basic riding skills and if they’re already experienced, developing skills with riding in disciplines they’ve never been in before.”

UD Director of Clinical Education and club advisor Kelli Huesman said they plan to offer several options for riders and auditing members of the club such as future trips to equine events in the Ohio and Kentucky areas.

“The club is meant to allow UD students with an interest in horses and all that goes along with them an opportunity to come together;” Huesman said.

The club was started by Francis and Huesman, who worked together through winter break to bring it into fruition.

“The club got started after myself and Victoria separately had inquired if there had ever been any interest in an equine club with Shea Ryan who works with the RecPlex,” Huesman said. “We apparently contacted him both within just a few weeks of each other. He connected us and it has taken off from there.”

It’s been a long journey to get this club going, but Huesman and Francis are confident everything will work out.

“This has grown bigger and faster than we ever thought or planned, so logistics have been a little hard, but we just tell people it’s a work in progress and to bear with us as we get started,” Huesman said.

Any current UD student can join this club as long as they are in good standing with the university. There will be a fee upon joining the club, but since it is new this semester, there is only a fee for those who choose to take the riding lessons, Francis said.

Although they are just getting started this semester, Francis and Huesman are thinking big and have ambitious goals for the future of the club.

“Hopefully by next semester we have things more set in stone,” Francis said. “After two semesters of good standing, we want to convert it into a club team. We’ll also have opportunities for service and leadership. People are already contacting us about service projects.”

“We are considering working with therapeutic riding groups for challenged children as well as rescue groups,” Huesman said. “Nothing definitive yet, but the students will be expected to create service work to fulfill their club obligations.”

The club rides at a barn called Wetherbrooke Farm between Bellbrook and Waynesville about thirteen miles from campus, owned and operated by Joy Von Handorf, who is an upper level eventer and an ICP-certified trainer.

“I started riding there before the club even started just so I could get the feel of it,” Francis said.

Students who have no transportation carpool there with other students that do have cars.

UD vans would be used if the club will be traveling any long distances, Huesman said.

For more information and for those interested in joining in the fall, contact Victoria Francis through the club email udayton-equestrian@gmail.com, or visit the website udequstrain.weekly.com.


class papers? No! Manuscripts!

HONORS STUDENTS present their thesis work

Friday, March 21, 1 to 5 pm
Kennedy Union 2nd and 3rd Floors

All Are Welcome

HONORS STUDENTS SYMPOSIUM 2014
**CAMPUS**

**UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE FOCUSES ON INEQUALITY**
The third annual Consciousness Rising event will begin Thursday, March 20, at 6 p.m. at River Campus. This year’s event will focus on “Effects of Structural Inequality,” covering topics including racism, human trafficking, and corporate responsibility. Students can participate in dialogue groups, workshops and interactive exhibits. The conference will end Saturday, March 22. For more information, email consciousnessrising.ud@gmail.com.

**EXHIBIT FEATURES ‘ART FOR CITIZENS AND CELEBRANTS’**
Students are invited to the opening event for “Art for Citizens and Celebrants,” an exhibit featuring the work of artist Robert C. Koenick, Sunday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. on the first floor of Roesch Library. Koenick attended the School of the Dayton Art Institute and is known for his intricate sculptures. He received an honorary degree from UD before his death in 1995.

**NOBEL PEACE WINNER PRESENTS AT 2014 SPEAKER SERIES**
Jody Williams, a Nobel Peace Laureate and chair of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, will speak Thursday, March 20, at 7 p.m. in the KU ballroom as part of the 2013-2014 Speaker Series. The event is free and open to the public. The theme of this year’s series is “Human Rights: A Global Challenge.” For more information, visit the speaker series website at www.go.udayton.edu/speakerseries.

**HONORS STUDENTS PRESENT THESIS AT SYMPOSIUM**
UD senior honors and Berry Scholar students will their theses to the community Friday, March 21, from 1 to 5 p.m. in KU. Each session will include a formal presentation and Q&A portion. Family and friends of the presenters are welcome to attend. No registration is required.

**RESCUE SQUAD HOSTS OPEN HOUSE**
Students interested in joining the UD Rescue Squad can attend an open house event Sunday, March 23, from 2 to 4 p.m. The event will be held at the squad house at 214 Lawann Ave. Questions can be sent to rescuesquad-ud@gmail.com.

**PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS EATING DISORDER AWARENESS**
The Women’s Center will host “A Thin Line,” a program sharing the struggle of a girl with an eating disorder, Tuesday, March 25, from 7:30 to 9 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Contact Pattie Waugh at 937-229-5740 for more information.

**DIFFICULTY | medium**

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**NATION & WORLD**

**GM REGRETFUL FOR DEATHS LINKED TO RECALLED VEHICLES**
After GM recalled 1.6 million vehicles last week, CEO Mary Barra publicly apologized Tuesday for any deaths linked to the issue. The vehicles were recalled due to faulty ignitions that affected airbag deployment last December. Twelve deaths have currently been linked to the situation.

**STAR WARS: EPISODE VII TO FILM IN MAY**
The seventh episode of the beloved series will reportedly begin filming in May in London although the identities of the cast have been kept quiet. Walt Disney CEO Bob Iger said there will be familiar faces along with new leads. The film takes place 30 years after 1983’s Return of the Jedi.

**LOCAL**

**JANUARY OHIO JOB GAINS 2ND BEST IN THE NATION**
According to a U.S. Department of Labor report released Monday, Ohio had the second-largest job gains of any state in January, adding 16,700 positions. Grabbing the top spot on the report was Texas with 33,900 positions. In Ohio, the sectors that added the most jobs included construction, business and professional services and manufacturing.

**DAYTON, COLUMBUS MAYORS WAGER OVER UD-OSU GAME**
Dayton Mayor Nan Whaley and Columbus Mayor Michael Coleman have a friendly wager over the The Ohio State University and University of Dayton March Madness matchup on Thursday, March 20. Whaley has wagered a basket of Dayton favorites: Esther Price Chocolates, Mikesells Potato Chips and Buckeye Vodka. Coleman’s wager includes Columbus specialty Jeni’s Splendid Ice Creams. Coleman promised to fix Whaley a Buckeye Vodka Martini “from his winnings.”

**ARMED ROBBERY OCCURS ON ALBERTA STREET**
At approximately 1:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 18, a man reported a robbery on the 900 block of Alberta St. The victim said he was approached by two males who displayed a firearm and demanded his wallet. The victim was struck with the firearm before the suspects fled east through A-Lot. The victim was not a University of Dayton student. UD Public Safety is currently investigating the incident.

**NFL PLAYER, REALITY STAR WELCOMES BABY**
New York Jets wide receiver Eric Decker and wife Jessie James welcomed baby girl Vivianne Rose into the world Tuesday morning. James reportedly went into labor Monday afternoon around 3 p.m. The couple publicized their pregnancy on their reality show, “Eric & Jessie: Game On.” Both mother and baby are reportedly in good health.

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Putin strong arms into Crimea, stirs-up unrest in Ukraine

CONNOR MABON
Opinions Editor

Cold War-era tensions have resurfaced over the past several months as diplomats from the United States and European Union engage with their equally capable Russian counterparts to determine the fate of Ukraine’s future and the autonomy of its southern-most region in Crimea.

“It’s an imperial power play by [Vladimir] Putin to build his Eurasian Union without losing Ukraine,” said Jaroslaw Bilocerkowycz, an associate professor of political science at the University of Dayton and a specialist on Russia and Ukraine. “Putin invaded on the pretext that there’s a threat to ethnic Russians and Russian speakers living in Ukraine, but there isn’t one.

“He may think he’s gaining popularity and raising the nationalist flag, but the Russian economy will take a deep hit for who knows how long. He may win Crimea, but he could lose Ukraine overall and further strengthen the opposition,” Bilocerkowycz said.

Ukraine, which is a vital artery of trade between Russia and the rest of Europe, has contended with government venality since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. What opened the floodgates for the 2013 popular uprising was when former Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich officially rescinded the alignment and free trade agreement with Europe in favor of strengthening ties with Russia.

“Russia offered [Yanukovich] a $15 billion loan package and cut the costs of natural gas prices by a third,” Bilocerkowycz said. “On one hand, it was a generous offer. On the other, it looked more like a bribe.”

Years of rampant corruption and gross mismanagement of public funds by government officials force-fully veered Ukraine off course and is now a country marked by civil unrest, devastating debt and political uncertainty. The previous regime is accused of stealing $70 billion from Ukraine’s coffers to fund their lavish lifestyles, according to reports by the New York Times.

“Ukrainians learned a lot from the Orange Revolution of 2004,” Bilocerkowycz said. “This uprising was much more transformational because they are eager to build the right political culture. Young, even old Ukrainians and Crimean Tatars overwhelmingly support an alignment with Europe because they see a brighter future taking that route.”

The desire to hold their politicians accountable is a testament to the great Ukrainian voice calling for economic reform, stability and growth. But the Russian invasion in Crimea, a region with deep historical and cultural significance, has become a formidable obstacle for the new interim government to hurdle over.

As Ukrainian officials are trying to avoid a disastrous conflict, Russia is attempting to arrange a seismic geopolitical shift between Crimea and mainland Ukraine by way of annexation. Last Sunday, Crimeans went to the polls in what appeared to be a lopsided election to vote on secession from Ukraine under the watchful eye of heavily armed Russian troops. According to Russian media outlets, Crimeans overwhelmingly voted in favor of seceding.

Russia has likened this referendum for Crimea’s annexation to Kosovo’s independence from Serbia during the breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, one which the U.S. considered legitimate. In 2014, the U.S. is taking a different stance then they’ll feel the pain. It’s a challenge for not only Ukrainians, but for Europe and the United States as well.”

One bill passed to aid Ghetto clean-up event

ALISE JARMSUZ
Staff Writer

At its weekly meeting, the University of Dayton Student Government Association passed one bill to help fund clean-up event in the Ghetto.

The bill, which awarded $750 to help cover the costs of Green Sweep, was approved unanimously with 16 voting senate members present.

Green Sweep, an event organized by the Sustainability Club, aims to spend a day cleaning up trash on campus and in the student neighborhood this Sunday. A cookout will also be held.

The $750 will cover food, supplies and the cost of trees and shrubs that will be planted during the event.

Three bills were tabled at the 10-minute meeting this weekend due to the organizations absence.

SGA meets every Sunday at 6 p.m. in the Kennedy Union Ballroom and is open to the UD community.
The number of citations and arrests were from all jurisdictions patrolling the student neighborhood over the weekend, including: 30 Public Safety officers, seven to 10 Dayton Police Department officers, four Sinclair Police Department officers and Ohio Liquor Control Board agents, Burt said.

Two fundraisers every year. One with the fraternity’s national chapter, with donations going to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and one that has a personal connection to Delta’s members, he said.

Students interested in donating to the cause can make checks payable to Delta Tau Delta - Theta Rho Chapter and should be sent to 21 Kiefaber St.

More than $5,000 was raised by the Delta Tau Delta fraternity hosting a fundraiser for Greg Patton, a cancer patient and friend of many students. Although Patton does not attend the university, his connection with UD stems from his friendship with many students from St. Louis, Patton’s hometown, as well as several fraternity members.

“KanJam for Greg” was organized by sophomore mechanical engineering major Ryan Shea, who serves as the community service chair for the fraternity, and sophomore education major Joe Byrne, the fraternity philanthropy chair.

Patton’s battle with Leukemia, cancer of the blood cells, began in October of last year, when he was diagnosed after months of feeling ill, Shea said. For six months, Patton has been intermittently hospitalized for intense rounds of chemotherapy treatments, radiation and blood transfusions but has now reached remission, he said.

Byrne said the fraternity tries to accomplish two fundraisers every year. One with the fraternity’s national chapter, with donations going to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and one that has a personal connection to Delta’s members, he said.

“I decided to become a key member in running this event because Greg, who we are raising money for, is one of my best friends from high school and I felt a need to do everything I could to help him out,” Shea said.

An estimated 386 students comprising 182 teams participated in the KanJam tournament, a sport of shooting Frisbees into a can, at a cost of $10 per person, Shea said. With single-elimination, teams quickly competed and moved up in ranking.

“Cancer is nothing easy,” he said. “I think a lot of students appreciated the police support and no student wanted to see what happened last year happen again,” Spanel said.

Schramm said there was “good attendance” at the numerous non-alcohol events the university hosted and blamed last year’s events not on a lack of planning or programming, but partially on the impact of social media.

“The responsible behavior we saw this year was because much of the students saying, ‘That’s not what UD is about’... we heard that a lot (Monday) and a lot of positive comments from students supporting them did not want to get out of control and wanted to remain responsible,” Burt said.

Students interested in donating to the cause can make checks payable to Delta Tau Delta - Theta Rho Chapter and should be sent to 21 Kiefaber St.
Students reflect, provide insight on racism at UD

Kwynn Townsend Riley, a sophomore journalism major and African-American student, had a similar experience after President Obama’s re-election in 2012.

“After [President Obama] won, my friend, who is also African-American, and I went back into Founders, and I’m just like ‘Yes! Obama won two times,’ and this one girl she had her door open... and as we walked past I heard it behind me, and it was just like ‘Stupid ‘n words,’ and then she just slammed her door,” she said.

Townsend Riley said as far as she is aware, the situations she has faced at UD because of her race are typical of other African-American UD students she knows.

Townsend Riley said she is also disappointed in the lack of interest in African-American issues and events on campus, stating it makes her feel underappreciated as an African-American.

She said it appears many stereotypes and fraternities are supported by the university more than the African-American organizations, and she feels marginalized by the general lack of support for celebrations Black History Month and Martin Luther King Jr. Day for the majority of campus, while a holiday like St. Patrick’s Day is a source of major festivities.

She said African-American issues are not reserved for African-Americans to take action against, and would like to see more student body involvement.

“Everyone should be seeing this as a problem and should be wanting to do something about it,” she said.

Townsend Riley said despite these challenges, she doesn’t regret her choice to come to the UD. She also said she encourages other prospective students to enroll, but wants to prepare them for the challenges they would face.

Joel Carter, a junior international studies major and African-American student, said although there are positive aspects to coming to UD, if he had known before enrolling what his experience being an African-American here would be like, his chances of reconsidering would have been high.

Carter said he has also faced stereotypes during his time at UD, as well as discomfort with being a part of such a small minority on campus.

“If you come to a school like this, you have to expect to be an outcast in some respects compared to other people, because you don’t look like them,” he said, “For black students, how are you supposed to enjoy your time here, you’re going to leave, if you’re not, if you don’t have enough friends, if you don’t feel part of the group.”

Alana McGee, a senior sociology major and white student, said she is concerned with how some white students perpetuate racism on campus without realizing it.

“I hear a lot of black jokes and you know racist connotations that are ‘just jokes among friends’ but that’s actually still perpetuating racism, quiet racism,” she said.

McGee said she thinks the university needs to do more to educate students on campus about race in order to combat this problem, noting that it was only through her sociology classes that she became aware of these issues herself.

Townsend Riley also said the community needs to actively combat these issues through education and interpersonal interactions.

“College is a 24-hour learning experience,” she said. “So it starts in the classroom, it ends in the student neighborhood.”
Consciousness Rising will empower, raise awareness

“We just have this hope and vision that everyone can leave empowered and a strong sense of how their own specific talents can make an impact.”

The world is a huge, complex place. Finding your fit and how you can do your part to help our world is an intimidating task, especially if you feel as though human rights are being violated. However, after speaking with the president, senior marketing major Erin Peery, and vice president, junior history major Tim Kraft, I was thoroughly impressed with both the event as a whole, and the dedication and hard work that went in to creating this amazing event.

Consciousness Rising focuses on three main tracks: Sex Trafficking and the Hyper-Sexualization of Culture, The Invisibility of Privilege: Racial Divides in America, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). The event kicks off with a talk by Dr. Walter S. DeKeseredy in Sears Recital Hall today, March 20, at 6 p.m. The event continues through Saturday, March 22. There is a concert Friday, March 21, featuring recording country artist Eric Hutchinson, Remedy and the Leap Years at the RecPlex beginning at 6 p.m. The full schedule in detail can be found online on the Consciousness Rising web page, www.udayton.edu/students/consciousness_rising/#6.

At River Campus on Saturday, March 22, exhibitions will feature each of the three tracks. The exhibitions are a complete sensory experience where students will be immersed in each issue. As Kraft and Peery explained one of the exhibitions from last year, I was already planning how I was going to get everyone I know to attend. They created an entire exhibition on American obsession with chocolate, showing how the media has left the public uninformed on how it is produced - there was even a life sized hut to show how those who produced chocolate lived.

One of the most inspiring parts about this particular event is the message that it sends. “CR is tailored towards every single major in every school at UD, Peery said. “We just have this hope and vision that everyone can leave empowered and a strong sense of how their own specific talents can make an impact.”

Unlike other events, Consciousness Rising offers solutions alongside awareness. At the end of each exhibit, there is a “What Now?” portion that shows how each student can make a difference.

“The important thing about all this, you won’t go out of it feeling guilty,” Kraft said. “It’s meant to be something to empower students and raise awareness.”

From speakers to music and the incredible exhibitions, there is something for each person at Consciousness Rising. The event is one of the more creative and intensive experiences for UD students and should absolutely not be missed.

To get involved, visit the UD Consciousness Rising Facebook page and contact Erin Peery at peerye1@udayton.edu or Tim Kraft at kraftt2@udayton.edu.

My hometown: Erie, Pa. offers something for everyone

ERIN CALLAHAN
Staff Writer

Erie, Pa., located along the southern shore of Lake Erie, is a small town that encompasses something different for everyone. You can find campfires on every beach in the summer; shred the slopes at a nearby ski resort in the winter, and catch a beautiful sunset over the water. Junior communication major Rob Baumann, a native of this lakeside city, admires its family atmosphere and the different adventure that each season brings.

Born and raised in Erie, Baumann described it as much more than a small town. The culture is diverse and friends are found everywhere, he said.

“It had that small town feel, but sometimes it had the big town feel as well,” he said. “I had a big group of friends, and all of our parents were connected in some way. But at the same time, since my high school was the biggest in Erie, I was meeting new people every day.”

Baumann said the unexpected diversity of Erie created an environment that made him more culturally aware.

“You had a little bit of everybody,” he said. “We had a lot of international students, and other people were really rich while others were really poor. We were all intertwined, and I was friends with many of those different kinds of people. Even though we are a small town, I think we are much more diverse than people think.”

In accommodation to this diverse population, Erie offers many opportunities and activities to enjoy, Baumann said. And every season brings something new.

“In the summer, it’s all about water. We’re either boating, jet skiing, or having campfires on the beach. In the fall, we like to go out to a place called Buttermilk Falls. It’s about a 15-minute walk through the woods along the creek bed, and it’s so beautiful that time of year.”

Although Baumann said he prefers the summer and fall seasons, he said winter and spring have their own appeal as well.

“I go tubing and ice fishing here and there. We also have a ski resort not too far away from us. My friends who are avid skiers and snowboarders find that a good time. Spring, eh … it’s very rainy, and I swear we are always the last city to lose all the snow. Our spring never really lasts that long.”

There is one unique feature of Erie that Baumann said he recommends seeing, no matter the season. He said he and his family regularly visit the peninsula at Presque Isle State Park, slightly northwest of the city.

“It’s 11 miles one way and 11 miles back, and there’s one road that you can take all the way around,” he said. “There’s places to pull over and park, where one side is the bay and the other is the lake. A lot of people run and ride bikes there, there’s beaches and boating docks, and volleyball courts. It’s great scenery, with woods and water on either side of you during the whole drive.”

However, despite all of the great people and activities that Erie offers, Baumann said he was looking for something more, and that he didn’t want to support the stereotype: “If you don’t leave for college, you’re never going to leave.”

“Erie is like a bubble. It’s an obstacle that a lot of people can’t advance from,” he said. “I just personally think everyone should get out at least once. Dayton’s not the biggest town, but it does show me that there are other things out there. I would like to possibly raise a family in Erie because I loved growing up there, but in my 20s, I think I’d want to be in a more poppin’ city.”

“Erie really is one of a kind though,” Baumann said. “It offers everyone a little bit of everything, and I believe, as a town, it produces great people.”
KATIE CHRISTOFF
Asst. A&E Editor

Funny man Jason Bateman boasts an impressive resume as an actor – he won a Golden Globe for his role on “Arrested Development,” has received countless nominations and took the lead in wildly successful comedies like “Horrible Bosses” and “Identity Thief.” Having established himself as an actor, Bateman is now trying his hand at something new: directing.

“Bad Words” will mark Bateman’s directorial debut. He directs and plays the lead role of Guy Trilby in the raunchy comedy, which tells the story of a foul-mouthed 40-year-old man who exploits a loophole in the National Spelling Bee, allowing him to compete against kids.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ACTING AND DIRECTING
He began by explaining that acting and directing are completely different artistic outlets.

“With acting you’re trying to convince people you’re someone different,” Bateman said. “With directing, you’re creating a completely different world for the audience and you have to shape that world.”

He called directing an extremely gratifying experience.

“I’ve been acting for the last 15 to 20 years with the goal in mind of trying to create enough capital, enough relevance, enough of a profile in the business as an actor so that I can ask for the directing reins,” he said. “And it’s been going well for me for a few years, so they finally let me.”

BALANCING THE DARK HUMOR

So why did he choose “Bad Words” as his first directorial project? That seemed to be the million dollar question, and the answer was simple: he identified with the humor.

“I have the same dark sense of humor, fortunately or unfortunately, and it just really made me laugh,” he said. “I also knew that with that dark humor in the script comes the obligation to counter balance that with something more sophisticated and a little more human.”

He was instantly attracted to the script of “Bad Words” because he had a vision for how to achieve that balance.

“You’ve got to earn those big, uncomfortable comedic moments for people, otherwise it just feels gratuitous or arbitrary, so it required me to do a lot as an actor and director to strike that balance,” he said.

TAKING THE LEAD

Bateman had a clear vision of how his main character, Guy Trilby, should be played, so finding the right actor was a crucial first step in his directorial process. He specifically looked out for a few actors to play the role, but they were all unavailable or uninterested. This made the goal of how the role should be played, clear, and he decided to embrace it himself.

“I thought I could give it a shot, since I felt so clear about how this character needs to be and get away with all of these things. In other words, I knew how to make him likeable when he’s very unlikeable on paper,” Bateman said. “And I also thought it might kind of lighten my workload by not having to direct the main character. So I went for it, and it was very comfortable.”

Turning Guy Trilby into someone the audience would end up rooting for was one of the biggest challenges Bateman faced in directing the film, so he was careful to avoid overly crude humor.

“There is a very crude, tacitless, generic ‘popcorn’ version of this kind of humor and that is not something that I was ever interested in making,” he said. “There is a guy that is going through something cathartic with this film, this guy is deeply hurt, he’s wounded. And there’s nothing funny about what’s going on in this movie to him.”

FUTURE DIRECTORIAL PLANS

Bateman is very pleased with how his directorial debut turned out. He admitted that it’s not a film for everyone, but hopes that people will see more to Guy than his horrible character on the surface.

“I was able to accomplish something that we all try to get to at some point in our lives and hopefully multiple times, which is being proud of yourself,” he said. “You know, if you challenge yourself and you step up to it and you execute in a way that you hope that you would, that’s some of the stuff that fuels a lot of great growth.”

Bateman has clearly caught the directing bug. He is currently working on “The Family Fang,” which he will direct and star in alongside Nicole Kidman. He said he’s really looking forward to it after the great experience he had with “Bad Words.”

“Bad Words” will be released in theaters on Friday, March 21.

Student-written ‘Blossom’ debuts Friday

DANIELLE POHLMAN
Lead A&E Writer

University of Dayton’s Studio Theatre will present “Blossom,” opening Friday, March 21, at 8 p.m. The cast of seven, directed by junior theatre and English double major Jenna Gomes will be hosting the show in the UD Black Box Theatre in the CPC room 155.

“Blossom” centers on a soldier, Julian (year/major Michael Dosede) who returns home to his family from his deployment in Iraq with an injury. Julian struggles to adjust to his former life at home. The only solace he finds is in the comfort of hallucinations of his dead comrade, Seth (junior major Rob Moore).

“Blossom” is unique to the Black Box because a student written production has not been performed in many years. Gomes said she wrote “Blossom” this past summer and is using it as a production class through the theatre department after pitching it to her advisor.

Gomes said playing has always been one of her passions, and she became interested in the topic of war because of her cousin who passed away in Iraq. His comrade had a difficult time assimilating to being back home and felt guilty for the death of his cousin.

“A lot is talked about what is going on over there, but not when the [soldiers] get back,” Gomes said. “That’s why I wanted to address these heavy issues of war and [post-traumatic stress disorder] in a place where mostly comedies are done.”

The cast, Gomes and the two stage managers year major Colleen McDaniel and year major Andy Frey worked to make the production come to life since auditions in the end of January. Gomes quickly realized that not everything was going to turn out the way she may have envisioned, but she enjoyed watching the actors bring her characters to life.

“This completely student-written production is a full-length creative play for those who like theatre and writing. It tackles topics for modern society to become more aware,” Gomes said. “It is the perfect base because we are college aged people and someday we’re going to be carrying the world.”

Show times are March 21 and 22 at 8 p.m., and March 22 at 2 p.m. at the Black Box theatre in the CPC. Room 155. For free reservations call (937)229-3685 or visit the Facebook Event, “Blossom.”

JASON BATEMAN
Jason Bateman’s directorial debut, “Bad Words,” is a dark comedy about a troubled man who enters a grade-school spelling bee.

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John Carroll University
THE MEN OF

424 Stonemill

Seniors Dylan Corwin, Michael, Tyler Edwards, Gabe Alvarado and Ethan Klosterman live on the 400 block of Stonemill, also known as “retirement row.”

CHRISS SANTUCCI/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

M-Fest will promote mental health, remove stigma

MARY KATE DORR

Staff Writer

Saturday, March 22, ArtStreet will be hosting the 11th annual M-Fest, a musical festival presented by the University of Dayton’s organization Active Minds. Active Minds is the mental health awareness club here at UD which organizes several events throughout the year to help promote their mission. “Our mission is to stomp out the stigma of mental health on college campuses,” said junior psychology major and M-Fest public relations manager, Jack Raisch.

The “M” in M-Fest stands for Mike, as the event began back in 2003 after UD student Mike Littler died by suicide. The festival is held every year to remember and honor his life, and help reduce the stigma behind seeking help. “It is focused on what can be done to create positive mental health, especially on college campuses,” said Raisch.

This year M-Fest will be held from noon until 6 p.m. at ArtStreet with musical performances, tasty food, games and powerful personal testimonies. Raisch said therapy dogs will be present as well. The musical acts include several of UD’s own: Nine/Ties, Dana Clark and Alec Brown, Schnieder and Co., Libby Gill and many more, including the UD Dance Team. Musician Craig Owens will also be making an appearance.

“Past experiences with M-Fest have been overwhelmingly positive,” Raisch said. A variety of performances help contribute to the success of the event. In the past, there has been participation from service organizations, musicians, artists, testimonies and clubs that all lead to a creative and positive atmosphere.

“It sheds light on often unspoken topics in an inviting atmosphere,” he said.

M-Fest is Active Minds’ biggest event on campus, so most of the year is devoted to creating the best possible festival. “The major aspects in preparing M-Fest are: coordination, coordination, coordination,” Raisch said.

In preparing the festival, Active Minds must be constantly be in contact with different service organizations and facilities. The graphic designers, this year consisting of senior visual communication design major Nick Cooper and team, must begin early as well to create the brilliant and colorful logos and designs.

Erin Anderson, junior middle childhood education major, and Michele Palmer, sophomore intervention specialist, are the co-presidents of Active Minds, and have contributed a lot of time and effort into M-Fest. “It’s a hectic job, and they do it with efficiency and a smile on their face,” Raisch said. Other team members include Jamie Flannery, senior psychology and English major, who is in charge of scheduling both bands and testimonies for the event, and junior Psychology major Lauren Boumekzi. Active Minds is a chapter of a national non-profit organization, also by the name of Active Minds. The organization was founded in 2002 under the name “REACH,” but eventually changed their name to Active Minds. Raisch said that he has loved his time with Active Minds because of its steadfast mission.

“The quote that is on our Facebook page is, ‘We’re not a big commitment, but we’re kind of a big deal,’ and this speaks to the heart of Active Minds,” he said. “Anyone can take daily, little actions to help a stranger, help a friend and to even help oneself.”

M-Fest is $5 for a wristband that allows admission. With the $10 purchase of an official M-Fest shirt, the wristband is free. The organization will have a table up outside of Kennedy Union from March 17 to 21 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. selling both wristbands and T-shirts. For more information, visit the Active Minds and M-Fest 2014 official Facebook pages.
**VIBRANT:**
THE START OF SPRING MEANS THE START OF THE UD WAY OF LIFE

Let’s give ourselves a pat on the back. We survived this winter.
Relatively speaking, the cold this year wasn’t that bad, as our friends from Michigan and Cleveland are more than happy to point out. The snow certainly was worse up north, as it always is, and southern Ohioans have a deserved reputation for being squirrelly when it comes to icy roads.

We don’t care how much snow you’ve seen in your life though. Any temperature that needs a negative sign is cold, and you’re not fooling anybody with your fancy “shorts in a blizzard” attitude.

Therefore, we couldn’t be happier to announce that today is the official first day of spring 2014.

We spent all winter, and part of fall, cooped up indoors, bonding over the cruel winter with our friends who dislike the cold, and we’re itching to get back to the porch.

Let’s take a moment to appreciate what today means. Today means the start of sunlight. It means the start of flowers, baby birds and the green returning to the grass. It marks the beginning of lawn parties, baby pools and the building anticipation of baseball season.

Starting today, we gradually shed our winter layers, until our skin can once again feel the warm sun, left uncovered by our shorts and t-shirts. It’s the start of going for a walk, not really to anyplace in particular. The start of bike trips to the Oregon district, or along the river, waving to the kayakers as they float the other way.

Today is the beginning of outdoor concerts, where the music is pretty loud, but not so loud that you can’t hear your friends singing along, for better or worse.

In essence, today is the start of vibrancy. As life grows around us, our appreciation for life follows suit, and there’s always room for that.

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**This year’s St. Paddy’s Day a relative success**

The sun always seems to shine on St. Patrick’s Day, for the good ones at least.

If you remember last year’s celebration it was marked by overcast skies and the flashing lights of squad cars from 12 different police departments responding to what they dubbed riot-like behavior. In 2014, it was different. Despite the minor incidents scattered about the day, this year’s St. Patrick’s Day was more or less a successful celebration for Ireland’s patron saint.

As expected, students creatively donned their vibrant green outfits and pretty much did what they do every weekend when the sun is proudly making its presence known, we drink.

The heaviest concentration of students was, as usual, on Lowes St. with other parties distributed throughout campus, but I failed to see what the university constitutes as a “large gathering.” It seemed like the cops were overly anxious to break up any grouping of people exceeding 10 members. Their behavior reflected the stringent new policy in order to fulfill the expectations of the administration. Their goal was to control the crowd, and some may feel it was excessive. I personally lean toward the latter.

On the contrary, I do have to offer some credit to the campus police because they did a good job at maintaining relative order in the neighborhoods and keeping the peace amongst students. Those who truly acted way out of line were cited or booked downtown, and rightfully so. I consider these the bad apples that ruin the barrel, or in this case our student neighborhood.

Those who make the mistakes on a holiday like St. Patrick’s Day and get in trouble can blame their irresponsible consumption of alcohol. If anything, that’s what UD’s aggressive campaign should have focused on the most.

Overall, though, the actions of the Flyer community should demonstrate to the administration that we are indeed a responsible student body. We know how to have fun without causing major disruptions to the natural order of community happenings.

The pre-St. Patrick’s Day campaign could have very well helped to ensure this year’s success, but I think the majority of the credit should be reserved for the student body.

I believe it’s a shared sentiment amongst the many fellow Flyers that this St. Patrick’s Day celebration was much more controlled and reserved compared to the other ones. Yet, even with front yards in the Ghetto spilling over with enthusiastic students there was something in the air that weighed the traditional excitement down quite a bit.

I couldn’t tell if this was because of the new policy or the unnerving presence of police, but either way this year’s celebration felt different. I think it’s safe to say, though, that no matter what happens, UD students will always find a way to enjoy themselves on St. Patrick’s Day.

Let’s hope the sun keeps shining on this beloved holiday tradition.

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**Word on the street...**
What are your impressions of this year’s St. Patrick’s Day?

“I thought it was amazing. St. Pat’s Day was fun, but it seemed controlled.”

-KELLY COLLINS
Sophomore
International Studies

“I wasn’t here last year so I can’t make a comparison, but it was a lot of fun.”

-JOHN LEONI
Freshman
Business

“Compared to last year I felt it was more subdued. The crazy community feel wasn’t really there.”

-RACHEL MAJOR
Senior
Psychology
UD stands strong

I was worried that students weren’t going to enjoy themselves this year on St. Patrick’s Day. There was already so much talk among students about the restrictions being implemented to ensure there wouldn’t be a repeat of last year. I was nervous about how strict things would be, but to be honest I was shocked.

I was looking forward to the much-anticipated holiday, but on Friday and Saturday I didn’t see much of a celebration that the university was so worried about. I’m still shocked by the lack of trust the university has with its students.

The whole campus had enough cop presence to make it look like something had already happened with an NSA-like approach to monitoring students. There were campus police everywhere, from Lawmaven Ave. to Marianist Hall, to UDP on Brown St.

Almost immediately on Friday afternoon, police officers began to set up barricades outside of Marianist Hall and in front of the Rec-Plex restricting parking to P Lot for students who had their permit. This was truly effective for outside guests who aren’t a part of the UD community. But, I still felt like students were almost like little children placed inside of a play pen.

I felt as if our wings were taken away. As a check-in attendant for Housing and Residence Life, it was sad to see so many upperclassmen, who are legally old enough to consume alcoholic beverages during St. Patrick’s Day weekend, being unnecessarily confronted by campus police.

Previously, I experienced hardship with students as a check-in attendant and this weekend I was expecting this again. However, I received the complete opposite. I received kindness, compassion, benevolence and help. In fact, my best friend even stayed with me during one of my shifts this weekend and shared similar sentiment. I am so happy to hear that students still had a great time, to see some of the festivities,

Science sees shift in funding

Science is changing. Science in the United States is now becoming increasingly funded by the private sector and wealthy individuals.

While our country has been relatively aware of this shift, no one is sure how fast or by how much the shift from publicly funded to privately funded research is occurring.

Whether or not this is a positive change for science in the 21st century, the National Science Foundation recently announced its plans to investigate this prominent shift in research funds.

Perhaps one of the biggest changes in funding began with the cancelation of NASA’s space shuttle program (despite popular belief NASA didn’t completely shut down). With the loss of the U.S.’s most well-known space exploration tool it enabled the rise of privately funded companies such as SpaceX, which has a planned shuttle launch to Mars in the very near future. Another rising group is Mars One, whose goal it is to send a group of civilian astronauts to Mars to develop a futuristic settlement once reserved for science fiction novels.

While this is an awesome goal, it may be on the crazy side (signing up means you are agreeing to never return to Earth).

If the goal of Mars One and other privately funded space enterprises raises some ethical concerns in your mind, you’re not alone. This subtle, yet gradual rise in private funding for scientific research has raised quite the ethical debate. The key component to this argument is that advancement in science will seek to benefit only the extremely wealthy.

For example, critics worry that disease and illness research will focus only on diseases that affect certain groups of people rather than being a diverse look into discovering cures and treatments that apply to all.

On the other side of this argument are those who welcome the rise in private funding. Some scientists, such as biochemist Martin Apple, consider this new source of research money better than government funding simply because the rich have the ability to target a problem (such as polio) and chase after the solution until it is found, whereas government research tends to be bogged down by politics and ideologies.

Whether shifting science to a privately funded research endeavor will be good in the long run or not remains to be seen. However, the impact of the rich donating money can already be noticed. At the moment brain science, as its commonly labeled, seems to be the biggest receiver of money.

Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft, has donated $500 million to set up a brain science institute in Seattle. Other areas such as marine biology and public health, both of which drastically shrink due to sharp federal budget cuts, are seeing a rise in funding as well from Eric Schmidt (Google) and Bill Gates, respectively.

While these endeavors may seem one-sided in the near future, I’m glad that science is being heavily invested in now.
St. Mary Development, a faith-based housing nonprofit in Dayton, is looking for a VISTA worker to help transform the lives of more than 600 low-income seniors. You will identify poverty-related needs by creating and implementing surveys; researching potential funders and writing grant proposals in support of our resident services programs. Your work will help expand our services that connect seniors to healthcare, transportation, utility assistance, food programs and more.

**Time frame:** Start June 23, 2014 and end June 26, 2015

**Work location:** 2160 E. 5th St., Dayton, OH

**Pay:** VISTA Members receive a modest living allowance, health coverage, and the choice of either an education award or an end-of-service stipend upon completion of service.

**For more information about this position, contact:**

Lynn Coleman
Director of Resident Services, St. Mary Development Corporation
lcoleman@smcd.org

**Learn more about St. Mary Development:**

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**Learn more about VISTA:**

www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps/americorps-vista

We work toward the day when all residents of southwest Ohio – especially the economically disadvantaged – have a decent, affordable place to live and become part of a community.
Selecting the perfect bracket never a simple task

Fifty-six percent.

At the close of last semester, after months of preparation and thorough studying, I glanced at the score scribbled on my final exam. It read 56 percent. Man, I thought, this will kill my GPA. This really wasn’t like me, to bomb a test so badly.

Diligence with taking notes hardly mattered in the end. When I turned the final in to the professor, I was confident in my answers for each question were supported with logic and well thought out.

Yet, the 56 percent placed me near the top of my class. According to espn.com, my official class rank clocked in at 46,580 out of millions of entries from students across the country. I imagine professors Vitale and Lunardi were across the country. I imagine professors Vitale and Lunardi were impressed with the results as I used their instruction to guide my preparation for the final.

For college basketball fans, filling out a 2014 NCAA tournament bracket serves as the final exam for the basketball season. Every student of college basketball filling out a bracket understands the enormous challenge of picking the perfect bracket.

Every student of college basketball filling out a bracket understands the enormous challenge of perhaps the sports world’s most ubiquitous, accessible, and challenging test. In 2013, after years of poor results, I finally perfected the skills necessary for picking a successful bracket.

A 56 percent mark means that out of 64 games, I picked 36 correctly. The number includes compounds missed picks, meaning there were deep tournament runs by teams I eliminated from my bracket in the first round, which continued to plague the bracket as the tournament progressed.

When the 2014 NCAA tournament opened at UD Arena Tuesday, March 18, students of college basketball, which includes both die-hard and casual fans, must complete their final exams promptly before the start of second-round games Thursday, March 20.

They will fill out their bracket, each with a personal philosophy guiding how they choose to do so. Some use advanced metrics, some follow an innate basketball intuition, and some go through the process with no rhyme or reason. Last year when they put effort in, their bracket tanked epically. Why even bother?

Formulating a Final Four prediction days before the start of the tournament is much like cramming for an important final the night before the exam. The cramming method works for some, and I unfortunately practice it frequently, but often preparation trumps procrastination, regardless of ability.

The process does not start with picking up a pencil on Selection Sunday. It begins with the first games of the season in November. A Final Four prediction is a dynamic process, constantly evolving throughout the season as the fan takes mental notes from snippets of games from unfamiliar and out-of-market teams throughout the year. In picking an upset come March, watching 10 minutes of a seemingly obscure game in December can prove critical.

The most serious fans watch ESPN for the Sun Belt Conference matchup between Georgia State University and Arkansas State University to gain some familiarity with a possible Cinderella instead of a primetime matchup. Most of the fun in bracketing stems from picking the upset. Naturally, the process involves much luck and risk taking is inherent for any potential upset pick. Knowing this, I have identified two different types of risk that can affect the success or failure of a bracket for any particular year.

Cinderella risk stems from the annual unpredictability of the tournament. Upsets in the opening rounds occur every year and lower seeded teams rattle off several wins in a row, sometimes condemning the problem. A player from a non-traditional power can catch fire and carry a low-seeded team deep into the tournament.

In sports, there is perhaps no greater equalizer than the three-point shot in college basketball. A team from a power conference may outmatch their opponents in almost every physical category, but to cancel out that advantage, all it takes is for a player to get hot for 40 minutes. That’s both the beauty and mind-numbing frustration of college basketball, depending on which side you are on.

All brackets face Cinderella risk. They simply cannot escape from the streakiness of college basketball.

The other, avoidable type of risk to a bracket is what I will call hometown bias risk. Blind optimism in the form of taking the hometown team further than what logic dictates can lead to dangerous results for any bracket. This goes for allegiance to a particular conference as well. Picks should not be clouded by an allegiance to a particular school or conference.

For example, if a UD student takes Dayton to the Final Four, the Flyers’ chances of validating that pick do not increase in the slightest.

Understanding the basics will help with the completion of a successful bracket.

Atlantic 10 Conference Standings

(as of Tuesday, March 18)

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<th>Men’s Baseball</th>
<th>Upcoming Schedule</th>
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*Denotes Home Game
UD men preparing for the Buckeyes

MEN'S PREVIEW  
(cont. p. 1)

The Buckeyes overall hold a 6-3 lead, with Dayton’s last win coming Dec. 19, 1987, at St. John Arena in Columbus, Ohio. OSU won the previous matchup in the series, a 74-63 home victory in the quarterfinals of the National Invitational Tournament March 26, 2008, at Value City Arena.

UD went 23-10 and finished in a tie for fifth in the Atlantic 10 Conference this season, winning 10 of their final 12 games. UD enters the tournament after being one of the final at-large teams to make the field of 68.

OSU also received an at-large bid with a 25-9 record, and is led by head coach Thad Matta, who is long familiar with UD. Matta came to Ohio State after a three-year stint in the same position at Xavier University, where he owned a 7-1 record against the Flyers. He also is 12-4 against his former assistants that have taken head coaching jobs elsewhere. Miller spent two seasons under him at OSU in 2008 and 2009.

“Thad’s teams always do a couple things that will never go away. One is they’re always incredible on defense, they never beat themselves. They don’t foul. On offense they very rarely turn the ball over. Whether they are a very good shooting team or they’re not, they always take care of the ball, which means you’re going to end up having to beat them. They’re never going to beat themselves.”

Matta said a key of Matta’s teams has been to rely on veteran players, which the Buckeyes have again this year as Craft and senior guard Lenzelle Smith Jr. have combined for the third most wins as a senior class in OSU history.

Matta said he isn’t concerned about UD having extra motivation facing an in-state rival.

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SPORTS
Thursday, March 20, 2014

NCAA Tournament Coverage

2014 NCAA Women’s Tournament Bracket

Seattle, WA

3/23 @ 5:30pm
1 SCAR

3/23 @ 8:00pm
9 ORST

Chapel Hill, NC

3/23 @ 12:30pm
12 HAMP

3/23 @ 3:00pm
13 UTM

University Park, PA

3/22 @ 6:30pm
15 SDAK

3/23 @ 3:00pm
16 CSN

3/23 @ 8:00pm
8 MTU

STANFORD

3/23 @ 3:00pm
11 FLA

3/22 @ 4:00pm
10 FSU

Ames, IA

3/22 @ 4:00pm
2 STAN

3/22 @ 6:30pm
7 ISU

STANFORD

3/23 @ 12:30pm
14 WICH

3/22 @ 4:00pm
10 FSU

3/23 @ 12:30pm
4 UNC

3/23 @ 5:30pm
16 CSN

3/23 @ 3:00pm
11 FLA

3/22 @ 6:30pm
15 SDAK

UD women set up against Florida

WOMEN’S PREVIEW
(cont. p. 1)

“I thought maybe we’d go to Toledo because it’s close, but I’m surprised at our seed. It speaks to the program and the respect that we’ve gained.”

Playing No. 11 University of Florida Sunday, March 23, at 3 p.m. on ESPN, No. 6 seed Dayton will travel to University Park, Pa., on the campus of site-host Penn State University.

Though they finished the season 23-7, and are advancing to the NCAA Tournament for the fifth consecutive season, Dayton will be playing with a chip on its shoulder.

“A lot of excitement, shock and relief,” said sophomore point guard Amber Deane. “We wanted to win that [Atlantic] 10 Championship so badly and we felt that that may have hurt our chances to get a better seed, but this is great.”

After falling to Fordham University in the A-10 tournament title game March 9, in Richmond, Va., Dayton met disappointment right in the face.

“The edge got there as soon as that buzzer went off against Fordham,” Jabir said. “We talked about it. We got off the bus after Richmond and we just ripped them. I said, ‘if you’re not going to do things our way, if you’re not going to be aggressive and sharp, you can go somewhere else.’”

It was a disappointing experience, but one that leaves them with a lasting image during the week of practice.

“I’ve let them know in certain terms that we did not show up [against Fordham],” Jabir said. “I keep telling them, ‘Fordham has our trophy,’ and every time there’s a down moment, I’m yelling at them: ‘Fordham has our trophy.’”

For Deane, the loss, and that image, gave the Flyers something to feed on.

“I felt a lot of disappointment in myself,” Deane said. “I know we could have won that game. We beat them earlier in the season here. We didn’t score enough points, didn’t play good enough defense, but we get to play this game and get to take our anger out.”

The Gators, who finished 19-12 overall this season, had one First Team All-Southeastern Conference winner in senior guard Jaterra Bonds and one All-Freshman accolade with guard/forward Ronni Williams.

The SEC matchup is one Dayton faced during the regular season, but against Vanderbilt University.

“Vanderbilt was a very aggressive and tough team,” Jabir said. “We learned a lot of lessons when we played them. We’re going to see a lot of athleticism on Sunday and we’ll be prepared. I think our schedule has helped us get to a place of preparation and hopefully we’ll be ready to go.”

Should Dayton advance in the opening game, they could face a matchup against host and No. 3 seed Penn State.

Deane said she recalls the experience she gained from last year’s NCAA Tournament trip. The Flyers, who earned a higher seed than their opponent, St. John’s University, had to make the trip and face the Red Storm on their home court. Dayton narrowly escaped in double overtime 96-90.

“I thought we handled last year really well being that ‘away team,’” Deane said. “We played so much on the road this year and even a couple of times in Pennsylvania. I don’t really mind it. I don’t think our team really minds it. We’ve just got to tie our shoes up and go out there and give it all we have.”

After defeating the Red Storm, the Flyers matched up with the SEC’s University of Kentucky, falling 84-70.

This time, the mindset is different.

“I think it’s important that we don’t show up just happy to be there, but to play with great determination and make a statement in who we are and who we want to be,” Jabir said.

Now with the respect of a No. 6 seed, Dayton goes from enjoying the journey to controlling it.

“As soon as I’m done with you guys we’re going back to the offices and pulling up tape and start breaking it down,” Jabir said. “We’ll devise a plan and get ready.”

They’ll take that edge on their side as well.

“T think that’s good because we play better when we have a little bit of an edge and have something to prove,” Jabir said. “They’re responded to that really well.”
SIBERT EXCITED TO FACE FORMER SCHOOL

STEVEN WRIGHT
Sports Editor

“The pace. The structure of it, and just the overall mission.”

University of Dayton men’s basketball junior guard Jordan Sibert said these factors describe the difference between his current and former schools prior to the start of his first season at UD.

Sibert transferred to Dayton from The Ohio State University in 2012 after spending his first two years in Columbus, Ohio.

After sitting out last season per NCAA transfer rules, he began his first of two eligible seasons at UD by starting 31 games for the Flyers, averaging less than 26 minutes of action, and leading the team in scoring at 12.5 points per game.

Now at the end of his first season at Dayton, his old and current teams will collide in a second round matchup of the NCAA tournament, Thursday, March 20, at the First Niagara Arena in Buffalo, N.Y.

“Definitely exciting,” Sibert said. “Definitely a blessing to be able to compete again at a high level and definitely against Ohio State. I already texted one of my friends who played there.”

Sibert is still well aware of his connection to the Buckeyes. Most notably, Sibert was on the same AAU team, All-Ohio Red, as Ohio State senior guard Aaron Craft, which won a national championship.

“I talk to him every now and then,” Craft said. “I haven’t talked to him recently though.”

A former first team All-Ohio as a senior in high school, Sibert did not see the floor much at Ohio State, averaging 11.4 minutes for its Final Four team in 2012.

As a sophomore, Sibert found himself in a battle with current OSU senior guard Lenzelle Smith Jr. for a starting spot, but lost the battle and remained an off the bench player.

“Just like with any of these other guys, we were brothers. We were teammates,” Smith Jr. said. “We had another in hard times. I don’t know, I guess things didn’t pan out for him really as well as they did for me. I guess I was just the fortunate one to get that starting position and remain here and play on this Buckeyes team.

... Then again, I’m sure he’s happy with his decision and he’s looking forward to playing us.”

His shooting performance did not help Sibert’s cause to breaking into a bigger role in the lineup. He ended 2012 going 20.4 percent from the field and 26 percent behind the arc.

Getting a year to train while sitting out, finding his stroke again may be the biggest improvement he’s made. Sibert is shooting 43.9 percent from three this season, higher than anyone on his former squad.

“I’ve watched Dayton play this year,” OSU head coach Thad Matta said Sunday, March 16, when asked about Sibert’s improved play. “I think percentage-wise, Jordan is much higher than he was here. In terms of Arch, I don’t know, I have to take a look at it just to see if there’s anything that is common.”

Matta said he hasn’t thought about any motivation Sibert may have going against his former school because he knows he’s doing what he needs to and enjoys seeing guys who are happy with their situations.

Smith Jr. said he can see where Sibert may have some extra incentive to play well.

“Trying to put myself in his shoes, absolutely,” Smith Jr. said. “At the same time, we’re both in the same boat. You lose, you go home. So I think we’ll both be playing jacked up for the same purpose.”

Sibert is one of several connections Dayton has going into the game with Ohio State. Head coach Archie Miller, along with assistant coach Kevin Kwik, are both former assistants under Matta. Sophomore forwards Jaalen Robinson and Devon Scott both played at Columbus Northland High School, alongside former OSU forward Jared Sullinger.

Miller said none of that will matter when the game tips off.

“A guy like Jordan, obviously being there at one point in time will appreciate it and I think he’ll want to play well and he’ll play with a chip on his shoulder, but at the end of the day, it’s really about our players versus their players on a given day.”

Along with the mission, Sibert there’s more of a day-by-day attitude at UD than Ohio State.

The first day of Sibert’s first regular season at Dayton began with a bang by hitting the game-winning 3-pointer in the final seconds against Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne. Now he may be looking to make the first game of his postseason with UD a similar experience.

“When I saw our name pop up, I was just excited to experience this with my teammates,” Sibert said.

“You know, we all worked hard this year and it’s been a tremendous year for us and just be able to get into the tournament, it was a blessing. Then seeing it was against Ohio State, I’ve seen people talking about a battle for Ohio. Just the whole thing, especially with me being a transfer from there, it’s just exciting.”

Know the foe

EVENT: UD takes on No. 6-seed The Ohio State University, Thursday, March 20, at the First Niagara Arena in the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

BACKGROUND: This will be the 10th all-time meeting between the in-state rivals, with OSU holding a 6-3 lead in the series.

KEY PLAYER: Senior guard Aaron Craft is the Big Ten Conference’s all-time leader in steals and one of the best defensive players in its history.

OBSTACLE: Dayton has to find a way to produce enough offense against one of the top defensive teams in the country that has already stated is motivated to face the Flyers.