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Bowling Green State University

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Annual symposium to support student diversity

Maya Kirkling
Reporter

Today, the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship is holding the fifth annual Undergraduate Symposium on Diversity. The symposium is expected to take place from 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Lenhart Grand Ballroom, located inside the Bowen-Thompson Student Union.

The keynote speaker for this event will be Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer Jennifer McCary. She will be giving her speech “Bound by the Unconscious” 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

After McCary’s speech, poster viewing and creative presentations will take place.

Undergraduate students from various backgrounds will present research and creative art pieces on topics related to a range of diversity subjects such as race, ethnicity, culture, sexuality, age, ability, gender and socio-economic status.

Top presenters will receive an original glasswork sculpture made by Joel O’Dorisio, faculty member and glass-blowing artist.

The annual event was formerly held the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day in January.

Soon after, it was pushed to February due to BGSU’s extended winter break. The date change led to a fluctuation in the level of attendance, reflecting in the new decision to host the symposium in November. The hope is that this recent change will make the event more accessible for students while they are still on campus.

Director of the Center for Undergraduate Research and Scholarship, Dr. Cordula Mora, said there are over 40 proposal submissions for this year’s event. Mora said this is an encouraging number in comparison to the same event held in February of the past year, which got half as many submissions.

“In recent years, the Undergraduate Symposium on Diversity has become an important event for students to showcase their research and creative art pieces on topics related to diversity,” Mora said, describing the overall importance of the event.

In 2018, the range of diversity topics went from food insecurity, urbanization and high rates of veteran homelessness to topics on human trafficking, language development and minority representation in film.

Mora continued to describe the symposium on diversity as an opportunity “giving integrated students that voice.”

Although the due date for presentation proposal submissions was in early November, CURS encourages students, staff and other individuals with an interest in educating themselves on diversity to come support.

“Diversity education bridges the gap between different student populations,” graduate assistant for Diversity Education and Multicultural Retention, Paul Mendez, said.

Mendez believes events such as the Undergraduate Symposium on Diversity are important in terms of showing support and celebrating the identities of those outside of the majority population on campus.
How to survive Thanksgiving
Make the most of a sometimes stressful holiday

MK Donisi
Columnist
Thanksgiving is coming up on Nov. 28. This holiday can be a reunion of family members full of laughter and love, but it can also be a day of forced smiles and resentment. But the holiday doesn’t have to be celebrated for people to enjoy the day off from work or school. Personally, Thanksgiving is a nice getaway from the stress of college and a little reunion of my immediate family. However, I know not everyone has pleasant experiences with this holiday. I decided to interview four people in my personal life to get a wider perspective and, for some, get advice on how to deal with Thanksgiving.

Tyler Collins
Tyler moved to Portland, Oregon around the beginning of 2018. He is a linguistics major at Portland State University.

About celebrating Thanksgiving, Tyler stated, “The simple answer is I don’t; mainly because I’m in no-contact with the majority of my family. Thanksgiving was one of two, sometimes three, big holidays where my mother would force everyone to go see the extended family for an outing to keep up with appearances. In my family, Thanksgiving was being around family, even if you weren’t too crazy for certain family members. Now, I don’t even celebrate Thanksgiving. If I wanted to celebrate a holiday about harvest and working throughout the year, so it’s nice to spend some quality time with them during holidays. We don’t get to meet for every holiday, but I enjoy whatever time I get with them.”

Abbey Warschauer
The next person I interviewed is one of my college best friends, Abigail Warschauer. She studies creative writing here at BGSU, and was the university’s beloved mascot, Freida Falcon, last year.

Abbey stated, “I wouldn’t say I make it through Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is always a lot of fun in my house! My family hosts it and we eat a ton of great food, then we hang out the whole day. We do different scavenger hunt type activities and after dinner we look through Black Friday ads, then we call it a night. But it’s such a heartwarming and joyful time together!” Due to her fond memories, Abbey encourages everyone to enjoy the time as best they can.

“Enjoy what makes you happy,” Abbey advised. “And enjoy the love that you’re getting.”

Adam Sommers
For my third person, I wanted to go for someone who isn’t a college student. So, I decided to ask my boyfriend of almost six years, Adam Sommers. Adam lives in Bowling Green and works as a musician.

“My family and I are hardly together during Thanksgiving, Adam advised to, “stick to the positive side of the family and ignore the negative as best as you can. Take the good with the bad and choose the good side. If the good side of your family chooses not to have Thanksgiving, then stay where you’re comfortable.”

Andrew Addessi
The last person I interviewed is my college best friend and roommate, Andrew Addessi. Andrew also studies creative writing here at BGSU. We met our freshman year and have been stuck together like glue ever since.

“My family and I are hardly together throughout the year, so it’s nice to spend some quality time with them during holidays. We don’t get to meet for every holiday, but I enjoy whatever time I get with them.”

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com.
Democratic Debate predictions
Frontrunners will separate from the group in this debate

Nathan A. Halm
Columnist

On Wednesday, The Washington Post and MSNBC will be hosting the fifth Democratic Presidential Primary Debate. This debate will see 10 Democratic candidates take the stage, down from 12 in October. Among the candidates in this debate, the clear front-runners are Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, former Vice President Joe Biden, Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren and the Mayor of South Bend, Indiana, Pete Buttigieg.

Mayor Buttigieg has recently been surging in Iowa, the first caucus state of the 2020 primaries, even surpassing Warren with Biden and Sanders tied in third in the last week, according to Realclearpolitics.com’s Iowa polling averages.

The main goal of this November debate will be to establish the four front runners as separate from the rest of the pack. Pete Buttigieg specifically will be looking to cement himself as a leading candidate for the first time according to polling, a tremendous opportunity for the 37-year-old gay veteran.

Besides Mayor Pete, Senator Sanders will also be looking to push into Biden’s descent and Warren’s recent stalling. Biden has steadily been declining since the start of fall, making several blunders throughout his campaign which sources, such as Politico, have reported on numerous times.

Warren has also been stagnating and even falling in some recent November polls. Despite this, she has been running effective campaign ads against the wealthy and powerful much to the chagrin of the targeted groups. This has given her campaign an added anti-elite energy.

Senator Sanders has had a strong, yet slow, climb after receiving endorsements from “The Squad” : Democratic Congresswomen Rashida Talib, Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. Both Sanders and Buttigieg will be looking to take advantage of Biden’s slips and Warren’s falling support and Warren and Biden will be looking to reverse the trend and get back on top.

As for the topics discussed in the debate, expect another lengthy discussion on health care policy, gun-control legislation, immigration reform and, hopefully, climate change. Climate change was noticeably absent from the last debate much to the disappointment to many voters and political commentators. The candidates on the fringes, Andrew Yang and Amy Klobuchar seem to have the most following past the top four. They would need to perform exceedingly well in this debate in order to make an impact on polling and stand a chance in February.

Overall, look for progressive candidates like Sanders and Warren to spar with the moderate wing – Biden, Buttigieg and even Klobuchar. The question of the debate will be how Buttigieg presents himself as progressive enough to get the support from Sanders and Warren supporters but also Biden’s fleeting base. Sanders will want to cement himself as more progressive than Warren whilst focusing most attention to the two moderates. It should be an interesting one. The debate is scheduled to begin at 9 p.m. and go until 11 p.m.

How debates impact audiences, towns where they’re held

Kaeris Cicchino
Guest Columnist

I didn’t attend the actual Democratic Debate on Oct. 15, but I can say the audience members that were students felt very honored, privileged and absolutely ecstatic to be first-hand witnesses at this event. I’m a marketing intern for Parkerhurst Dining, the catering company on Otterbein’s campus.

Outside of a student’s perspective, it was really cool for me to see a business logistically plan and manage an event like this. I felt like I learned a lot when it comes to networking and managing. As a business major still trying to figure out what to do in life, this was really rewarding.

I’m not a very political person; I like to keep myself aware but not really get involved. This event impacted me less in a political way, but more so to see how divided our country still is. It was still cool to hear the ideas from the candidates and see what kind of values are important to the people in my community.

Regarding the debate, it was very chaotic — not in a disturbing way — but there were lots of people and it kind of made it overwhelming. For a campus with 2,808 students solely, 26,000 people was a lot of traffic. The debate showed how passionate Otterbein was about giving their students real experiences. Within just a week, the Rike Center was completely transformed and 350 officers from around the state came as security. In prior weeks, as well as during the entirety of the event, newscasters crawled all over the campus. This event was more than sharing political opinions: it was about the community coming together in all our differences. The campus was completely transformed and almost unrecognizable. A lot of time and money was put into making sure everything looked right.

Cicchino at the Democratic Debate at Otterbein University.

PHOTO BY KAERIS CICCHINO

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com.
Greek life to talk about hazing

Morgan Lovett
Reporter

BGU’s Fraternity and Sorority Life is having a conversation on hazing because 73% of students participating in social fraternities and sororities have experienced at least one hazing behavior as of 2008, according to data on stophazing.org.

On Nov. 22, FSL will be hosting an event offering a free meal and conversation about hazing called “On the Menu.”

The BGSU dean of students website describes hazing as “any action taken or any situation created intentionally that causes embarrassment, harassment or ridicule and risks emotional or physical harm to members of a group or team, whether new or not, regardless of the person’s willingness to participate.”

Hazing can happen within an athletic team, academic organization or Greek life.

“It is important for the Greek community to raise awareness about hazing and its potential to cause harm to those involved. Fraternities and sororities at BGSU have taken a stand against all forms of hazing,” Lambda Chi’s Vice President of External Affairs Noah Dubasik said.

The event will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Olscamp 113. Assistant Dean of Students and Representative of FSL Stacey Allan gave a glimpse of what to expect at the event.

“This event is an opportunity for students to reflect on the week. It is a chance for students to reflect on what they have learned about throughout the week, ask questions and gain clarification around the topic of hazing and to talk about next steps and be a part of future prevention efforts,” she said.

Allan has two hopes students attending the event are able to walk away with. She hopes students walk away feeling empowered to have conversations with their peers around hazing and feel like their voices and perspectives were heard by their peers and staff members in the space.

“The students at Bowling Green have the power to create change in the community and help eliminate the negative stigma that is associated with Greek life,” Jacquelynne Deuley, a member of Delta Gamma, said. “I am hopeful that myself and my peers can learn from this event the importance of stopping hazing and the effects that it has had on the lives of those whose loved ones have been affected by it.”

BGSU has a strict no-hazing policy for all organizations, in commitment to keeping campus a positive academic environment. Allan shared how the campus deals with incidents of hazing: proactively and reactively.

To act proactively, the campus holds educational sessions and events to educate current members and new members on the topic of hazing. To act reactively, the incident will result in an investigation and if there is validity to the report, the group or individual is held accountable.

“Greek organizations were not created to foster bad behavior and hazing. It is our job to promote the real reasons for our chapters to exist and why they deserve to stay charted,” Deuley said.

While the event is free, registration is required to come to this event. You can register at bgsu.presence.io/form/on-the-menu.
Church Directory

We invite you to worship with us and look forward to meeting you soon!

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on-campus small group
Wednesdays Noon-2p | bgsu union
Look for the Tourquoise Table!
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Whether you are looking for a place of prayer and worship, a faith-filled community, or a relaxing getaway from studies at BGSU, St. Thomas More University Parish is here for you.

Located across from McDonald Hall at 425 Thurston Avenue, St. Tom's is easily within walking distance from the university. “Our desire is to share our love for God and God’s love for us within the University community while exploring what it means to be Catholic,” says Fr. Jason Kahle. “We are a welcoming community for all people.”

We offer ample gathering areas including Fireside Lounge, Anitoch Library, Seton Hall Gymnasium, various meeting rooms, and a parish courtyard. Students are free to use these spaces.

There is also a Newman Housing Community, where students can live with peers desiring to grow deeper in faith together. All rooms are furnished with two beds, desks, chairs, and closets. Rent includes Wifi, utilities, and parking.

We were also blessed with the donation of a laundry facility this past year. Applications will be available to live in the community toward the end of the 2018 year.

For students looking to get involved, St. Thomas More sponsors the Catholic Falcon Community, a Catholic Christian student group on campus. They meet Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Room 201 for fellowship, fun, service, prayer, and group discussions. Topics vary each week, and are designed to engage students, empower leaders, and allow them to fully explore the faith.

St. Tom's and the Diocese of Toledo has partnered with FOCUS to offer weekly Bible Studies for anyone wanting to go deeper in their faith. You don’t have to be a Catholic or even Christian; you just need to be open to exploring how Jesus invites us all into a personal relationship.

We also offer opportunities for service events throughout the year. One major way is through our Alternative Spring Break trip during BGSU’s Spring Break. Students can also serve those in need through the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry on Tuesdays and Thursdays, or during the local service events on Saturdays through the Catholic Falcon Community.

On behalf of Fr. Jason, the St. Tom’s staff, and parishioners we welcome all new and returning students, parents, alumni, and friends into their family of faith. Through the Sacraments, service opportunities, weekly formation events, Koinonia retreat (November 2-4), the Newman Housing faith-based living community, and social gatherings, many opportunities are offered to experience God anew!

FOR MORE INFORMATION check us out on social media. Visit our website (sttoms.com), like us on Facebook (facebook.com/bgsucatholic), follow us on Instagram (@sttoms_bgsu), or text STTOMS to 84576 to receive text updates for our ministries and events.

DAILY MASS:
Tuesday, Thursday: 5:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday: 12:30 p.m.

WEEKEND MASS:
Saturday: 5:00 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m., 9:00 p.m.

RECONCILIATION:
Tuesday, Thursday: 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Friday: 1:00 p.m.
Saturday: 4:00 p.m.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION:
Wednesdays 8:00am-Midnight

“Our desire is to share our love for God and God’s love for us within the University community while exploring what it means to be Catholic,” says Fr. Jason Kahle. “We are a welcoming community for all people.”
Bad looks on the red carpet

Celebrities tend to strut new outfits or dresses that push the boundaries of fashion. Many of these uniforms can have positive responses throughout their fanbases, while others' fashion statements get backlash. Here is a list of celebrities who receive criticism over their red carpet and performance outfits.

**Cardi B**
**Met Gala 2019**

Cardi B didn’t walk the red carpet, she wore the red carpet. This extravagant dress is beautifully crafted with 20,000 bird feathers. It is definitely eccentric and not terrible, but it is unpleasing because too much is happening in one dress. The lines flow in several directions, the dress is long and wide creating a distraction from Cardi’s face, and also shows that too much elegance is an issue. To be fair, Cardi B’s stylist must have spent hours working on this masterpiece and it was the talk of the town.

**Gwendoline Christie**
**Emmys 2019**

This risky look was met with uncertainty from fans. Some commended Christie for the bold look, while others compared her to a religious figure. This dress has detailed-orientated features that make Christie stand out; however the textures and colors made fans disagree. In a way, this dress was a great fit for Christie as she is very tall, but overall, the dress was not ideal. Still, many fans find her as a magnificent monarch in her red carpet outfit.

**Solange Knowles**
**Met Gala 2015**

Solange Knowles is the younger sister of Beyoncé, but now many people know her for this Met Gala outfit. Honestly, the formation of this dress shows an intriguing form of craftsmanship. As the dress itself may not flatter Knowles, there is a sign of admiration in her ability to wear this dress. Many comments were made to Knowles on the vibrancy of the outfit. Most of the additional comments were regarding her lack of visible body in the dress. Her arms and figure are blatantly hidden and further shows the extensive craziness within the outfit. Final comments were made on her shoes; as the dress is very bold, the shoes were a basic black heel that opposed the dress. Knowles will probably play it safe from now and wear a simpler dress.

**Kendall Jenner**
**Coachella 2019**

As someone who walks on the runway or models for photoshoots, Kendall definitely can pull off the appeal of an outfit that clashes in several directions. Her dress is complementary with the chic Coachella pink background and actually reveals a unique color palette. However, the long-patterned gloves make the outfit overwhelming. Even with all the colors that are arguably very unique and gorgeous in their simplicity, the gray purse tones down the excitement of the outfit. Altogether, this bright outfit has some accessories that are seen as wildly outrageous.

**Lil Wayne**
**College Football Playoff Halftime Show 2019**

Lil Wayne became an internet meme for wearing this outfit, otherwise known as the Hamburglar outfit. To add context, Hamburglar was a character portrayed in McDonald’s commercials, who dressed similarly. The performance by Wayne was overlooked, as his outfit spoke louder than his words. The jacket was a bold statement of abstract colors and patterns, but the striped scarf does not visually please the eye. Furthermore, the red pants and light-green shirt with high boots makes the visual appearance seem even more difficult to look at. Even though this outfit got criticized, it became a famous icon. So maybe this outrageous outfit was all a part of Wayne’s plan to attract the spotlight.
Decline in award show viewership

According to USA Today, the 71st Emmy Awards this year had the lowest number of viewers since the award show started to track its viewership data in 1990. A total of 6.9 million people tuned into Fox to watch, which had no host.

This is not a new trend for the award show. The previous lowest viewed show was in 2018 which had 10 million viewers according to USA Today. This year's show was a 33% decrease from last year.

"Pop culture now is a lot more fragmented than it used to be. Everybody would pretty much watch the same TV shows and go to the same movies, listen to the same music roughly and now there's hundreds of channels and streaming, and all these other, TiVo's, still DVDs and all this stuff, so there isn't as much of a common culture. So, I would say most people probably haven't seen most of the shows that are up for the Emmy's or the movies that win the Oscars," Charles Coletta, a professor in the pop culture department, said.

The decline in the amount of people who watch award shows has not been a recent event.

"I would say it has been the last 20 years with the rise of cable," Coletta said.

Coletta talked about how, with award shows like the Emmy's, medical shows could be going up against shows like "Game of Thrones" that has a bigger budget.

The Emmy's are not the only award show to see a decrease in the number of viewers.

According to Statista, 2014 was the last year that the Oscars had more than 40 million viewers, with 43.7 million. From 2015 to 2017, the number of viewers were in the 30 million range. But the last two years, it dropped off to the 20 million range.

"It was always a big deal, who was going to host the Oscars or the Emmys," Coletta said.

In 2019, both the Oscars and the Emmys did not have a host. The Emmys had a decline in viewership this year, but the Oscars had more viewers than in 2018. According to Statista, in 2018, 26.5 million people viewed the Oscars, but in 2019 29.6 million people watched the Oscars.

"I think a host would help. I don't know if it would make the ratings go up that much, but I think it couldn't hurt," Coletta said.

Coletta talked about how today there is an increase in the amount of award shows. There used to be just the Oscars, Emmys, Grammys and Tonys.

"It seems like there are a lot more award shows now than there ever used to be," Coletta said.

He mentioned how there is now the Golden Globes, the Screen Actors Guild Awards and MTV's own set of award shows. He said that they can be predictable of who is going to win and that it is more surprising when they do not win.

Sophomore criminal justice major, JT Ysseldyke, said "internet and streaming services could be playing a role into why less people watch award shows."

"It all started when Robert Downey Jr. went to the Super Bowl. Oh, tonight is Oscar night, everybody is going to watch it, that is not the way it is anymore," Coletta said.

He spoke on award shows trying to gain back the interest of viewers.

"I don't know what they could do. They seem to be trying everything, but nothing seems to be working." Coletta said.

DCEU vs. MCU: Who's more super?

Carol Hall
Pulse Reporter

Today, superhero movies come out what seems like every month. Marvel and DC have been the ones to lead the charge with superhero movies. Famous faces from comics such as Superman, Batman and Spider-Man have graced the big screen with multiple movies for each superhero. While both Marvel and DC have created their own cinematic universes, Marvel movies have always seemed to do better than DC movies, but why is that?

Let's start with the size of both the MCU and DCEU. The DCEU consists of seven movies, spanning from 2013 to the present. "Man of Steel" was the first official movie for the DCEU, with the second, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," coming out three years later. While the DCEU has made seven movies within a six year period, Marvel has pumped out 23 movies since 2008.

It all started when Robert Downey Jr. stepped into the role of Iron Man. This seems to be one of the many reasons Marvel movies have had more financial and critical success. With more movies produced, it's easier to focus on the movies that have done well at the box office, such as "Avengers: Endgame," and not on the ones that haven't done as well, such as "Thor: The Dark World." More movies also means it's easier to tie multiple movies together.

One aspect that Marvel has used to their advantage is the intertwining of all their movies. With the release of "The Avengers" came a cinematic feat that seemed unlike any other. Taking Iron Man, Thor, Captain America and the Hulk, who each had their own individual movies and putting them all together in one was truly remarkable. As they continued to make more films, more superheroes became connected.
BGSU men’s soccer proud of strong season despite bitter end, exceeded MAC predictions

Maxwell Marko
Falcon Media Sports Director

After falling in the Mid-American Conference Championship to West Virginia 1-0, Bowling Green men’s soccer had time to look back on a stellar season and come to the conclusion that they exceeded expectations. Finishing fourth in the MAC after being predicted to finish fifth may not seem like a huge step, but their 13 wins on the season were the most they’ve collected since 2014.

“I’m obviously heartbroken, but what a season,” head coach Eric Nichols said after the championship match. “What a great group of guys. I love practice and I love everything about soccer, but what I’m going to miss is being with this group of guys. Whether it’s dinner or a team meeting or whatever. I’m so happy with some of the memories that they’re going to take away.”

The dedication Nichols’ squad had to the program was rewarded with a historic six representatives on the All-MAC team, the most BGSU has seen since the introduction of the accolades. Goaltender Anthony Mwembia and defender Achille Robin made first-team, while midfielders Zach Buescher, Chris Sullivan and Charlie Maciejewski were voted to the second team.

“To this day, and even after this result, I can tell you we’re the tightest team in the MAC. Our relationships are stronger than any other team,” Maciejewski said.

Maciejewski along with fellow seniors Mwembia, Chris Brennan, Amandy Ayima and Tom Wrobel will depart after graduation, but three of the Falcons’ top five scorers from this season will be returning. Sullivan, a junior midfielder, ranked fifth in the MAC in goals (7) and first in the MAC in assists (9) this year.

Sophomores Kale Nichols and Matt Walters played in all 21 games for the Falcons and combined for 15 points and will be tasked with moving the program forward.

Shayne Nissen
Sports Reporter

Bowling Green volleyball heads into the MAC Tournament as the three seed behind the number one seed Miami and the number two seed Central Michigan. The Falcons have had plenty of success as of late, winning three of their last four contests, including a 3-2 victory over Miami last Saturday.

The Falcons were fantastic down the stretch, especially against the MAC leaders in Miami. Against the Redhawks, the Falcons needed a heroic comeback in order to even force the match to a fifth set. Down 2-1, the Falcons controlled the fourth set and won a tight fifth set to garner a split with the Redhawks this season. The Falcons lost to Miami on the road 3-0 earlier in the season.

Katelyn Meyer and Katie Kidwell were crucial in the victory over Miami as Kidwell led the team with 14 kills and Meyer was close behind with 13 kills. Julia Walz was key on defense leading both teams with 33 kills in the game. Lexi Sauber was also huge for the Falcons as she totaled seven blocks on the night, leading both teams. Petra Indrova made a return to the lineup against the Redhawks after she went down with an injury early in the season. Despite missing nearly half of the season, she still is fourth on the team in kills with 201. Getting her back for the tournament will only add another threat to the already stellar duo of Kidwell and Meyer.

Meyer in particular has been key for the Falcons this season as she leads the team with 370 kills. Her 3.59 kills per set ranks second in the entire MAC conference. Her play in the tournament will directly impact the success that the Falcons look to have.

That success is something the Falcons have not been able to find in recent seasons as they were bounced in their opening matchup against Eastern Michigan last year. That loss came as the number one seed in the semifinals. This year, the Falcons will have to play in the quarterfinals.

That quarterfinal game will be between the winner of Akron and Buffalo. Bowling Green split their matchups with both teams, both losses coming on the road. This time, the Falcons will get both of them at home as the entire tournament will be at the Stroh Center this year.

If the Falcons would win that game, they will then move on to the semi-finals where they would take on the two seeded Central Michigan Chippewas. Bowling Green lost their only matchup of the season with Central Michigan at home 3-0. That being said the Falcons were without Indrova who was their leader in kills at the time of her injury. None of the sets were won by more than three points.

One thing about the Falcons leading into this game is they have momentum, and they are finally getting back to full health. With the leadership of Meyer, Kidwell, and Walz, as well as the return Indrova, the Falcons should have everything they need to make a deep run in the tournament this season.
Hockey develops players’ small skills
Assistant coach emphasizes subtle parts of the game like positioning, repetition

Maxwell Marko
Falcon Media Sports Director

Bowling Green assistant hockey coach Maco Balkovec, coaching at the collegiate level for the first time, is hoping to add value to the little things players do in games and in practice. The British Columbia, Canada native has taken control of “Tuesday skills day” practices where the team attempts to work on the subtle aspects of the game.

“As a coach, one of the things I’ve tried to focus on is the little individual skills and the little plays that you make in 5 feet. Hockey is all about 5 foot races. Being able to make a play out of that allows you to be successful,” Balkovec said.

It can be intimidating at times for someone in a new environment to create change or become a strong influence on the physical skill players have. Balkovec finds that taking it one step at a time reaches any level of player.

“Whether you watch super high-level hockey or low-level hockey, it’s no different,” he said. “It’s about creating space, being able to manipulate the puck, being able to use your hands and those patterns that you need to be able to use in order to be successful.”

It was at the junior level when BGSU head coach Ty Eigner met Balkovec in Wisconsin. Eigner was playing for the Madison Capitals at the time and staying with a billet family Balkovec would visit occasionally.

“Ty and (his brother) Trent (Eigner) were both there and they were awesome dudes. I really enjoyed interacting with them,” he said.

Fast forward about 30 years later, and Balkovec found himself at the helm of the Burnaby Winter Club. A junior program and prospect pipeline in British Columbia, where collegiate coaches would come to scout. Eigner and former head coach Chris Bergeron would take visits to the BCHL showcase, where Balkovec was also stationed.

“They recruited, initially, captains. That really spoke to me because they were talking to me about how they’re all about people. They’re all about taking kids that want to be at that program,” Balkovec said. “You don’t have to play at Bowling Green. Eigner will tell you, we want people that want to be Falcons.”

Even with his emphasis on skill, Balkovec is behind the gravity of character as well. It is something that connected with him in his recruiting discussion with Eigner, and something that he used to get a foot in the door when Eigner was named eighth head coach in Bowling Green history.

“I felt that we were kindred spirits in terms of what we valued in life. So, when he got the (head coaching) job, I texted him right away and said ‘Hey Eigs, congrats. If you need a guy let me know.’ I just kinda threw that out there.

He literally called me two seconds later and we had a quick chat,” he said.

When Eigner made his way back to B.C. for another BCHL showcase, the pair had coffee together and wound up chatting for over two hours. Balkovec was invited to town for an interview, and now he finds himself with the opportunity to better himself while shaping a better team.

Three-on-three battles are one example of the drills done on Tuesday practices.

Balkovec will record videos with his phone while partaking in drills that capture the small details. With “Tuesday skills days,” all players are learning on the fly.

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When Eigner made his way back to B.C. for another BCHL showcase, the pair had coffee together and wound up chatting for over two hours. Balkovec was invited to town for an interview, and now he finds himself with the opportunity to better himself while shaping a better team.

“Teaching skills can be a tough thing to hone. Skilled players have become prevalent throughout the higher leagues of hockey, which are now fast-paced games and focus on the players that can stickhandle the puck in a phonebooth, and everyone is at a different level with and without the puck.

When breaking down the play, however, it emphasises actions anyone can master.

“It’s no different than a golf swing. If you can manipulate and make small, minor changes you can get a major improvement,” Balkovec said.

With “Tuesday skills days,” all players are partaking in drills that capture the small details.

“You’re going to make mistakes. The game moves so fast and there’s so much pressure,” Balkovec said, “but if a player fumbles a pass, the reason they fumble the pass is because they’ve not given themselves a margin of error to deal with. If you have both of your hands outside of your right hip and the puck is coming from the right side, you’re going to be able to make that play. If you have your hands in tight, which is what we call T-Rex arms, and you make a mistake you won’t be able to recover from there.”

Under the microscope, players are now going through repetition in skating and positioning in order to spot concerns that can be corrected. The same goes for games. Balkovec will record videos with his phone and text them to players attached with instructions on what to correct.

This way the information is going straight to the player in a comfortable way. Players are going to be on their phones after games, so getting a text message from Balkovec adds to the routine portion of assessing and adjusting these skills. It also makes it a little more personable.

“To me, hockey is hockey. It’s about creating great relationships with your players and getting them to trust you, and you have to trust them,” he said.

The team often at Slater Family Ice Arena.

PHOTO BY MAXWELL MARKO

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USG discusses scooters on campus
Twitter poll indicates student interest in new way to zoom around BGSU

Ryan Luchene
Reporter

Electric scooters are being pitched as a possible form of transportation by student government at BGSU.

Undergraduate Student Government Sen. Chase Williams said USG wants to see scooters as an extra mode of transportation for students. If there are students who are running late for class or have classes far away from their current location, they could use the scooters to get there quicker.

Williams mentioned the advantages of having these motorized scooters on campus are mainly in the transportation department.

BGSU shuttles can keep students waiting at the Centrex and the other designated bus stops for various times, so the scooters could be a better type of transportation versus the usual bus, which has its designated pathways.

USG Sen. Trevor Hensley said one of the main concerns about the proposed scooters is safety, with the risks of riders crashing into other riders, other objects or pedestrians.

Also, there will be a certain number of months before it gets too cold, too rainy or too icy to ride the scooters safely.

The electric scooters, which have been used at other universities like Ohio State University, are dockless, Williams said. Whenever someone is to stop riding, another person can pick them up. If scooters came to BGSU they could go on the bike racks, considering the plan is to put them in specific areas that are most convenient for the students of BGSU.

“When you park one there, you save a dollar on your ride if you park the scooters in the parking spots, so its incentive that you put them in their designated spot,” Hensley said.

He points out that campus buses and apartment shuttles aren’t accessible on the weekends, making use times limited. Plus, cars and buses cannot go on sidewalks, so their paths are linear as far as going on campus. The electric scooters would have easy access to on-campus buildings that are not wrapped by roads, in the middle of campus or at locations that aren’t reachable by campus transportation.

USG tweeted out a poll about electric scooters.

Read the rest at bgfalconmedia.com