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VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

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SPRUANCE'S FIRST WIN HIGHLIGHTS WARRIORS' STRONG START

A new era of Wabash Valley College men's basketball opened with a milestone for first-year head coach John Spruance and two commanding performances by the Warriors. Wabash Valley defeated East Mississippi Community College 111-88 in its Oct. 30 season opener, giving Spruance his first career victory as a collegiate head coach. The Warriors followed with a 119-78 win over Harry S. Truman College on Oct. 31, completing an opening weekend that featured 230 points and a 2-0 record.

"Obviously, getting your first win as a head coach is something special, but what makes it meaningful is the group of people you get to share it with," Spruance said. "Our players and staff have put an incredible amount of work into building this program since we arrived. To see that work

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER

1 **Nursing Information Session**
3:30 p.m., Science Building Room 58

3 **WVC Employee Christmas Party**
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

7 **TEAS Testing**
8:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Learning Commons Room BMC 17

8 **IECC Board of Trustees Meeting**
6 p.m., Frontier Community College

9 **All-IECC After Board Meeting**
2:30 p.m., Teams

11 **Last Day of Classes**

14–17 **Final Exams**

18 **Last Day of Semester**

21–Jan. 1 **Campus Closed: Winter Break**

translate into a win in our first opportunity to compete together is extremely rewarding. I'm proud of our guys and the way they represented Wabash Valley College."

The Warriors established an early offensive rhythm against East Mississippi, shooting 56.6 percent from the field and connecting on 13 three-pointers. Wabash Valley collected 42 rebounds and recorded five steals and five blocked shots in the 23-point victory. The following day, the Warriors increased their offensive output against Harry S. Truman, making 45 field goals, including 18 three-pointers, and finishing with 28 assists in the 41-point win.

Across the two games, the Warriors shot 54.3 percent from the field and made 31 three-pointers. Their ability to move the ball and create scoring opportunities reflected the approach Spruance has emphasized since arriving on campus. "We want to be an unselfish team that makes the extra pass, plays for one another, and understands that our success is going to come from doing things together," Spruance said.

Freshman Jhye Stoker led Wabash Valley through the first two games with 22 points per game, shooting 65.2 percent from the field and making nine three-pointers. Freshman AJ Dixon averaged 14.5 points, while freshman forward Brady Markowicz contributed 13 points per game on 75 percent shooting. Sophomore guard Donte Montgomery Jr. added 11.5 points per game, and sophomore guards Moses Blackwell and Eli Pace each averaged 9.5 points, giving the Warriors six players averaging at least nine points through the opening weekend.



Wabash Valley's second victory also featured a substantial rebounding effort, with the Warriors collecting 65 rebounds against Harry S. Truman, including 23 on the offensive end. Combined with their 42 rebounds in the opener, Wabash Valley finished the weekend with 107 rebounds. Those performances provided an encouraging foundation as the team began establishing its identity under Spruance.

Despite the offensive success, Spruance made clear after the opener that improvement remained a priority. "Anytime you score 111 points, you're doing some good things offensively, but giving up 88 points tells us there is still plenty of work to do," Spruance said. "We have to continue improving our defensive discipline, communication, and attention to detail. We're excited about the win, but our expectations for this program go well beyond winning one basketball game."

Spruance arrived at Wabash Valley this summer with collegiate coaching experience at the University of Southern Indiana, University of Indianapolis, Lewis University, and the University of Hawaii. Now leading a collegiate program for the first time, he is focused on developing a culture built around accountability, toughness, and togetherness while honoring Wabash Valley's basketball tradition.

"There is an incredible amount of history and pride associated with Wabash Valley basketball," Spruance said. "We understand the responsibility that comes with representing this program. Our goal is to honor the people who built that tradition while establishing our own identity and creating something that our college and community can be proud of."

The opening victories provided an encouraging first step, but Spruance emphasized that the team's daily commitment will determine what comes next. "We've talked from day one about being one team, one family, and having one mission," Spruance said. "Those aren't just words we put on a wall. They have to be reflected in how we practice, how we compete, and how we carry ourselves every single day. The standard doesn't change because we won a game. If anything, it becomes even more important that we continue pushing forward."

For Spruance, the first win is a moment worth appreciating while continuing to build toward the team's larger goals. "I'm extremely grateful for the opportunity to lead this program, and I'll always remember that first win," Spruance said. "But this is about our players and what we can accomplish together. We have a long season ahead of us, and our challenge is to show up every day with the same hunger, toughness, and commitment to getting better. This is just the beginning."









WVC STUDENT SENATE BRINGS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY TOGETHER FOR OKTOBERFEST AND TRUNK OR TREAT

Wabash Valley College's Student Senate helped bring the spirit of the season to campus with two October events filled with creativity, costumes, and opportunities to connect. Oktoberfest on Oct. 28 brought students and employees together outside Main Hall for food and activities, followed by Trunk or Treat on Oct. 30 in the Main Hall parking lot. Together, the events welcomed both the campus community and local families to celebrate fall at WVC.

Organized by Kyle Peach and the Student Senate, Oktoberfest featured a Halloween playlist, hamburgers, cheeseburgers, cornhole, and pumpkin carving. Students, faculty, and staff gathered to share a meal and enjoy time together outside their usual classes and work routines. The combination of food, music, and activities gave attendees several ways to join the celebration.

For some of WVC's international students, Oktoberfest offered their first opportunity to carve a pumpkin. The first-time carvers brought creativity and personality to their designs as they tried the seasonal tradition. Shiah Taylor was among them, creating a pumpkin with a wide-open mouth and two oversized front teeth. Her finished creation made for a fun photo and a memorable introduction to pumpkin carving.

Faculty and staff added to the festivities by dressing as characters from Inside Out. Cassandra Goldman portrayed Riley, joined by Paula Peach as Joy and Kyle Peach as Anger. Kamille Johnson dressed as Fear, Jill Winter as Anxiety, Karissa Anderson as Sadness, and Donna Sigler as Ennui. Kaitlyn Lasswell joined as Embarrassment, Michelle Woods as Disgust, and Katie Hinderliter as Envy.

The costumes carried over into the food service, where Paula Peach helped hand out ham-

burgers and cheeseburgers. As Joy, she helped keep things cheerful while making sure Anger, played by Kyle Peach, did not lose his head. The group brought a playful touch to the event and gave students a chance to see familiar campus faces take on new personalities.

Oktoberfest also included a special recognition for Bobby Moyes, who retired from WVC a few months earlier. Moyes received a certificate of appreciation naming him "Grill Master Emeritus." Posing with his certificate and grilling tongs, Moyes made the presentation a fitting part of the cookout and gave the campus another reason to celebrate.

Two days later, the festivities continued with Trunk or Treat, held from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in the Main Hall parking lot. Local children and families visited campus for Halloween treats, with numerous groups hosting trunks throughout the event. Participants included the Health Professionals Club, Collegiate Farm Bureau, Active Minds, the WVC Human & Behavioral Health Program, international students, and the volleyball, softball, cheer, and bass fishing teams, along with many others.

The variety of participating groups made Trunk or Treat a shared campus effort. Student organizations, academic programs, and athletic teams helped welcome families while representing their own parts of WVC. Their participation gave community members an opportunity to interact with students and experience the college in a festive setting.

From students carving their first pumpkins to campus groups handing out Halloween treats, the two events offered different ways to get involved. Kyle Peach and the Student Senate brought students, employees, and community members together during the final week of October, with help from the many groups and individuals who took part.









FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP BRING WVC STUDENTS TOGETHER UNDER THE WILLOW







Wabash Valley College's Fellowship of Christian Athletes brought students together Oct. 27 for Worship Under the Willow, an evening of food, music, testimony, and fellowship at the WVC Outdoor Amphitheater. Hosted by the WVC Bass Team Huddle, the gathering welcomed students from FCA Bible studies across campus and those interested in getting involved.

Several FCA huddles, or Bible studies, have been meeting at different times and locations throughout the semester. Worship Under the Willow brought those groups together while introducing other students to the organization. The event offered an opportunity to meet fellow students and learn about Bible studies they could regularly attend.

The evening began with a meal at 6:30 p.m., with hamburgers and hot dogs provided through the support of Parkview Christian Church and Nate Whisler of FCA. Sharing food before worship gave attendees time to visit and connect outside their regular meetings. Students were invited to bring lawn chairs or blankets and enjoy the outdoor setting near the willow tree.

Worship began at 7 p.m., with Tim, Kaitlyn, Jess, and Rebekah leading the music. Kael, a WVC student and member of the Bass Team, shared his personal testimony with those gathered. His participation gave fellow students the opportunity to hear about faith from someone within their own campus community.

Pastor Stephen Freels of First Baptist Church in Mt.

Carmel delivered the evening's devotion. His message, alongside Kael's testimony and the worship music, formed the central program for the gathering. The evening brought student participation and local church involvement together in a shared setting.

Community support also helped make the outdoor event possible. Ryan Olsen with Sunbelt Rentals provided lighting as daylight faded, joining the meal providers and program participants in supporting the gathering. WVC FCA thanked each of these contributors in its recap, describing the event as a wonderful night of worship and fellowship.

Plans for the evening also included s'mores and fellowship following worship, allowing additional time for students to spend together. Bringing the separate huddles into one gathering created an opportunity to reconnect with familiar faces, meet new people, and learn more about FCA's presence at WVC.

WVC FCA's next gathering, Fields of Faith, is planned for Wednesday, Nov. 18, hosted by the WVC Women's Huddle. The location and time will be announced as details become available. Students interested in continuing the connections made at Worship Under the Willow can watch for additional information about the upcoming event.



WVC BASS TEAM REELS IN CAMPUS FUN AT FISHING RODEO







The pond behind Wabash Valley College's Science Building became a gathering place for fishing, friendly competition, and plenty of memorable moments during the Fishing Rodeo on Oct. 22. Hosted by the WVC Bass Team and Coach Todd Gill, with help from Student Life Coordinator Rachel Refenes, the event gave students an opportunity to spend time outdoors and experience a sport that some were trying for the first time.

Participants brought a range of experience to the tournament, from those familiar with fishing to first-time anglers ready to give it a try. Each person who came to fish was assigned a Bass Team angler, providing an individual connection with someone experienced in the sport. That arrangement made the team's knowledge part of the event and gave newcomers someone to turn to throughout the tournament.

For the first-time anglers, the rodeo offered an introduction to fishing in a familiar campus setting. Rather than heading out on their own, participants could experience the activity alongside students who fish competitively for WVC. The pairings also created an opportunity for students to meet members of the Bass Team and learn more about an activity that is a regular part of their college experience.

The catches provided plenty to talk about as the tournament continued. From the smallest fish to the biggest catches of the evening, participants had opportunities to enjoy the results of their time at the pond. Several first-time anglers joined in the action, and a few funny moments added to the expe-





rience, making the event about more than the size of any one fish.

For the Bass Team, hosting the rodeo meant sharing its sport with the broader campus community. Team members took on a supporting role, fishing alongside participants and helping make the tournament accessible to newcomers. The event gave fellow students a chance to connect with the anglers beyond their competition schedule and see their experience put to use close to home.

The collaboration between Gill, the Bass Team, and Refenes brought athletics and student life together around an activity students could take part in themselves. Using the pond behind the Science Building made it possible to bring that experience directly to campus. The setting provided a nearby place for students to gather, try something different, and spend time with one another outside the classroom.

The gathering continued after the tournament with pizza provided by the Bass Team. Participants could share a meal and revisit the catches and funny moments that stood out during their time fishing. It also gave the student anglers and their partners additional time to visit after the competition had ended.

With individual support from Bass Team members, opportunities for first-time anglers, and food to follow, the Fishing Rodeo combined several ways for students to get involved. The evening gave newcomers an introduction to fishing while allowing the team to share its experience, creating campus connections one cast at a time.





STUDENTS EXPLORE DIESEL CAREERS AT WVC DIESEL DAY

High school students from across the region visited Wabash Valley College for Diesel Day, an annual event introducing students to the college's Diesel Equipment Technology program and the businesses that employ skilled technicians. Through stations featuring equipment, tools, and industry representatives, students explored how an interest in machinery and mechanics could develop into a career.

Participating businesses gave students a closer look at their work and the equipment used in the field. The stations connected information about WVC's program with examples from industry, helping students explore both the training available at the college and potential opportunities after graduation. Students also had a chance to speak directly with professionals about their companies and career paths.

Among the participating businesses was Mt. Carmel Stabilization Group, Inc., whose representatives discussed the company's relationship with WVC and its experience developing future employees through apprenticeships. Current WVC student and Mt. Carmel shop employee Dakota Mounts joined Andrew Curtis and John Luttrell in speaking with visiting students. Their presentation offered a local example of how education and workplace experience can connect.

Mounts' involvement brought a current student's perspective to the event. As someone attending WVC while also working in the company's shop, he represented a connection between the program and the workplace. His participation gave high school students an opportunity to hear from someone already pursuing that path.

The company also highlighted its history of successful apprenticeships that

have transitioned into careers. That connection added another dimension to the day's equipment and tool displays, showing students how relationships between the college and employers can support their next steps. For students considering their options after high school, those examples connected career exploration with opportunities close to home.

Faculty members Scott Balding and Eric Scheller helped welcome participating businesses and visiting schools, bringing education and industry together for the event. Mt. Carmel Stabilization Group thanked both instructors and the college for their hospitality and continued partnership. Support from faculty and industry partners gave visitors several perspectives on the diesel field during their time on campus.

By bringing regional schools and employers together, Diesel Day offered students an opportunity to explore equipment, learn about WVC's training program, and hear how companies put those skills to work. The event highlighted how partnerships between the college and employers can help students move from an interest in the field toward education and employment.

WVC extends its thanks to the Diesel Equipment Technology faculty, participating businesses, and visiting schools for supporting the event. Students interested in learning more about the program can visit iecc.edu/wvc/diesel for additional information.



















01 *The WVC Softball Team traded game faces for Halloween costumes at Trunk or Treat.*

02 *Students got an up-close look at equipment and career opportunities during Diesel Day.*

03 *Majaya Horton-Broadnax showed off her catch with a smile at the Fishing Rodeo.*

04 *Fall colors gave the WVC campus a golden glow.*

05 *Warrior Men's Basketball stepped in front of the camera for Media Day.*

06 *Stephanny Orloski was all smiles showing off her first pumpkin carving.*