Students sue CSU

By Jakob Smith
The Collegian

Two students have filed a lawsuit against the California State University system, seeking to reverse the increased fees that were issued this semester.

Samantha Adams of San Francisco State and Travis Donelsman of CSU San Bernardino have sued the CSU, claiming the system acted illegally when it billed students for additional fees increases after the academic year was already paid.

They say that the payment of tuition is a legally binding contract, and that so-called double-billing is a breach of that contract. The class-action lawsuit could mean a refund in some fees for current students.

The duo’s lawyer in the case, Daniele Leonard, won a similar lawsuit for different plaintiffs against the University of California system in 2006.

Although a judge declined to issue a preliminary injunction in the current case, which would have ceased the payment for the fees in question, the case will continue.

“We think the students will prevail and will be issued a refund,” Leonard said.

Leonard acknowledged that this is a tough time for the university, and that budget constraints are a problem. However, she said these problems need to be resolved in the proper fashion.

“The university needs to address these constraints within the parameters of the law,” Leonard said in a phone interview. “This option should have never been on the table.”

Erik Fallis, media relations specialist for the CSU, said that there are some issues with the class-action lawsuit. One major issue, Fallis said, would be deciding who would be eligible to join the lawsuit.

Because some students received financial aid that covered the fee increases, those students would not be eligible for refunds if the plaintiffs won the lawsuit, Fallis said.

Also, Fallis said there are other students who don’t want to join the lawsuit, and are willing to pay the increased fees in order to avoid further budget problems, which could lead to receiving a diminished education.

According to Fallis, the case is not identical to the lawsuit against the U.C. system three years ago.

“By the fact that the preliminary injunction was denied, the court has decided that the facts are not the same as the U.C. case,” Fallis said in a phone interview Tuesday night.

Leonard disagrees.

“From what we’ve seen from the university the facts are exactly what we saw against the U.C.,” Leonard said.

COMMENT: The Collegian is a forum for student expression.

By Michael Hamlin
The Collegian

Due to a lack of funding, Fresno State has removed outdoor recycling bins from campus.

In recent years, Fresno State has moved toward improving campus sustainability by installing solar-panels on parking structures and placing recycling bins throughout the campus.

This year, the external recycling bins will not be available to the campus.

David Moll, the assistant vice president of risk management and sustainability, says recycling has changed on campus this year.

“There are very sound business reasons for changing the recycling bin scene,” Moll said. “We have zero budget for sustainability.”

Moll said that without proper funding, he has been forced to remove more than 60 recycling bins that were on campus last year.

“We are forced to go back to the old ways of sorting, taking the recyclables from the garbage, rather than having recycle bins located throughout campus,” Moll said.

Without the bins around campus, students must now throw their recyclables into a normal trash bin where it will be sorted later.

Moll said that while this method is adequate, it is not the most effective way to ensure that all materials are recycled properly.

According to Moll, only 85 percent of recyclables are removed using this technique. However, if the bins were still located throughout the campus, there would be two ways to recycle – sorting and pre-sorting.

Nathan Uebelhart, a geography major, believes that the lack of recycling will hurt the campus and the surrounding environment.

“There is [nothing positive about] the lack of funding and consequent lack of recycling,” Uebelhart said. “The environment will be affected in a negative way and so will the campus.”

Uebelhart also said he believed that the change in recycling this year may impact litter on campus.

“I feel like I’ve seen more cans and bottles on the ground this year,” Uebelhart said. “There is a direct correlation between that and the removal of the bins? I’m not sure.”

According to Moll, a new recycling policy has been approved for the near future, but the plan cannot be set in motion until his department receives proper funding.

“We have a new design for recycling on campus, but we need money to put the plan in place,” Moll said.

Moll said there is no official policy or guideline currently in place regarding the recycling bins, and that he made the decision to remove them in conjunction with the vice president for administration and chief financial officer, Cynthia Teniente-Matson. He also said that every decision made is discussed with a sustainability sub-committee.

In addition to the lack of funds, Moll pointed to the misuse of recycling bins by students and vandalism or theft of the bins as part of the reasoning behind their removal. Some of these issues were addressed in an article that ran in The Collegian last spring.

Compared to other universities in California, Fresno State falls short not only in recycling, but in the means to recycle properly.

UC Santa Barbara, a school with roughly as many students as Fresno State, has approximately 50 environmental hazard employees.

Fresno State, due to a lack of funding and budget cuts, has only three environmental hazard employees. Therein lies a huge part of the problem, Moll said.

“The bottom line is we can’t do what we need to do, we can’t get the work done that needs to get done. We just do not have any money,” Moll said. “Things will eventually get better, I just can’t say when that will happen.”

Lisa Kao, the manager of the department of risk management and sustainability, believes the changes will happen sooner rather than later.

Kao said in an e-mail interview with The Collegian that the initial changes should be made within months.

Jakob Smith contributed to this report
Opinion

Fight furlough with song

It's a matter of taking pride in your school, your city and yourself.

Yes, the song is corny. It’s supposed to be corny. A college fight song is a mixture of secret handshake, time capsule and a ton of classic-conditioning.

“Just make sure you don’t learn it on campus Friday.”

You sing it at games, at tailgates, pregame parties, postgame parties, parties that have nothing to do with sports. Whenever you’re having a good time with your college back it might find its way into the evening (I’m 24, and yes it’s even more fun when you’re a little inebriated).

You don’t sing it when you’re studying, breaking up or doing other stuff that isn’t fun. Get the idea?

Imagine the entire student section belting out our song after a Fresno State touchdown, commencing in the spell out and the barbaric yelling of “Go ‘Dogs Go! Fight ‘Dogs Fight!” Imagine that proud chant which can only be heard here pushing our boys forward. Imagine the Red Wave doing something besides the ‘hek!’

I know what’s next: “But I grew up in Fresno. Going to school here just isn’t that special to me.” You mean you’ve been here your whole life and still haven’t learned the fight song? It’s 30 seconds long!

Think of the thousands of lyrics you’ve memorized effortlessly. You probably spent all summer singing about disco sticks with Lady GaGa and about wanting to [have sexual relations with] every girl in the world with Lil’ Wayne. Surely the fight song can find its place among such prestige.

Let’s go over it together. First, you sing “Fight varsity.” Followed by a three lines of lyrics. Then “Fight varsity” again, followed by three similar lines. Spell the word “bulldogs,” yell “Go ‘Dogs, fight ‘Dogs, go ‘Dogs,” and repeat. Did someone just say our team underachieves?

Yes, the song is corny. It’s a matter of taking pride in your school, your city and yourself. It’s what college is about. It’s fun.

Let’s go over it together. First, you sing “Fight varsity.” Followed by a three lines of lyrics. Then “Fight varsity” again, followed by three similar lines. Spell the word “bulldogs,” yell “Go ‘Dogs, fight ‘Dogs, go ‘Dogs,” and repeat. Did someone just say our team underachieves?

It’s what college is about. It’s fun. You’ve got a whole day coming up to do it. Learn it and sing it loud and proud. It’s your alma mater’s glorious mixture of secret handshake, time capsule, and a ton of classic-conditioning.

“Goooooooo ‘Dogs! We’re always true to Fresno State!”

You’ve got a whole day coming up to do it. Learn it and sing it loud and proud. It’s your alma mater’s glorious mixture of secret handshake, time capsule, and a ton of classic-conditioning. It’s the only one you’ll ever have.

It’s what college is about. It’s fun.

I know what’s next: “But I grew up in Fresno. Going to school here just isn’t that special to me.” You mean you’ve been here your whole life and still haven’t learned the fight song? It’s 30 seconds long!

Think of the thousands of lyrics you’ve memorized effortlessly. You probably spent all summer singing about disco sticks with Lady GaGa and about wanting to [have sexual relations with] every girl in the world with Lil’ Wayne. Surely the fight song can find its place among such prestige.

Let’s go over it together. First, you sing “Fight varsity.” Followed by a three lines of lyrics. Then “Fight varsity” again, followed by three similar lines. Spell the word “bulldogs,” yell “Go ‘Dogs, fight ‘Dogs, go ‘Dogs,” and repeat. Did someone just say our team underachieves?

It’s what college is about. It’s fun. You’ve got a whole day coming up to do it. Learn it and sing it loud and proud. It’s your alma mater’s glorious mixture of secret handshake, time capsule, and a ton of classic-conditioning. It’s the only one you’ll ever have.

It’s what college is about. It’s fun.
“District 9” offers more than the usual sci-fi flick
In “District 9” the formula is perfect for a textbook alien invasion movie: a spaceship camps out above Johannesburg, South Africa and terror ensues.

The difference here — the aliens are not the bad guys.
Produced by Peter Jackson of “Lord of the Rings” fame, “District 9” begins as a would-be documentary and shifts gears to a more stylized science fiction film.

At the start of the movie we learn the spaceship did not embark on Johannesburg by choice, but stalled above South Africa more than two decades ago, transporting millions of malnourished aliens with no place to call home.

Multi-National United (MNU), a private-interest group, is tasked with moving the aliens from their refugee camp (District 9) to a new location outside of the city.

Mild-mannered Wikus Van Der Merwe, played brilliantly by relatively unknown actor Sharlto Copley, is leading the move.

Director Neill Blomkamp, who co-wrote the screenplay, does a fantastic job of creating an authentically gritty environment complete with dirty politics, back-alley gangs and alien/human prostitution.

One of the film’s biggest strengths is its depiction of the aliens, or “prawns,” as they are insultingly called. Unlike other movies of the genre, the aesthetics of the creatures prove to be both unique and realistic — a cross between a machine and a crustacean.

As the story unfolds, it becomes clear that MNU is more interested in the aliens’ weaponry than their well-being. Appalling experiments are covertly done on the creatures in an effort to unleash the secret to operating their artillery.

The real threat throughout the movie is not the aliens, but the human beings living among them. The lengths to which MNU’s top officials are willing to go for financial gain are by far the most menacing part of the film.

“District 9” challenges the science fiction genre by questioning who the real enemy is. It is a suspenseful, yet intelligent film worth checking out.
Art Hop pit stops

Each month The Collegian will highlight different venues and artists in Downtown Fresno and the Tower District.

• Studio 74
  1274 N. Van Ness Ave.
  Fresno, CA 93728
  559-908-0658
• KYNO / K - Jewel Art Gallery
  1415 Fulton St.
  Fresno, CA 93721
  559-497-5118
• Sorensen Studio Gallery
  2223 S. Van Ness Ave.
  Fresno, CA 93721
  559-237-4934
• Gorgon Isle Gallery
  665 N. Fulton St.
  Fresno, CA 93728
  559-497-5118

If you have an Art Hop story or a favorite hot spot contact the Art & Entertainment Editor at collegian-features@csufresno.edu

Do it ’cause it’s free

By Lacee Solis
The Collegian

Colorful paintings instantly greet you upon entering Studio 74, as the art gallery prepares for its premiere at tomorrow night’s Art Hop.

“It’s a fun evening to see Fresno art,” said artist and Studio 74 owner Diane L. Joseph-Mendes. “It’s an opportunity for the public to visit art galleries and museums for free.” Joseph-Mendes said her gallery is primarily a venue for up-and-coming artists, many who will make their public debut this Thursday.

“I decided if I was ever going to have a gallery, I was going to help the emerging artists get their first show,” Joseph-Mendes said.

A promise she has kept in regards to Randy Arnest — a former Art Hop regular turned featured artist.

Extracting designs from the world around him, Arnest uses a mixture of water-based media and collage in combination with acrylic paint and ink.

“I use architecture and cities as well as natural things and organisms as a jumping off point to influence my paintings and drawings,” Arnest said.

In addition well-known local artist Hilda Vandergriff will be showcasing an Asian-inspired collection.

Vandergriff applied Chinese calligraphy along with a century old Japanese technique of paper marbling called suminagashi meaning spilled ink.

Vandergriff’s love for nature provided the subject matter for most of her artwork. Her paintings include an array of both plants and animals, from horses to blooming flowers.

People can jumpstart their four-day weekend with a trip to Art Hop.

“If it’s not for fun, if it’s not for culture, do it ‘cause it’s free!”
How can you get a parking ticket?

What you should avoid when quickly searching for a parking spot on campus.

By Michelle Furnier

The Collegian

In a 30 minute time period on Wednesday, September 2, 2009, 12 parking tickets were found on cars in parking lots E and C. The tickets were given to cars without a parking permit, having an expired day pass displayed in the window and being parked in front of an expired meter.

Amy Armstrong, public information officer for the University Police Department, said that the first couple of weeks of school tend to have heavier traffic.

“Our policy is to enforce parking everyday school is in session,” Armstrong said.

“We make about $500,000 from the fines each year,” Armstrong said. “Stipulations from the California Education Code have the money from the fines put towards Ride share, Red Bike Program and getting people to ride the bus.”

Tickets that are given out the most are: not displaying the pass, not parking in the designated space and expired parking permits.

“Some students get confused where both green and yellow permits are permitted,” Armstrong said.

“Lot C on Shaw and Maple, Lot E south of the library and Lots A and J by the Peter’s Business building are where both yellow and green parking permits are permitted.”

“Some students think ‘I’m going to park close’ and they park in a handicap space.”

The fine for that, according to Armstrong, is $275.

Other ways to avoid receiving a parking ticket are: parking in between the lines and not having the wheels of the vehicle over the line, parking so Monday one is facing into the stalls, and when parking next to a curb, park facing the direction of traffic.

All other university ordinances can be found on the University Police Department Web site.

Junior Adam Dariyanani has received eight tickets since he has been at Fresno State. He thinks that more tickets are given out the first week because a lot of students are just trying to get to class on time.

“Teachers don’t feel sorry for you if you’re late. It’s a 20 minute walk to anywhere on campus,” Dariyanani said.

“Parking is a little ridiculous. We are a commuter school,” Dariyanani said.

“Kids come from all over. So to not have more parking is ridiculous.”

Dariyanani also said that he has already received two tickets this semester. One was for not having a permit displayed and the other was for parking at 5:50 p.m. in a yellow lot when the lot wasn’t considered green.

“I’ve gotten two tickets already this semester. One of was for not having a permit which I had on there. The other was for parking in a lot that wasn’t green until 7 p.m. I parked there at 6:50 p.m. and got a ticket at like 6:58 p.m.,” Dariyanani said. “I tried to fight it but they were just like, ‘I’m sorry, rules are rules’.”

Officials told Dariyanani that there was no way to know how long he was there. He could have been there 10 minutes or he could have been there two hours, but just got caught.

Freshman Allison Zulewski said that she didn’t even know that she was supposed to get a parking permit until she got on campus.

“I got a parking ticket the first day of school. I parked far away and was only there for 45 minutes. I didn’t even think it was Fresno State,” Zulewski said. Even though some students said that they don’t know what the parking policies are, Armstrong said students are informed at Dog Days and everyone is required to attend.

“I give a presentation there. I talk about the proper pass and correct lots. There is also information at the information fair. We make every effort to get the information to students and to every class [freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior]. It’s also published in the information at the Web site,” Armstrong said.

Students like liberal studies major Jennifer Nickel follow the rules so they don’t get a ticket.

“I’ve never gotten a ticket. I just try to park where it says to and have the parking permit displayed at all times. It’s the simple things that get tickets,” Nickel said.

Nursing major Chau Tran was another student that has yet to receive a parking ticket. “I have seen a lot of tickets. The signs are pretty small so it’s hard to know where to park.” Chau said. “I’ve seen the officers go around so I’m careful about where I park.”

Cars aren’t the only vehicles that need a parking permit, according to Armstrong.

Motorcycles also need to display a parking permit which cost $17 a semester.

“They don’t have the parking permit posted on the motorcycle because there isn’t a place to put it.” Armstrong said.

“They give their pass to us and we register their license plate and connect the pass to the license plate so we make sure not to cite them.”

Students have the right to appeal a ticket if they think they were ticketed unfairly, according to the University Police Department policy.

“They can fill out a form and the ticket will go on hold so there aren’t any late fees. It is decided whether or not the student’s ticket will be cleared, according to Armstrong. The student then gets a letter informing them whether or not they have been cleared. If they were dented, they can have a hearing in person. If that doesn’t work, then they can take it up with the court system or they can pay it, Armstrong said.”

According to Armstrong, there are nearly 22,000 students on campus for 8,000 parking spots. Two thousand of those spots are for faculty and staff. Which leaves about 6,000 for students. Currently we do have enough spots for students, because not all students are on campus at the same time, Armstrong said.

“Our intent is to protect the spaces for those who have paid. Those who have not paid are given tickets,” Armstrong said.

Not only will parking over the white line get you a parking ticket, but so will taking over two parking spaces.

By Michelle Furnier

The Collegian

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

Parking over the white line on campus will result in a $25 parking ticket to pay.
Trustees set limit on withdrawals and repeats

By Thaddeus Miller
The Collegian

The California State University Board of Trustees has approved a new system-wide policy limiting the number of units that undergraduates may withdraw and repeat, effective this semester.

Executive Order 1037 allows students only 18 units of course withdrawals and 28 units of course repeats over their entire undergraduate careers as undergraduates.

The Fresno State policy permits courses to be dropped in the first four weeks of the semester, Aug. 24 through Sept. 21, without appearing on a student’s transcripts. In the first four weeks, a dropped course will not count against the allotted 18 withdrawal units.

This semester, the period for serious and compelling drop requests starts on Sept. 22, and continues through Nov. 17. Any courses dropped during this period will count against the allotted 18 units, and the student will receive a withdrawal (W) for that course.

From Nov. 18 until Dec. 9, which is the last day of instruction, is what the executive order refers to as the “final 20 percent.” Classes withdrawn during this time period will not count against the allotted 18 units. However, these withdrawals must be due to circumstances out of the student’s control.

“There are costs associated with dropping classes,” said Dean of Undergraduate Studies Dennis Nef. Nef also said the withdrawal policy is meant to facilitate graduation.

Collegian news briefs

Sept. 8: New registration payment deadline

According to the campus e-mail bulletin board, the registration payment deadline has now been moved from Friday, Sept. 4 to Tuesday, Sept. 8.

This extension is due to a furlough day on Sept. 4. Students may contact Student Financial Services at (559) 278-2676.

West Lot K sidewalk closed

Available access to the sidewalk west of parking Lot K will be closed due to construction, according to the campus e-mail bulletin board.

As of Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2009 the fenced-in area will no longer be accessible by students.

Sept. 8: New graduation application deadline

Due to the upcoming furlough days, the fall 2009 undergraduate application deadline has been extended. The new graduation filing period originally was Aug. 24-Sept. 4.

Since a furlough day lands on Friday, Sept. 4 the deadline has been moved to Tuesday, Sept. 8. Students can apply at the Evaluations office located in Joley Administration, or filling it out online.

For more information regarding application information go to the evaluations office website:

Economist: Factory report shows recession to be over

WASHINGTON — The most severe economic recession since the Great Depression is history, economists said Tuesday.

At least one economist said the report showed sharp jump in the Institute for Supply Management’s factory index.

“The rise in the ISM manufacturing overall activity index to a level firmly above 50,” said John Ryding, an economist at RDQ Economics in New York. “The surge in the new orders index to the highest level since December 2004 are the clearest signs yet that the recession is over.”

No official timing of the end of the downturn is expected for more than a year.

Doctors aim to stretch Swine flu vaccine supply

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Stanford University researchers are beginning clinical trials to determine if vaccines for the swine flu virus, could be stretched by lowering the dosage and coupling it with a booster.

If successful, it could mean doctors would give people one swine flu shot instead of the anticipated two doses spread three weeks apart.

The government had hoped to have 120 million doses of the vaccine on hand by Oct. 15. Because of delays in the manufacturing process, only 45 million doses are expected to be available by then.

Marina Gaytan, Michael Hamlin, and McClatchy Tribune contributed to this report.
Junior goalkeeper Kaitlyn Revel has high hopes for '09

By Mallory Plant
The Collegian

The Fresno State women’s soccer team looks for its first win of the season this weekend at Irvine.

The Dogs are 0-3 coming off a 0-2 loss to Oregon on Sunday. After Sunday’s game, head coach Brian Zwaschka said, “We need to try and be more dangerous. We are playing too safe in goal scoring strategies.”

Zwaschka was concerned with the teams focus. “The effort was the biggest problem and we didn’t focus on the game plan,” he said.

UC Irvine, UC Riverside and Southern Utah are all scheduled to play in the tournament along with the Bulldogs.

When looking ahead to the tournament Zwaschka said, “We need to try not to venture too far from the basic training.”

The team will not make special preparations for the tournament, but it will take one game at a time, Zwaschka said.

The Bulldogs need to worry about the two teams they will be facing this weekend because both teams have a better record than the Bulldogs.

Friday night the ‘Dogs will take on UC Irvine at 7 p.m. A night game comes with both negatives and positives aspects. The negative would be playing under the lights, which the team might need time to adjust to, but the positive fact is a night game would be a much cooler temperature.

The game may offer no relief for the Bulldogs from their losing streak. UC Irvine is 3-1 on the season and gets to play on its home turf.

After the loss to Oregon the team needs to look for ways to win, but senior forward Lauren West isn’t giving up its home turf.

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

"Mainly we need to relax when playing," West said. "We are very nervous when getting the ball." A tournament right now may help West and possibly her other team members to get relaxed and score.

"Playing in a tournament doesn’t give you time to freak out about the game," West said.

"It’s not just nerves that are getting in the way of the Dogs scoring. The team needs to get across midfield and get the ball into scoring position. Fresno State hasn’t scored a goal this season, including exhibition games.”

West and the other Bulldogs only have Saturday to think about the next game of the tournament.

After playing UC Irvine, the Bulldogs will face UC Riverside on Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday’s game may be a better match for the ‘Dogs since UC Irvine placed second this season, which is a closer record.

The Bulldogs will not face Southern Utah this weekend.

‘Dogs look for first win at Irvine

By Mallory Plant
The Collegian

The Fresno State women’s soccer team looks for its first win of the season this weekend at Irvine.

The ‘Dogs are 0-3 coming off a 0-2 loss to Oregon on Sunday. After Sunday’s game, head coach Brian Zwaschka said, “We need to try and be more dangerous. We are playing too safe in goal scoring strategies.”

Zwaschka was concerned with the teams focus. “The effort was the biggest problem and we didn’t focus on the game plan,” he said.

UC Irvine, UC Riverside and Southern Utah are all scheduled to play in the tournament along with the Bulldogs.

When looking ahead to the tournament Zwaschka said, “We need to try not to venture too far from the basic training.”

The team will not make special preparations for the tournament, but it will take one game at a time, Zwaschka said.

The Bulldogs need to worry about the two teams they will be facing this weekend because both teams have a better record than the Bulldogs.

Friday night the ‘Dogs will take on UC Irvine at 7 p.m. A night game comes with both negatives and positives aspects. The negative would be playing under the lights, which the team might need time to adjust to, but the positive fact is a night game would be a much cooler temperature.

The game may offer no relief for the Bulldogs from their losing streak. UC Irvine is 3-1 on the season and gets to play on its home turf.

After the loss to Oregon the team needs to look for ways to win, but senior forward Lauren West isn’t giving up its home turf.

Wednesday, September 2, 2009

"Mainly we need to relax when playing," West said. "We are very nervous when getting the ball." A tournament right now may help West and possibly her other team members to get relaxed and score.

"Playing in a tournament doesn’t give you time to freak out about the game," West said.

"It’s not just nerves that are getting in the way of the Dogs scoring. The team needs to get across midfield and get the ball into scoring position. Fresno State hasn’t scored a goal this season, including exhibition games.”

West and the other Bulldogs only have Saturday to think about the next game of the tournament.

After playing UC Irvine, the Bulldogs will face UC Riverside on Sunday at 10 a.m. Sunday’s game may be a better match for the ‘Dogs since UC Irvine placed second this season, which is a closer record.

The Bulldogs will not face Southern Utah this weekend.

College football

2009: The year of the quarterback

By Jon Wilner
The Collegian

Welcome to the greatest Heisman Trophy race in history, otherwise known as the 2009 college football season. All other topics take a back seat, from Florida’s quest to repeat to Charlie Weis’ derri- ers on the hot seat.

For the first time in 74 years of modern college football, two players are leading the nation in passing yards. Both are dual-threat quarterbacks (quarterback) at glamour schools that have designs on the Bowl Championship Series title.

Tebow, the ‘07 Heisman winner and two-time national champion who plays for Florida, and McCoy, the ‘08 winner and likely No. 1 pick in the NFL draft, directed the most prolific offenses in the history of the game.

And yet the race is so loaded, Tebow and McCoy aren’t even the clear favorites. That’s because with a couple of teams on the West Coast—Texas quarterback Colt McCoy, who completed 77 percent of his passes last season (an NCAA record) and finished second in the Heisman voting—there are three really good quarterbacks in the mix.

Never before have the top three finishers returned to college the following season. Last season, three Cal tailbacks—Jahvid Best, the one with the dazzling speed and 80-yard runs, and two others, were a presence, McCoy said. That other year, Florida’s quarterback was a second-year player, and third in four years, was the big story.

This year, any other year, eyes would be on Weis, who returns for his fifth and pos- sibly final season in South Bend.

There are some compelling stories, and there are plenty more: from Lane Kiffin’s first season at Tennessee, to Terrelle Pryor’s second at Ohio State, from Urban Meyer’s 18-year-old Matt Barkley to Penn State’s 82-year-old Joe Paterno, from Oregon State’s attempt to crash the BCS to Michigan’s attempt to get back on top.

But this year, all those are background stories. This year, it’s all about the Heisman and those quarterback races.

PROJECTIONS

National-title game: Florida vs. Texas. Make it Texas, four times in three years for the Longhorns.

Rose Bowl: Cal vs. Ohio State. One of the toughest tickets in college football.

Orange Bowl: Virginia Tech vs. Penn State. Another BCS title game.

 Fiesta Bowl: Oklahoma vs. USC. Trojans are tired of the Rose Bowl anyway.

Sugar Bowl: Mississippi vs. Pitt. Remember, Pittsburgh almost gets last… gets Pittsburgh.

COACHES ON THE HOT SEAT

Charlie Weis, Notre Dame: With at least eight games or he’s done.

Dan Hawkins, Colorado: With 13 victories in three years, it’s bowl or bust.

Loration and the Big Ten: Best chance to see the Tebow train derail.

On Texas vs. Oklahoma: Winner becomes a front-runner for BCS title game.

Nov. 7, Ohio State at Penn State: The Buckeyes should be underdog.

TEAM ON THE RISE

UCLA: Loaded defense, improved offensive line and the second year in Norm Chow’s offense should propel the Bruins, who were 4-8 last season, into a bowl game.

LE M A N T H E DECLINE

Big East: Doesn’t have anything close to a top-10 team, but the BCS automatic bid remains intact (unfortu- nately).

TOUGHEST SCHEDULES

Oklahoma vs. Miami: Good thing the Sooners are loaded. They are likely to play nine bowl-eligible teams and only three at home.

Florida State: BYU and Florida at tough ACC schedule mean only a few teams.

WEAKEST SCHEDULE

Penn State: With a nonconference series of Akron, Temple, Syracuse and Eastern Illinois, JoePa should be ashamed.

Rutgers: Look for a big season after the Big Ten appointed Knights thanks to Howard, Florida Atlantic and Texas Southern and Maryland.

AND THE HEISMAN TROPHY

Texas quarterback Colt McCoy. It’s his turn.
Breakdown: Bulldogs

The 2009 season may leave the Bulldogs with more questions than answers. But their matchup against the UC Davis Aggies will, hopefully, provide the most answers the Bulldogs will find this year.

Who will start at quarterback and lead Pat Hill’s team? Well, he has said all off-season that he won’t be able to decide until he sees Ryan Colburn and Derek Carr on film. But Hill made the decision yesterday that Colburn would start. Even though the lefty will get the reps, it will still be intriguing to see Carr looking over his shoulder.

What kind of offense can fans expect to see? Everyone has heard the rumors that Hill will change his ways after 12 seasons or not. How will the two-coordinator system work? Both the offense and the defense have running and passing coordinators, with the passing coordinator in the booth calling plays. Neither Randy Stewart (defense) nor Jeff Grady (offense) have been in those positions before.

With so many important questions to be concerned with, plus all of the unknowns, the Bulldogs must stay focused.

First and foremost, Hill must concentrate on beating UC Davis and not becoming Stanford part II.

And the rest might just work itself out.

Breakdown: Aggies

UC Davis is entering its 77th season under head coach Bob Biggs and is playing one of its most aggressive schedules in his tenure. Not only are the Aggies opening their season at Bulldog Stadium, but they will also take their act up north to play Boise State on Oct. 3.

But this isn’t the only season the Aggies, a Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) program, have taken on a Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) program, have taken on opponents from the Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS).

In 2005, the Aggies beat Stanford 20-17 on a late touchdown after 12 seasons or not. It wouldn’t matter if it was Colburn or Carr, the Bulldogs’ speed will outrun the Aggies.

When UC Davis runs:

Fresno State doesn’t have an especially strong running attack, but the spread option give the Bulldogs trouble. Fresno State’s offense gets spread thin with four or five receivers.

When UC Davis runs:

Fresno State’s offense gets spread thin with four or five receivers.

One UC not afraid of the ‘Dogs ...

2008 Record: 5-7 (2-1 Great West)

Head coach: Bob Biggs (17th season)

Offense: Spread

Defense: 4-3

Key players: WR Chris Carter, LB Mike Morales, WR Bakari Grant, DE Patrick Micheler, TE Dean Rogers

Series record: 11-5-1, but the two schools haven’t played since 1952

Last meeting: The Bulldogs won, 41-7, in 1952

Point spread: No line is available, because the two teams don’t play in the same division

Position match-ups

Matt Weir / The Collegian

RADIO: KJMJ-AM 580 AND KGST-AM 1600 (ESPN DEPORTES)

Keys to Victory

1. Take the training wheels off. Hill needs to get with the times and truly incorporate the spread offense. He should let Ebahn Feathers do what he does best – run.

2. Fill those gaps. Last season the defense couldn’t stop any running attack, except New Mexico State. These ‘Dogs need to get a head start and shut down a running game in week one.

3. Check the string between the cans. With two new coordinators, communication is essential.

By Logan Hopkins

The Collegian

Player to watch:

Ryan Colburn, quarterback

When Fresno State runs:

Fresno State The running back trio of Anthony Harding, Longye Miller and Ryan Mathews really need a cool nickname. Call them whatever, but expect 250 rushing yards.

When UC Davis runs:

UC Davis Davi...