

MEN'S BASKETBALL



Sophomore center Thomas Bryant takes a free throw against UMASS Lowell Nov. 16. The Hoosiers beat the River Hawks 100-78. Bryant was five-for-six from the line Sunday against Southeast Missouri State in the Hoosiers 83-55 win. [VICTOR GROSSLING Buy Photos](#)

IU still searching for leadership, communication after Fort Wayne loss

By Taylor Lehman
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FORT WAYNE, INDIANA — IU Coach Tom Crean said when Fort Wayne jumped to a 13-3 lead at the beginning of Tuesday night's game, the Hoosiers were going to learn a lesson whether they won or not.

No. 3 IU was playing its only true road game in the non-conference season and began the game behind Summit League-leading Fort Wayne.

IU was able to catch up, as it sent the game into overtime tied at 65, but was never able to seal the game. The Hoosiers led for just a total of 1:11 and suffered their first loss of the season, 71-68.

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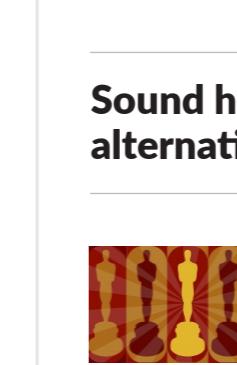
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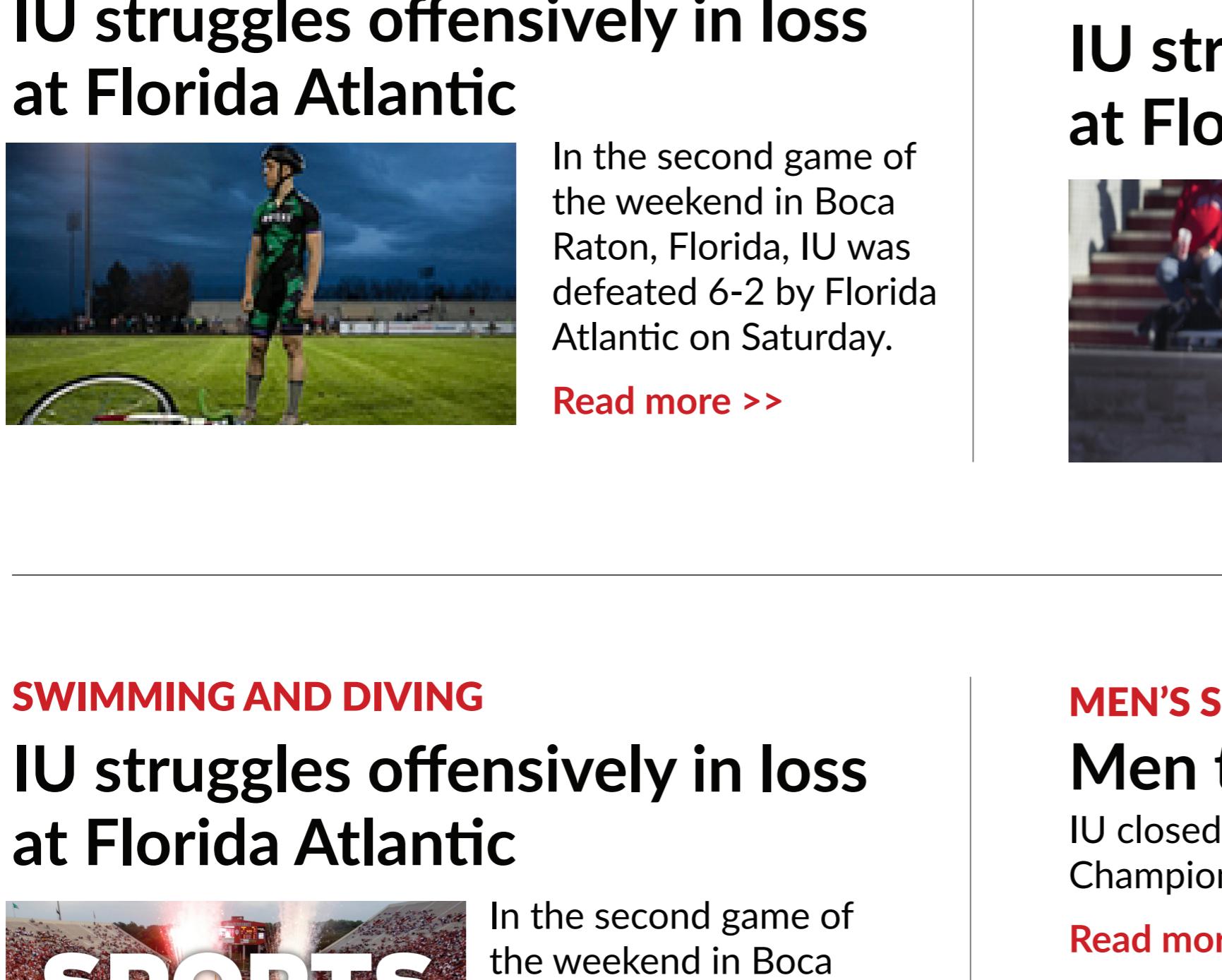
"They absolutely came out and put us on our heels from the beginning," Crean said. "But I don't think anyone thought we weren't going to get back into it. I didn't feel that way."

The game was advertised in Fort Wayne as the biggest game in the program's history. The Mastodons hadn't hosted a team ranked higher than No. 5.

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And Fort Wayne came out firing, scoring 38 points in the first half and pushing its lead to as large as 10 before halftime.

When IU scored, Fort Wayne had an answer, and the Mastodon lead that seemed like it wouldn't last long ended up lasting until the 16-minute mark of the second half.



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That's something that doesn't happen overnight, Crean said. It has to be built over time.

Crean said he'd expect the leadership and the "bull by the horns" mentality to come from the upperclassmen on the team, but the reason it doesn't consistently come from them is that they don't have enough confidence in their own games. They haven't produced successfully for a long period of time.

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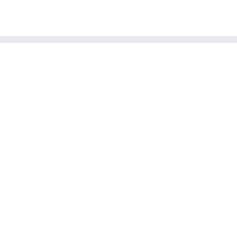
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