

THE OBSERVER

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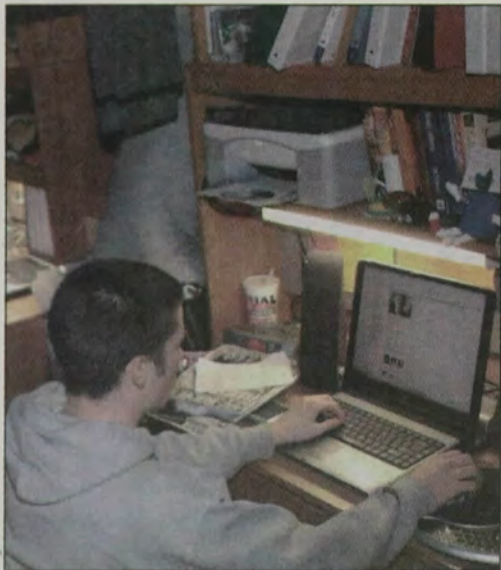
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2005

NDSMCOBSERVER.COM

Crime and Punishment

A six-part series on discipline at Notre Dame

Dorm life, policies elicit mixed emotions



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

A Notre Dame student completes classwork in his dorm Thursday.

Students, administrators grapple with disciplinary future

By MADDIE HANNA
Associate News Editor

And our hearts forever, love thee, Notre Dame.

It's a lyric that evokes emotion for tens of thousands of swaying, fist-pounding fans at the close of home football games. But even among the ranks of the Notre Dame faithful, there are disillusioned students for whom "forever" has lost its meaning.

"I love this place, and now I'm to the point where I'm going to transfer ... I never thought I'd be here," said a male junior who wished to remain anonymous. "It makes me sad. At this point last year, I wanted to stay in college forever. Now I can't wait to get out."

The junior, who recently paid his

fourth visit to the Office of Residence Life and Housing, said he felt the University had been excessively severe and unreasonable given his particular violations.

He represents three generations of Domers, but he thinks it might end there.

"Which is really sad, for the future," he said. "Kids like me are going to leave this school, and I don't know if I want my kids to come here."

It's not every student, or even a majority of students. But students who are frustrated with the University's residential system and disciplinary policies raise important questions about what direction Notre Dame will take in the future.

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Observer File Photo

Police surround students during a bar bust in April 2004.

Faith, feminism fuse at SMC

Students juggle Catholicism and women's issues at Saint Mary's

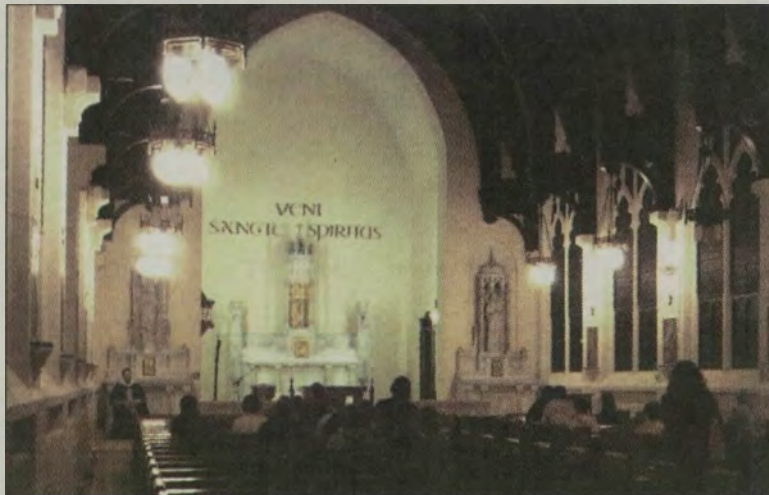
By EMILY LAVELLE and
LAUREN LAVELLE
News Writers

Editor's Note: This is the third in a three-part series examining the perception of feminism within the Saint Mary's community.

Some students at Saint Mary's College find it difficult to incorporate feminist ideals into their Catholic lifestyles because the two sometimes have different stances on social issues — finding a balance can be tricky, they said.

But many students at the College claim feminism can

see FAITH/page 6



KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

A Mass held at Saint Mary's Thursday juxtaposes the College's Catholic identity with its status as a women's institution.

Final game prompts nostalgia from seniors

By KATIE PERRY
Assistant News Editor

Within the walls of Notre Dame Stadium Saturday, amidst a sea of people who overlook a sea of gilded helmets, thousands of seniors will bid farewell to a tradition cherished for four years — but memories made under blue-grey skies won't be as fleeting.

"Despite feeling bittersweet about it being the last game, it's going to be really awesome reminiscing about four years of football — even if two of those years weren't so good," senior Dan Tudesco said. "You can't really be too sad when you've

gotten up at 8 a.m. and had a great time with your closest friends for 24 Saturdays of your college career."

Saturday's 2:30 p.m. kickoff against Syracuse will mark the beginning of the end for nearly a quarter of Notre Dame's undergraduate student body. Seniors said though they are excited for the game, football nostalgia has already begun to set in.

"I have my usual excitement heading into the game, but along with that is a sadness at it being the last game," senior Nick Plantan said. "I'm not ready to be done standing in

see FOOTBALL/page 8

Minorities now urban majority, expert says

By KAITLYNN RIELY
News Writer

Stanford professor Albert Camarillo said Thursday that due to demographic changes, racial populations generally considered minorities in the United States now make up the majority in urban areas.

In a lecture at McKenna Hall, Camarillo used U.S. Census statistics to show the dramatic increase of minorities in such areas. In 1970, the 20 largest United States cities were comprised of 38 percent minorities, but in 2000 the

minority population grew to 60 percent, he said.

"It's going to mean greater interaction between various minorities that now constitute the majorities of the country's largest cities," he said.

Camarillo demonstrated this new racial distribution through racial demographics in Compton, located in the metropolitan center of Los Angeles County. Born and raised in Compton, Camarillo said his interest in the sociology of the city began when he returned after 30 years away to find a different

see RACE/page 8

Vet, 75, proud to be ND-enrolled

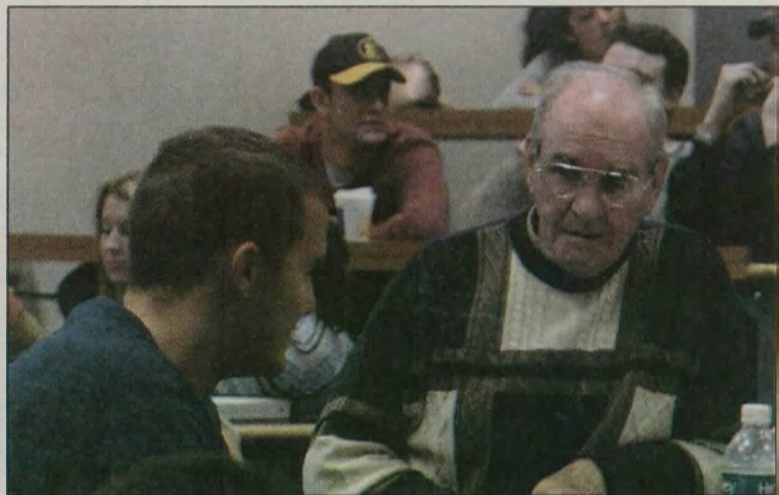
By MARY KATE MALONE
News Writer

When Ralph "Lefty" Guillette tells people he's a student at Notre Dame, he usually gets the once-over and a response along the lines of "Yeah, right."

But Guillette can't blame them. After all, he is 75 years old.

"I show them my student I.D. and say, 'Eat your heart out — I'm a student,'" he said.

In mid-July 2005, Guillette was accepted to



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Ralph "Lefty" Guillette attends "War, Law and Ethics," a theology course the Korean and Vietnam War vet enrolled in this semester.

see LEFTY/page 9

INSIDE COLUMN

Wash the 'wave' out

It started out like any other beautiful Saturday afternoon at Notre Dame Stadium. The sun was shining, I couldn't see my own breath and the two girls in front of me who find their cell phones more fascinating than the sixth-best football team in the country decided to leave early. It was just another Notre Dame romp, going off without a hitch.

Jack Thornton

Sports Writer

And then it happened — people started doing the wave. I never thought I'd see the day when I would yell at the alumni to sit down, but low and behold, all of Notre Dame Stadium was jumping up and down as if University President Father John Jenkins had cancelled classes for the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (please?).

The Chambers 21st Century Dictionary defines the wave as "a rippling wave effect that passes right around a stadium full of spectators, achieved when all the spectators in turn stand up with their arms raised and then sit down again with their arms lowered." Thanks Chambers, but here's my definition of the wave: stupid.

Notre Dame has a long history of tough guys: Stuldreher, Miller, Crowley and Layden, not to mention Gipp, Parseghian, Bettis and Weis.

And then this is the best we fans can do? Flail our arms effeminately and make a noise the Pillsbury Doughboy copyrighted years ago? It's enough to make Knute Rockne cry.

According to Tony Burton, author of "Western Mexico: A Traveler's Treasury," the wave first started popping up in the 1980s.

While no one is entirely sure who gave rise to the very first wave, those claiming responsibility are the Oakland Raiders, the Seattle Mariners and the University of Washington.

Think about those origins for a second. First, anything to come out of 1980s pop culture is tacky and lame. I mean fanny packs? Are you serious? Second, it figures that the same geniuses who hired Tyrone Willingham in 2005 also unleashed the low-point of human expression that is the wave.

The wave is done when one team is being blown out and the crowd has lost interest in the game. Thus, doing the wave is either a sign of disrespect to the away team or a sign of giving up on the home team. The wave doesn't belong in Notre Dame Stadium, where we respect our opponents and we worship our football team. It's like someone starting the "arm wave" in the middle of the Our Father at the Basilica.

It's no coincidence that immediately after the crowd started doing the wave, Brady Quinn threw his first interception in 131 attempts. The football gods had to punish our infidelity, so they came down from their heavens and clipped Brady Quinn's anatomically perfect right arm so that the ball would land in the waiting hands of Navy's DuJuan Price.

If you want to do the wave, go to Wisconsin, but if you want to see college football the way it was meant to be, then come the University of Notre Dame, where tradition means a little more. Oh, and alumni? Now you can stand up.

Contact Jack Thornton at jthornt4@nd.edu

The views expressed in the Inside Column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

CORRECTIONS

The Observer regards itself as a professional publication and strives for the highest standards of journalism at all times. We do, however, recognize that we make mistakes. If we have made a mistake, please contact us at 631-4541 so we can correct our error.

QUESTION OF THE DAY: WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON THE LAST HOME GAME OF THE SEASON?



Matthew Zill
freshman
Dillon

"It makes me sad to see Samardzija's year end."



Brendan Devitt
freshman
Dillon

"I hope it snows at the game."



Margaret Morgan
senior
Lewis

"It'll be sad, but at least it's a big rivalry to finish on."



Emily Newport
freshman
Lewis

"It's sad, but there's still the next three years."



Dana Gusky
freshman
Lewis

"There goes my eye candy."



MARY KATE MANNIX/The Observer

An lone snowman stands guard in front of Morrissey Manor Thursday. Unseasonably cold temperatures swept the region late this week, bringing a blustery mix of flurries and wind to campus that took some Domers by surprise.

IN BRIEF

University President Emeritus Father Edward Malloy will be signing copies of his new book, "Monk's Notre Dame," today from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Hammes Bookstore.

The Notre Dame Chorale and Chamber Orchestra will hold a concert tonight at 9 p.m. in the Leighton Concert Hall. General tickets \$8 for faculty and staff and \$3 for students.

Asian Allure, an event celebrating Asian heritage and culture at Notre Dame, will take place tonight at 8 p.m. in Washington Hall.

A TRANSPO bus will provide transportation to Alumni Field for students who wish to attend the men's and women's NCAA Tournament soccer games tonight at 5 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., respectively. The loop will run from 4 p.m. to approximately 9 p.m. and will make stops at Library Circle, the Grotto and McKenna Hall.

The Irish men's basketball team will face Lafayette in Notre Dame's season opener at 2 p.m. Sunday at the Joyce Center. Notre Dame defeated Lewis and Quincy in exhibition match-ups earlier this month.

The Vienna Choir Boys, touted as one of the most celebrated children's choirs in the world, will kick off the holiday season in 3 p.m. performance on Sunday, Nov. 27 at the Marie P. DeBartolo Center for the Performing Arts.

To submit information to be included in this section of The Observer, e-mail detailed information about an event to obsnews@nd.edu

OFFBEAT

Singapore seeks to flush long toilet lines

SINGAPORE — After launching "Happy Toilet" rankings similar to hotel star ratings and directing tourists to the cleanest commodes in Singapore, the city-state is now aiming to flush away yet another problem when nature calls: queues at women's toilets.

"Today in modern Singapore we are privileged to have adequate public toilets to keep our privacy and dignity," the local branch of the World Toilet Organization said in a statement.

"Looking closer, women

here still have to queue up to use the public toilets now. It's a common sight. And men do not," it said.

The city-state's National Environment Agency, in collaboration with the local branch of the World Toilet Organization, has its sights set on whittling down the waiting time for women in public restrooms.

Man calls mom after he was reported dead

OAKLAND, Calif. — Anthony Sheppard shocked his mother this week with a telephone call, a day after he was reported dead.

"When he called me I

thought I was talking to a ghost," Verna McCowan said.

Oakland police on Tuesday bungled the identification of a man shot to death after finding Sheppard's identification card on the victim. Authorities alerted his mother of the shooting, and released the details to reporters.

Sheppard, 23, said he was shocked when he walked up to a group of friends on Wednesday who were crying while reading a newspaper account of his death.

Information compiled from the Associated Press.

	TODAY	TONIGHT	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
LOCAL WEATHER						
	HIGH 35 LOW 28	HIGH 30 LOW 15	HIGH 40 LOW 29	HIGH 42 LOW 23	HIGH 45 LOW 28	HIGH 38 LOW 22

Iraq weapons search leader to visit campus

Special to The Observer

David Kay, senior research fellow at the Potomac Institute for Policy Studies and former head of the U.S. effort to find weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, will present a lecture titled "What is the Future of Non-Proliferation?" at 7:30 p.m. Monday in the McKenna Hall auditorium at Notre Dame.

The presentation is free and open to the public as part of a 10-lecture series titled "Thoughts on the Unthinkable: Perspectives on Nuclear Weapons and Warfare." It is sponsored by the Department of Physics, Center for Social Concerns, College of Science and Reilly Center for Science Technology and Values.

In June 2003, President Bush directed that oversight of the hunt for Iraqi weapons of mass destruction (WMDs) be transferred from the Defense Department to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), after which the director of the CIA appointed Kay to lead the search and direct the activities of the 1,400-member Iraq Survey Group. Kay reported in January 2004 that there had been no stockpiles of WMDs in Iraq at the time of the U.S. invasion of the country and resigned his position. The report led to Congressional hearings and the appointment of an independent commission to investigate the causes of U.S. intelligence failures prior to the war, as well as

how this intelligence was communicated and used by policy-makers.

Kay earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Texas and his master's and doctoral degrees in international affairs from Columbia University. He served as the chief nuclear weapons inspector for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the United Nations Special Commission, leading numerous inspections into Iraq after the first Gulf War to determine Iraqi nuclear weapons production capability. While in Iraq, he led teams that found and identified the scope and extent of Iraqi uranium enrichment activities, located the major Iraqi center for assembly of nuclear weapons, and seized numerous documents on the Iraqi nuclear weapons programs. At one point, he spent four days as a hostage in a Baghdad parking lot.

Kay has 15 years of management experience with international organizations and trade associations and has received the IAEA's Distinguished Service Award and a commendation from the U.S. Secretary of State. He also has served on the Defense Science Board, the U.S. State Department's Advisory Commission on International Organizations, the Rockefeller Foundation's Advisory Group on Conflicts in International Relations, and the U.S. delegation to the UN General Assembly.

GE vice president speaks at SMC

Susan Peters, a notable alumna, lectures on leadership development

By SARAH VOSS
News Writer

Susan Peters, alumna of Saint Mary's Class of 1975 and vice president of executive development at General Electric Company (GE) spoke about the roles of women in corporate America at the Moreau Center for the Arts Thursday.

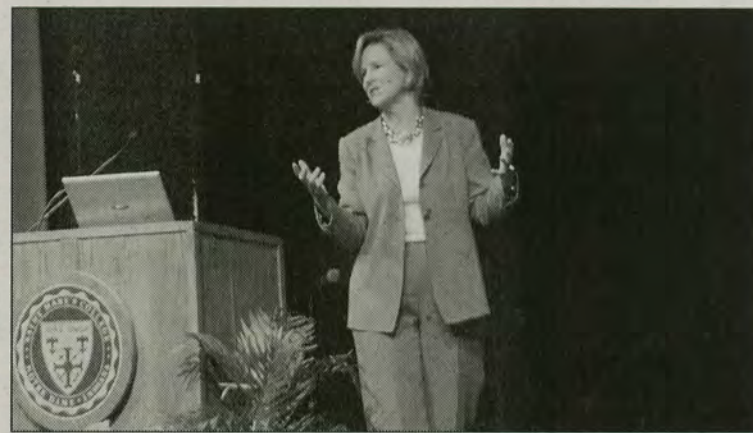
Peters' lecture, "Leadership Development," was part of the 2005 Shannon Executive Scholar Lecture, an honor granted annually to a Saint Mary's alumna who has achieved exceptional success in the professional world.

Peters spoke to the audience about what she recognizes as good leadership skills among the CEOs and other top executives. She said skills such as problem-solving, courage, motivation, willingness to learn, effective communication and tenacity are valuable traits for management and executive positions.

"Find a place where early experiences give you stretch opportunities, because that's where development takes place," Peters said.

Peters said Saint Mary's students have above average "performance, values and integrity — which are [their] tickets into the game."

She said the important thing is what happens with a



KATE FENLON/The Observer

Susan Peters, a Saint Mary's graduate and now a vice president of General Electric, speaks on campus Thursday.

given ticket of talents — whether it is wasted or utilized efficiently.

Peters emphasized the importance of providing a positive place for everyone in the workplace.

"Provide an environment where everyone can excel," she said.

There is value in real-life experience in conjunction with formal education, she said.

"You can sit in a lot of classrooms or training sessions, but your development will happen each and every day," Peters said.

Peters said good leaders are able to swallow their pride and that "it's OK to say, 'I don't know.'"

"Every leader is also a

worker," she said.

Peters' message resonated with many senior business majors in the audience.

"Being a senior and knowing that we'll be working at a company in less than a year, [Peters] gave good points on how to handle yourself and how to work your way up," senior Bridget Boyce said.

Senior Megan McDiffett said Peters had "a lot of valuable insights" on the business world.

"A lot of things she spoke about we had talked about in business classes, and it was great to see that what we learn in class is applicable in the real world," she said.

Contact Sarah Voss at svoss01@saintmarys.edu

CELEBRATE PARENTS WEEKEND WITH IRISH LEGENDS!

Don't forget to pay a visit to the College Football Hall of Fame while in town for Parents Weekend. It's the perfect way to spend some time with your family on this special weekend. The Hall of Fame is just a short drive from campus, in downtown South Bend. So come celebrate with the 45 Fighting Irish Legends that are enshrined in the Hall of Fame, more than any other school!

111 South St. Joseph Street,
Downtown South Bend
1-800-440-FAME
www.collegefootball.org

The Hall of Fame is the perfect setting for your Junior Parents Weekends and Class of 2006 Graduation Parties. Book now by calling 574-235-7716!

Coupon Offer:
\$1 OFF

full-price admission.
Offer expires
11/21/05



SISTAR grant recipients present results at SMC

By LISA GALLAGHER
News Writer

Three faculty-student team recipients of the 2005 Student Independent Study and Research (SISTAR) grants presented their research and findings in VanderVennet Theatre at Saint Mary's Thursday.

According to the Center for Academic Innovation, the grants are awarded to support research and study for two months during the summer. The experience helps foster the student's personal development as a confident independent scholar, and the faculty member also benefits from collaborating with an advanced student.

Dr. Kitty Green, assistant professor in the Education Department, and senior Lauren Condon are using multicultural service learning to connect teachers, students and communities. During the summer, Green and Condon collaborated to design a unit that will be implemented in three high school English classes.

Condon said many of the students she will be working with have no interest in school. They do not hand in their work and do not attend class on a regular

basis.

Students will read "To Kill a Mockingbird" in conjunction with the theme "You Can't Really Know a Person Until You Have Walked in Their Shoes," and use the theme to gain a deeper understanding of others.

"Kids need to know where things are going," Condon said. "I think [this project] will have a huge affect on the way I teach; teaching the heart, not just the head."

Green began her study in her class Theory and Practice Service-Learning Pedagogy. Using student responses and data, Green noted an increase in the students' own personal awareness, in the respect between teachers and students, in class unity and in the appreciation for students' roles in the community.

Though the team has not decided on a conference to present its findings, it is looking toward the spring. Condon said she would like to report her findings in a journal of education.

Dr. Mana Derakhshani, associate professor of French, and senior Megan McGee's research is themed "A Magic Carpet Ride." The idea derived from an article of the same title that said through teaching culture

in a foreign language class, students cannot magically be transported to a cultural understanding.

McGee said she wanted to study the impact of cultural sensitivity of high school students. She traveled for two weeks through rural England, France and Spain with 16 students from Vail Christian High School in her hometown of Vail, Colo.

McGee said the students would likely develop a higher level of cultural sensitivity throughout the trip and post-trip reflections. Using qualitative and quantitative evidence, she found there was a high discrepancy between the students' perceived sensitivity toward a culture and their actual developing sensitivity. There was also an increase in defensiveness and a decrease in minimization, the idea that "we are all the same."

McGee said the high school students made broad generalizations about different cultures and clung to negative experiences, such as the London bombings, but did not cling to stereotypes.

Derakhshani conducts her research in the college setting. Though her research will not be complete until the end of the spring semester, her method is to ask students in her French and Italian classes their initial

ideas about the culture and language they are studying. She will then be able to evaluate whether studying a foreign language fosters development in cultural sensitivity.

Kurt Buhring, assistant professor of religious studies, received the Maryjeanne R. Burke and Daughters SISTAR Award, which assists an untenured faculty member in his or her student partnership.

"There are lots of different ways of understanding God — this is just one of them."

Kurt Buhring
assistant professor

Along with senior Sinnamón Wolfe, the team focused their research on divine and human responses to human suffering in liberation theology and process theology. The team struggled with the question of why suffering, injustices and oppression are present in the world.

Wolfe said she has learned it is everyone's responsibility to act and respond to suffering and oppression in the world. Liberation theology focuses on the idea that Jesus identifies with the poor and oppressed.

"[People] understand God in the traditional sense," Buhring said. "There are lots of different ways of understanding God — this is just one of them," he said.

Contact Lisa Gallagher at lgalla01@saintmarys.edu

Education trial affects 10 states

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In a federal experiment, up to 10 states will be allowed to change how they measure yearly student progress, the cornerstone of President Bush's education law. The Associated Press has learned.

The latest shift in enforcement of the No Child Left Behind law, to be announced Friday, is significant politically. Frustrated states have been pleading for permission to try this "growth model," which may make it easier for them to meet their goals and avoid penalties.

Education Secretary Margaret Spellings plans to let states apply for the right to measure how much progress individual students make over time, as they move between grades.

Currently, schools are judged based on how today's students compare to last year's students in math and reading — such as fourth-graders in 2005 versus fourth-graders in 2004.

Many state leaders don't like comparing two different groups of kids because there's no regard given to changes in population or credit given for kids who make gains but fall short.



"Vast: The Art of Maria Tomasula"

Maria Tomasula

Michael P. Grace Associate Professor of Art, Art History and Design

An award-winning painter, Tomasula's work recalls the work of 18th and early 19th-century Spanish Baroque religious painters. Her presentation will explore the inspiration and technique of her highly stylized, symbolic compositions. The presentation, held in the Snite Museum of Art, will include slides of Tomasula's work.

For more information, visit <http://saturdayscholar.nd.edu>

SATURDAY SCHOLAR SERIES

Fall 2005 Schedule

Experience an intimate discussion with Notre Dame's most engaging faculty speakers on some of the most pressing issues of our times.



9/17—Michigan State
Linda Przybyszewski, Associate Professor of History
"Catholics, Concubines, and the Constitution: 19th-Century Battles over Church and State"



10/15—USC
Thomas Slaughter, Andrew V. Tackes Professor of History
"Exploring Lewis and Clark"



10/22—BYU
James McKenna, Rev. Edmund P. Joyce, C.S.C., Professor of Anthropology
"Caring for Babies, Caring for Parents: What Human Infants Really Need and Why"



11/5—Tennessee
Julia Braungart-Rieker, Professor of Psychology, Associate Dean of Arts and Letters
"Understanding Personality and Emotional Development in Babies and Children"



11/12—Navy
Lawrence Cunningham, John A. O'Brien Professor of Theology
M. Cathleen Kaveny, John P. Murphy Foundation Professor of Law
Rev. Richard McBrien, Crowley-O'Brien Professor of Theology
"A Change at the Top: Pope Benedict XVI" (Snite Museum of Art)



11/19—Syracuse
Maria Tomasula, Michael P. Grace Associate Professor of Art, Art History and Design
"Vast: The Art of Maria Tomasula" (Snite Museum of Art)

3-1/2 hours before kickoff at the auditorium in the Hesburgh Center for International Studies (unless otherwise noted). For more information, visit <http://saturdayscholar.nd.edu>



UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

College of Arts & Letters

WORLD & NATION

Friday, November 18, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

page 5

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Shiites warned to stay out of security

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi government has promised to investigate detention facilities across the country to ensure prisoners are not tortured, the United States said Thursday, sharply warning Iraqi officials against allowing Shiite militias a role in the security services following allegations of torture of Sunni Arabs.

The Interior Minister, who is in charge of the facilities and security forces, said torture claims were exaggerated.

Sectarian rhetoric sharpened four days after U.S. troops found up to 173 malnourished detainees — some showing signs of torture — in an Interior Ministry building in the capital's Jadriyah district. Most were believed to be Sunni Arabs, the main group in the insurgency.

French women are double victims

SAINT-DENIS — Fifteen-year-old Rawa risks verbal abuse — or worse — every time she leaves her house wearing jeans. Jenah was thrown out of the family home at 11, became a drug dealer at 13, and was raped by a relative a year later.

If young men in France's poor housing projects — scenes of three weeks of nightly arson and unrest — have it rough, girls often have it worse. Not only do they suffer from racism, unemployment and deprivation: They also endure daily harassment and even violence in their own communities.

"Women are double victims, of social and sexual discrimination as well as violence," said Fadela Amara, founder of "Ni Putes, Ni Soumises" (Neither a Whore nor a Submissive), a group fighting to improve the lot of Muslim women and girls in impoverished French neighborhoods.

NATIONAL NEWS

Former South Bend priest convicted

MESA — A Roman Catholic priest was found guilty Thursday of sexually abusing boys in his Arizona parishes after a trial which included testimony from four Indiana men who said they were also molested by the priest years before.

Jurors found the Rev. Paul LeBrun guilty after three weeks of testimony. LeBrun, 49, has been jailed since 2003, and now faces between 81 and 110 years in prison. LeBrun was posted at Little Flower Catholic Church in South Bend before being removed from public ministry in 1999.

Although he has been stripped of his priestly duties, LeBrun remains a member of the Catholic clergy.

Americans unprepared for disaster

WASHINGTON — A majority of Americans say they are no better prepared for a disaster than they were before Hurricane Katrina and have less confidence in their government to protect them.

Yet most people will keep relying on state and local officials in the immediate aftermath of a terrorist attack or natural disaster, according to two polls and an accompanying analysis by New York University's Center for Catastrophe Preparedness and Response.

"Americans right now are not prepared to last three hours on their own, let alone three days," said NYU professor Paul C. Light, the report's author.

LOCAL NEWS

Outdoor smoke ban at state center

INDIANAPOLIS — State employees who want to smoke at work soon will have to take a hike — literally.

Gov. Mitch Daniels said today that starting Jan. 1, the Indiana Government Center Campus — which includes the Statehouse, Government Center North and Government Center South — in Indianapolis will be a smoke-free zone.

Cigarette smoking has been banned in the buildings and within 50 feet of any building entrance since 2003.

SOUTH KOREA

Bush and Putin discuss issues

The two leaders meet to speak about the war on terror and nuclear ambitions

Associated Press

BUSAN — Though their political relationship is strained, President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin are trying to speak with one voice about the war on terror and the campaign to stop North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The two leaders were meeting Friday, apparently still at odds over how to address Iran's nuclear programs and with long-running differences over the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq and U.S. concern that Russia is retreating from democracy.

Far from home, Bush was on the defensive about Democrats' criticism that he had misled the nation about the need to go to war in Iraq.

He said at a news conference Thursday that it was "patriotic as heck to disagree with the president." But he added, "What bothers me is when people are irresponsibly using their positions and playing politics. That's exactly what is taking place in America."

Friday's meeting was the fifth between Bush and Putin this year, following talks in Moscow; Washington; Bratislava, Slovakia, and Gleneagles, Scotland. Despite their disputes, they're on a first-name basis and emphasize their friendship, which was strengthened when Putin stepped forward and supported Bush after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Bush and Putin were meeting in a hotel suite before the opening of the annual Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The White House said the key topics would be Iran, North Korea, terrorism, trade, Moscow's goal of joining the World



President Bush touches hands with Juji Sunim, a chief monk, during his visit to the Bulguksa Temple in South Korea, Thursday.

Trade Organization by the end of the year and developments in Russia.

Bush also was to meet with Southeast Asia leaders to underscore U.S. interest in the region, one of the battlegrounds in the fight against terrorists. Bush planned to ask the leaders to exert their influence on the military junta in Myanmar, which Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said was "one of the worst regimes in the world" for its record on human rights and free speech.

Putin has refused to support Bush in the president's eagerness to go to

the U.N. Security Council with suspicions Iran is trying to build a nuclear arsenal. Over U.S. objections, Russia is building a nuclear reactor for a power plant in Iran, an \$800 million project the United States fears could be used to help develop nuclear arms.

Putin says that he shares the U.S. goal of an Iran without nuclear arms but that he has been assured Tehran has no ambitions for developing a nuclear weapon and instead wants its program for civilian energy use alone.

Bush and Putin have

generally agreed on a need to avert the spread of nuclear weapons technology to other nations, including North Korea. Russia is a partner with the United States, China, Japan and South Korea in talks aimed at persuading North Korea to halt its nuclear program in return for energy and security guarantees.

The political relationship between Bush and Putin has frayed, in part because of U.S. concerns that Putin is consolidating power in the Kremlin and eroding democratic advances in post-Soviet Russia.

Democrat seeks U.S. withdrawal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One of Congress' most hawkish Democrats called Thursday for an immediate U.S. withdrawal from Iraq, sparking bitter and personal salvos from both sides in a growing Capitol Hill uproar over President Bush's war policies.

"It's time to bring them home," said Rep. John Murtha, a decorated Korean War and Vietnam combat veteran, choking back tears during remarks to reporters. "Our military has accomplished its mission and done its duty."

The comments by the Pennsylvania lawmaker, who has spent three decades in the House, hold particular

weight because he is close to many military commanders and has enormous credibility with his colleagues on defense issues. He voted for the war in 2002, and remains the top Democrat on the House Appropriations defense subcommittee.

"Our troops have become the primary target of the insurgency. They are united against U.S. forces and we have become a catalyst for violence," he said.

In a biting response, Republicans criticized Murtha's position as one of abandonment and surrender and accused Democrats of playing politics with the war and recklessly pushing a "cut and run" strategy.

"They want us to retreat. They want us to wave the white flag of surrender to the terrorists of the world," said House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

"It would be an absolute mistake and a real insult to the lives that have been lost," said Rep. David Dreier, R-Calif.

Just two days earlier, the GOP-controlled Senate defeated a Democratic push to force Bush to lay out a timetable for withdrawal. Spotting mushrooming questions from both parties about the war, though, the chamber approved a statement that 2006 should be a significant year in which conditions are created for the phased withdrawal of U.S. forces.

Faith

continued from page 1

indeed coexist with a Catholic environment.

One of the conflicts students encounter when questioning the relationship between Catholicism and feminism is the Church's stance on women's issues.

"I think it's difficult for the Saint Mary's community to categorize itself as a feminist community while also being a Catholic college, as the ideals of both categories, while great in thought, often conflict in practice," junior Molly McGuire said.

Senior Meghan Daley said because it is a Catholic institution, Saint Mary's should not encourage feminist values that disregard Catholic teaching.

"I believe that as a Catholic college, Saint Mary's has a responsibility to foster only those 'feminist' ideals that are in keeping with Church teaching," she said. "Those sectors of the feminist movement which advocate abortion rights and the redefinition of the institution of marriage should not be encouraged at Saint Mary's."

Some students on campus, however, said feminist values can be incorporated into Catholic life.

"Feminism is so deeply connected to our mission as a college in terms of empowering women and creating women leaders," said Astrid Henry, director of the Women's Studies Program. "I think students can see there is a connection between the two things and they are not in contradiction, even though some people feel like feminism is in contradiction to a Catholic women's college."

Director of Spirituality Sister Kathleen Dolphin shares this view. "If you really explore what Catholic teaching has to say about the dignity of the human person, and what the Catholic Church has had to say about integrating human reason and faith, you've got a very strong background to foster the rights of women," she said.

In her five years at Saint Mary's, Dolphin said she has noticed a progression toward a better understanding of feminism at the College. This progression is a result of students' willingness to question and explore the Church's teaching, she said.

"It's okay to ask questions because of the Catholic understanding of the use of human reasoning and faith," she said. "As thinking human beings, we have a moral obligation to ask questions — and ask hard questions."

Senior Jennifer Robbins, peer minister and Mission

Commissioner, said Catholics should question the Church's teaching about women's rights.

"As an institution committed to educating Catholic women ... we don't hide from reason, we absolutely seek out challenges to our faith," Robbins said. "We don't hide from things we're afraid might contradict what we already know."

Director of Campus Ministry Judith Fean said as an institution of higher education, Saint Mary's is a place for women to be critical and ask questions. The question of balancing feminism and Catholicism is a common one, and Saint Mary's is a place for students to seek a better understanding of the issue, she said.

"Feminism is about a dialogue, and Saint Mary's fosters that," Fean said.

Fean said she supports the College's allowance for groups like Feminist United, the Straight and Gay Alliance (SAGA) and the Women's Studies program.

"Groups like SAGA are here to ask questions," she said. "They wouldn't be here if there wasn't a value of why they are here."

Robbins also supports the allowance of such clubs, and said it is the College's duty as a Catholic institution to support the open inquiry of its students.

"Good for Saint Mary's for recognizing the beautiful diversity we have on our campus, and for really wanting to genuinely learn how to overcome what separates us and how to embrace each other," she said. "That's the Catholic call."

Dolphin said once students question how to incorporate femi-

nism into Catholic life, they will find answers to allow them to accommodate both.

Senior Women's Studies minor Maryann Senesac has found this balance. She said the key in balancing both value systems is to create a definition of feminism that bends to one's personal and religious beliefs.

"Just like you can be conservative and liberal politically, you can be a liberal or conservative feminist," she said. "For example, I would never have an abortion but I believe women have the right to choose."

Dolphin advises students that in order to make educated decisions, they must consider both the Church's tradition and their experiences as women.

"I always caution my students, don't just stand out there in the middle ground and be a fence-sitter. Know what you are talking about," she said.

Dolphin said finding a middle ground between feminism and Catholicism is difficult, but there are plenty of resources on campus that can help students with difficult questions.

"Take advantage of the opportunities at Saint Mary's," she said. "Talk to professors, because you've got [many] here who are ... willing to talk to students about these issues on a one-to-one basis. Now is your chance. You've got all these chances to do all this exploring."

Robbins said use of these resources is a good idea but doubts how often students take advantage of the opportunity.

"Saint Mary's could be such a powerful place," she said. "We have all the resources that the Church can give us, and we have all the resources for women. This is the cross-section; this is where we meet. Are we living to the best of our ability as Catholic women?"

Looking to the future, Dolphin questions whether Saint Mary's women will attempt to bridge the gap between feminism and Catholicism. Although she is confident about the recent revival of feminist discussion, she worries about the topic becoming stagnant in the future.

"At Saint Mary's College, where is our courage, and where is our imagination?" she said. "If it can't be done at Saint Mary's, where can it be done?" Dolphin said Saint Mary's mix of feminist and Catholic values is a powerful force.

"We are very Catholic and we are educating the next generation of women leaders," she said. "They are competent, faith-filled, and they are women of integrity — and that is what real feminism is about."

"Feminism is about a dialogue, and Saint Mary's fosters that."

Judith Fean
director
SMC Campus Ministry

Contact Emily Lavelle and Lauren Lavelle at elavel01@saintmarys.edu and llavel01@saintmarys.edu

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NASDAQ	2,220.46	+32.53
NYSE	7,601.12	+82.14
S&P 500	1,242.80	+11.59
NIKKEI(Tokyo)	14,411.79	0.00
FTSE 100(London)	5,460.00	+30.00

COMPANY	%CHANGE	\$GAIN	PRICE
NASDAQ 110 TR (QQQQ)	+1.32	+0.539	41.307
MICROSOFT CP (MSFT)	+0.83	+0.23	27.97
SIRIUS SATELLITE R (SIRI)	-0.97	-0.072	7.328
APPLIED MATERIALS (AMAT)	-2.42	-0.43	17.34
CISCO SYS INC (CSCO)	+0.87	+0.15	17.37

Treasuries			
30-YEAR BOND	-0.60	-0.28	46.46
10-YEAR NOTE	-0.56	-0.25	44.59
5-YEAR NOTE	-0.88	-0.39	43.91
3-MONTH BILL	0.00	0.00	39.12

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IN BRIEF

Online shopping sites sharpen up

SAN FRANCISCO — Laura Hanson relies on the Internet to make her a smarter shopper even when she isn't planning to buy online.

Before traveling to a conventional store, the San Francisco resident regularly visits an online comparison shopping site to explore prices and review product research so she won't need to embarrass herself with store clerks.

"With these (shopping comparison) sites, I can ask lots of stupid questions in the privacy of my own home," said the 27-year-old Hanson.

Yahoo Inc. runs Hanson's favorite comparison site — just one of many free Internet services that churn out pricing guides and other helpful insights about everything from iPod accessories to kitchen sinks.

The comparison sites are expected to play a central role in the upcoming holiday shopping season when Forrester Research predicts some 2.5 million U.S. households will buy merchandise online for the first time.

Delta needs pilot wage cuts to recover

NEW YORK — Delta Air Lines Inc. is losing \$5 million each day, much of it due to high jet fuel prices, as it tries to stay afloat, the company's chief financial officer testified in bankruptcy court Thursday.

Delta CFO Edward Bastian said the company's cash flow would break even for 2006 and generate \$1 billion in 2007, but he argued that the airline would need to impose deep wage and benefit cuts on more than 6,000 pilots to fight volatile fuel prices, pay down debt and hedge against other unforeseen circumstances.

"Historically, the surprises that have come in this industry have been negative and not positive," Bastian said during the second day of a hearing on a Delta request to void its contract with pilots and impose wage cuts. The hearing was adjourned in late afternoon and will resume Nov. 28.

The pilots have threatened to strike if U.S. Bankruptcy Court Judge Prudence Carter Beatty grants Delta's request.

Democratic tax bill shot down

Republican senators show opposition to giving breaks to energy and oil companies

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Republicans beat back Democratic attempts Thursday to use a \$60 billion tax bill to pinch oil and energy companies that have been reporting record profits while consumers pay high gasoline prices.

The bill, which would prevent a number of individual and business tax breaks from expiring, already levies almost \$5 billion in taxes on major oil companies.

The energy amendments faced opposition from the Republican majority and stood little chance of success, but they reflected attentiveness on Capitol Hill to high gasoline prices and fears of skyrocketing home heating costs this winter.

Some GOP senators were already unhappy with tax writers because the bill included a change in accounting methods that would hit large integrated oil companies with \$4.9 billion in taxes. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, said he would vote against the bill if that tax increase remained intact.

"Is it a windfall tax by another name?" Craig said.

Lawmakers were alarmed this fall when profit reports showed five major companies and their global parent corporations earned more than \$32.8 billion in the July to September quarter.

Consumers saw gasoline prices soar beyond \$3 a gallon in the aftermath of supply disruptions caused by hurricanes, and the politicians called oil executives to Capitol Hill to explain their huge profits.

Democratic Sens. Byron Dorgan of North Dakota and Chris Dodd of Connecticut lost a bid to impose a temporary windfall profits tax of 50 percent on the sale of oil over \$40 a barrel, applied to profits not reinvested in increasing domestic oil and



A Shell Oil station sign is shown in Detroit, Thursday, as gas and oil companies have been reporting record profits while consumers pay high gasoline prices.

gas supplies. They would have returned the money to energy consumers through an income tax rebate. A 35-64 procedural vote defeated their effort.

"The major integrated oil companies have all of the gain. Who has all the pain?" Dorgan asked before answering his own question: "All the American people who are trying to pay for the price of a tankful of gas or trying to figure out how they are going to heat their home in the winter."

Opponents said oil companies shouldn't be punished when lawmakers are urging them to invest in energy production. They're being made political tar-

gets, even though they aren't reporting profits as high as other industries, said Senate Finance Committee Chairman Charles Grassley, R-Iowa.

"If you have excess profits tax on Big Oil, do you soon have one on Big Microsoft?" Grassley said.

A similar amendment sought to impose a temporary windfall profits tax on oil companies and use the money to fund a low-income heating assistance program.

The Senate defeated a proposal that would have eliminated a tax incentive for major oil and gas companies that allows them a credit for exploration and development cost. An

amendment to ban price gouging during national energy emergencies declared by the president won the support of 57 senators but fell short of 60 votes needed to overcome a procedural hurdle.

The overall bill would cut taxes \$60 billion over five years, preserving many tax breaks scheduled to expire unless lawmakers keep them intact. Unlike a version passed by a House committee, the bill would not extend reduced tax rates for capital gains and dividends. Senate GOP leaders vowed to make sure the 15 percent tax rate for investment income will be in the final version of the bill.

Stocks mixed on higher oil prices

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks closed an erratic session mixed Wednesday as General Motors Corp. hit an 18-year low, dragging down the Dow Jones industrial average. Rising oil prices also dulled investor enthusiasm.

The price of crude overshadowed a government report of moderating inflation that initially gave stocks a modest lift. Oil futures settled at \$57.88 a barrel, up 90 cents on the New York Mercantile Exchange, a sharp change from the four-month low they reached Tuesday. Wednesday's government petroleum Wednesday numbers were weaker than expected.

GM fell as concerns mounted about

problems at its top supplier, Delphi Corp. and worries about the company's ability to turn around its performance. Leaders of the United Auto Workers said the union and Delphi remain far apart on a new labor agreement and fears of a strike have spooked investors.

Broader economic news was more upbeat. The Labor Department reported that consumer prices edged up just 0.2 percent in October, the best showing in four months. In September, consumer prices had soared by 1.2 percent on record energy prices. That inflation increase was the largest one-month jump in 25 years.

Expiring options also spurred selling. "We did get surprising oil inventory data, but it's still below that \$60

range," said Peter Cardillo, chief strategist, senior vice president and market analyst, S.W. Bach & Co. "The market is running against options expirations, which are causing technical difficulty."

The Dow fell 11.68, or 0.11 percent, to 10,674.76.

Broader stock indicators were barely higher. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 2.20, or 0.18 percent, to 1,231.21, and the Nasdaq composite index rose 1.19, or 0.05 percent, to 2,187.93.

Bonds rose sharply as stocks declined, with the yield on the 10-year Treasury note falling to 4.47 percent from 4.56 percent late Tuesday. The U.S. dollar was mixed against other major currencies in European trading. Gold prices were higher.

Football

continued from page 1

the student section for every game."

Tudesco said some of his own sadness has been offset by the apparent resurgence of the football program this season.

"It's nice to see the future seems more certain than when we got here," he said. "Even when we started 8-0 as freshmen, I never got the sense it was going to last — the luck was going to eventually run out. I'm jealous that the current freshmen have three more years of great football to watch."

Tudesco said his "hat is off" to head coach Charlie Weis — and other seniors agree.

"I'm very glad that I was lucky enough to be here for Coach Weis' first season," senior Chris Bodington said. "There were a lot of exciting games I was able to attend, in particular the USC game. Even though we lost, it was still an amazing game — one that people won't forget for a long time."

Many seniors said the Irish's performance against USC — in tandem with their overall success this season — has helped appease feelings of melancholy that will accompany Saturday's home closer.

"Coming in with [former coach Tyrone] Willingham was great,

because everyone was excited to be having a winning season," senior Amy Larek said. "Going out surrounded by the same excitement and optimism is a nice close to my senior year football season."

Bodington said he is already looking ahead to a Bowl Championship Series (BCS) game.

"Though it's sad that this Saturday is already our last home game, I'm looking forward to going to a bowl and watching Notre Dame win its first bowl game since the 1993 Cotton Bowl win over Texas A&M," he said.

But before the Irish and their faithful look ahead to January, seniors said they will make this weekend's game as memorable as possible.

"For the first time, I'm having a tailgate with my dad," Tudesco said. "It'll be nice to celebrate the last game with someone who has been such an important part of me being here."

Plantan said he plans to wake up "earlier than usual" so as to cherish every moment of his last home football experience as a Notre Dame student.

"I'm going to ... spend the whole day hanging out with friends tailgating [to] make the last game last as long as possible," he said.

While seniors will spend the weekend in reflection, the University's newest generation of Domers said the winning season has primed them for three more

years of Notre Dame football.

"This football season has been everything I could have asked for, and way more than I expected," freshman Brad Blomstrom said. "We've witnessed close games, blowout wins and the stadium has been full of energy."

Freshman Kyle Lee Andrews also said the season was "a lot more than [he] expected."

"After the past few years this is a great change," he said. "The games are so much fun and all of my friends at other schools are jealous. This season is making me very excited for seasons to come — next year should be amazing."

Students said though the sea-

son's excitement will dwindle somewhat with the arrival of the Orange — who have clenched just one win this season — they are not disappointed with Saturday's opponent.

"They'll be looking to salvage their season, and I doubt they will just roll over for our BCS hopes," Tudesco said.

Bodington said Notre Dame home games are always an enjoyable experience — "regardless of the opponent."

"I'm not really disappointed we're ending the season with Syracuse because we've already been lucky to see exciting games against Michigan State, Southern California and Tennessee at

home," Blomstrom said.

Andrews said he anticipates a good game, but the only thing he knows about the Orange is that their record this season "isn't too hot" — much like the weather forecasts that predict a blustery atmosphere Saturday.

Plantan said he hopes the winter weather will continue through the weekend.

"I want it to snow on Saturday," he said. "I've hoped for a snow game for all four years I've been here and it hasn't happened yet. I think it would be cool for some snow to fall."

Contact Katie Perry at kperry5@nd.edu

Race

continued from page 1

community.

In his travels to different areas of the country, Camarillo said most people perceive Compton in a negative light and connect the city with gangster rap, gangs and its reputation as the U.S. murder capital of the 1980s and 90s.

"We must look beyond these images and portrayals in the media to understand what is really going on in minority-majority populations," Camarillo said.

Camarillo showed the migration of racial groups in Los Angeles County over the past five decades using distribution maps that showed areas of predominant race. Prior to the Civil Rights Act, real estate businesses in Los Angeles County dictated where African-Americans could or could not buy property. Consequently, African-Americans and Latinos lived in the most densely populated racial areas in the United States in the 1950s and 60s, he said.

Camarillo said African-Americans were prohibited from living in Compton, but liberal whites bought homes for their African-American friends in the city. In seven years, Compton became predominately black as whites left the city for fear that house values would decline with the presence of African-Americans. Camarillo described the flight of whites from the city as a "white exodus."

As an extension of the white exodus, major banks left Compton and the infrastructure necessary to run the city began to collapse. Gangs emerged on the streets of Compton — as did crack cocaine.

"Now we have turf battles over who's selling or profiting from the sale of drugs," he said.

The city government was forced to put 60 to 70 percent of all revenue into policing the streets, and as a result the quality of schools declined.

The rush of Mexican migration into Los Angeles County also

influenced the social structure of Compton. By the year 2000, the Latino population was at 50 percent.

Camarillo said the integration of Latino and African-American politicians caused political unrest because African-Americans retained a monopoly on city council positions, even as the Latino population comprised the majority.

"African-Americans are experiencing a sense of special belonging — this is their city," Camarillo said. "They see Latinos as changing their neighborhoods, taking over their neighborhoods. This has a strong, reactive consequence for people."

The schools in Compton present further breeding ground for conflict between the two groups. Schools run by African-Americans are not geared toward helping new immigrants learn English, so many Latinos are failing, he said.

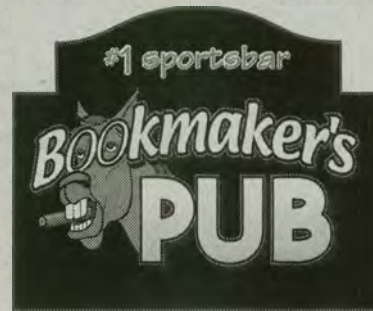
Camarillo said the prospect for a more peaceful Compton lies with cooperation and understanding between African-Americans and Latinos.

"There is a young group of people — young Latinos and African Americans — that are forging ahead," Camarillo said. "They have a different vision of a future for Compton of which they want to be a part."

Camarillo is a professor of American history, the founding director of the Stanford Center for Chicano Research and the founding executive director of the Inter-University Program for Latino Research, headquartered at Notre Dame's Institute for Latino Studies.

The lecture, titled "The New Racial Frontier in America: Minority-Majority Cities, the Case of Compton," was sponsored by the Institute for Latino Studies, the Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts and the History, American Studies and Africana Studies departments.

Contact Kaitlynn Riely at kriely@nd.edu



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Lefty

continued from page 1

take one class at Notre Dame during the fall semester. So on Aug. 15, he loaded five suitcases and seven boxes into his black Chrysler, said good-bye to his wife and traveled 868 miles until he was beneath the Dome.

Guillette is currently enrolled in "War, Law and Ethics" — a theology course that fulfills a second theology credit and explores the ethical and legal considerations related to war.

He gets tears in his eyes when he talks about Notre

Dame. He is considered the oldest undergraduate to ever walk Notre Dame's campus. And he might be the proudest, too.

"I can't believe I'm here," Guillette said. "I sit in my class and it's like, pinch me. Am I really awake? I find myself looking for flaws. I've been to Korea, Vietnam, wounded three times, but to sit here and say, 'I'm a student, I just can't believe it.'"

Guillette pauses, his eyes

turn glassy. He can't finish.

So how did this former Marine gunnery sergeant come to take a class at one of the most prestigious schools in the nation? Persistence, ambition and some string-pulling with the higher-ups, he said.

"In March of last year, I realized I was going

to be in South Bend for the Michigan State game and the Southern California game, so I thought, why don't I just go to Notre Dame for the semes-

"I can't believe I'm here. I sit in class and it's like, pinch me. Am I really awake?"

Ralph "Lefty" Guillette student

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ter? So I made some phone calls, first to [Executive Director of the Alumni Association] Chuck Lennon, who referred me to [Director of Admissions] Dan Saracino, who referred me to [Associate Director of Admissions] Michael Gantt," he said.

After two months, Gantt called Guillette and told him the University would not be able to accept him as a full-time student. Gantt said, "She said she could see what she could do. In mid-July, I was accepted into the class. So I really had to hustle to buy my computer, make travel arrangements and pack my car up."

Despite the age difference, Guillette's reaction wasn't unlike that of most Notre Dame hopefuls who receive the coveted acceptance letters.

"I bawled my head off. I yelled and screamed. I couldn't catch my breath. My wife thought I was having a heart attack," he said.

Guillette served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars. In 1968, after being wounded by shrapnel during combat in Vietnam, he committed himself to a list of 32 life goals — scribbled in pencil on the back of a phone number list.

"The naval nurse came up to me and asked 'What are your plans after the war?' I was 36 years old, and had no idea," he said. "So that night I decided to make a list of what I wanted to do, called 'Goals and Objectives and Places I Want to Visit.' I kept writing the goals for two days, and I believed that if I could do them all then I would be successful."

Attending Notre Dame was on that list — and 37 years later Guillette is living his dream.

"I enjoy life twice as much

as anyone alive my age and I love this country," he said. "We're not here to crawl into a corner and watch television. Have dreams. Set goals."

There are still 13 goals left on his list, and Guillette continues to check them off as he ages, though he has never shown the list to anyone.

"Because of his experience in combat, he has added a rich dimension to our discussion."

Margaret Pfeil professor

Guillette estimates it is costing him about \$20,000 in total for his class, lodging and meals. He lives alone in an apartment off of Bendix Road, and calls his wife — who stayed behind in Vermont — twice a day.

"I've never been one to be lonesome, I've been alone so much in my lifetime," Guillette said. "But I am lonesome for my wife. But at least I love television — the History Channel, the Discovery channel."

Guillette has nearly perfect attendance in his War, Law and Ethics class, but readily admits that it's not easy.

"I have no clue what my grade is," he said. "I'll be happy with a B. We just took an exam, I'm hoping just to pass it. When you're my age, you don't retain half as much as what you read."

His professor, Margaret Pfeil, teaches the class with military science professor Lt. Kelly Jordan. The class explores the ethical considerations of a just war.

"I was surprised when I found out he was going to be in my class, but I am so excited for him," Pfeil said. "He clearly appreciates it. Because of his experience in combat, he has added a rich dimension to our discussion."

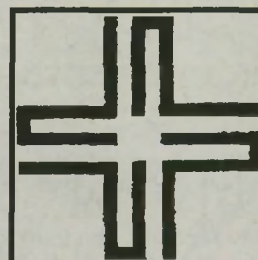
Guillette plans to go home for Thanksgiving, and he's considering applying to take another class at Notre Dame during the spring semester. He pounds his fists in the air when he talks about being a student at the University.

"If you want it bad enough," he said, "don't take no for an answer. Have a reason for everything you do."

"If you want it bad enough, don't take no for an answer."

Ralph "Lefty" Guillette student

Contact Mary Kate Malone at mmalone3@nd.edu



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Future

continued from page 1

"You should leave here and go to Michigan State"

University founder Father Edward Sorin had a vision that Notre Dame would become "one of the most powerful means for good in this country."

Today's vision of the future Notre Dame is a little more concrete: four new dorms, cable and wireless in every dorm, an off-campus commercial district and a new or renovated student center.

And Notre Dame's traditional residence life system is a big part of that picture.

"I think one of the things that multiple studies we've done in the last couple of years has told us is that in many ways, residential life is working at Notre Dame really well," Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs Ann Firth told The Observer in September. "Students enjoy the experience — they might like more space, they might like a few more features, but overall there's a great sense of community."

But some students say that community is pushing them away.

A female junior said when she tried to reason with a staff member of the Office of Residence Life and Housing this fall, explaining that she would pay her fine and do her service hours but didn't need counseling, she was told Notre Dame wasn't right for her.

"In an unnecessarily confrontational tone, [the staff member] told me, 'That's not the way we work here at Notre Dame. We see people like you who are obviously heading down the path to destruction, and we want to stop you

before you hurt yourself even further. If you just want punishment for what you've done, you should leave here and go to Michigan State,'" the junior said.

The junior had returned to her dorm one night a few days after a painful breakup with her boyfriend. She had been drinking off campus and came back to the dorm crying, surrounded by friends trying to comfort her.

"The AR and the rector followed us to my room and questioned me about the night," the junior said. "I coherently explained that I was really upset about this guy dumping me and I just wanted to go to bed. Upon hearing this, the rector said, 'Well, I've been dumped by a guy before and I've never acted like this.'"

She said she was sent to the Office of Residence Life and Housing for "being intoxicated underage in the dorm."

The process wasn't "as bad as everyone says ... it was 10,000 times worse," she said.

Her bigger problem, however, was with the way she said her rector handled the situation.

"The day after the incident I described, I went to my rector's room and opened my heart to her. When a person comes to their rector in need, they should not immediately be sent away to counseling," she said. "That, I believe, is a fundamental problem with my own rector, and probably many other rectors here on campus, and it's one of the major reasons that has pushed me to find off-campus housing for senior year."

It's not just students in trouble with the Office of Residence Life and Housing who feel the need to get off campus.

Senior Caitlin Evans moved off campus this year — an easy deci-

sion after spending a semester in Dublin, Ireland, she said.

"By the time you're a senior, you're ready to move out," Evans said. "The support is great when you're a freshman ... but it can become kind of restrictive."

"This place is not a paradise"

No co-ed, athlete-only or senior-only dorms. No Greek life. Chapels in every hall.

These aspects, said Director of Admissions Dan Saracino, make Notre Dame's residential life "truly unique" and attract prospective students.

"There's a sense of community that exists in Notre Dame halls that distinguishes us from virtually every school in the country," Saracino said.

But that community isn't perfect.

"This place is not a paradise by any means," Saracino said. "I returned here [from California] because while I really believe it's not perfect, it's a very special place ... I think the social life surely needs to be improved on campus and I'm hoping it will be [with the] property development south of campus."

Saracino was referring to the future residential and retail development along the Eddy Corridor, an idea formally proposed by Notre Dame and South Bend officials last spring.

Saracino mentioned the "natural tension" about discipline that exists between students and administrators at an "intense academic institution."

"I am concerned," he said. "I'm concerned the students don't have as many options [in terms of social life]. Drinking, I think, is more than it should be."

His thoughts on the future? "We're not trying to be a Harvard, a Stanford or whatever — we're just trying to be Notre Dame," Saracino said. "I think the campus development plan is really going to develop the social life."

The male junior mentioned above, however, has serious doubts about Notre Dame's social scene.

"I think what's going to happen is with incoming classes you're going to get a school that's not as social. You're going to find kids who find out from other people that Notre Dame's not that social," he said. "As far as the future's concerned ... if they continue to alienate the student body, know what you're getting into, because I certainly didn't."

His first three ResLives came during his sophomore year. Two of

the three happened after he had been "drinking responsibly," he said.

After the third ResLife, he was told he had a week to move out of his dorm and placed on disciplinary probation until the end of the year, he said.

"You sit here telling me you think I have a problem, and you're telling me to go sleep on somebody's couch," he said.

He said his fourth violation came when he was at a tailgate hosted by his parents celebrating his sister's engagement to another recent Notre Dame graduate, while toasting with champagne.

Then he was approached by a group of Notre Dame Security/Police, Indiana State Excise Police and St. Joseph County Police officers and cited for minor in possession, he said.

He went to the Office of Residence Life and Housing and was given disciplinary probation through his senior year and 40 hours of community service.

Twelve days later, he received a letter from the Office saying "they, as a group, have decided" to send him to an intensive outpatient program to deal with his alleged alcohol problem, he said.

"My dad is up in arms," he said. "My parents ... my dad kind of wants me to leave. [And he's always said] I can never quit anything in my life."

He believes the University will be forced to clarify its policies in the future.

"When they do crack down, it's so like, why did I get picked out, when there's a tailgate three cars down the road with girls puking," the junior said. "A kid sitting in a truck with his parents shouldn't be ticketed. The University either has to take a stand on wet or dry. If it's going to be wet, it should be wet and they shouldn't crack tailgates."

He's been confused about policy enforcement since his freshman year, when he said his assistant rector applauded him after he threw a party with more than 1,000 beers.

"I was told I did a great job [since everyone was in the rooms], that I was a model for other kids, to the point that he would tell other kids to come talk to me," he said. "I'm an 18-year-old freshman, I just held a party with a ton of people and beer, and I'm a role model, you know?"

These discrepancies frustrate students, he said. And they "alienate the student body."

"They [administrative officials]

are sitting up there all high and mighty," he said. "Yeah, we are privileged to go here. But you should be f***ing privileged to have us. We make it a top academic school. There's a lot of special people at this school ... There shouldn't be this animosity, tension between administration and student body at a Catholic institution. There should be at least the idea of penance and not the Gestapo."

No "mass exodus"

As student body president, senior Dave Baron has dealt with the University administration more than the average student.

"Anytime I've been wanting to talk about a specific issue, they're willing to talk about it," he said.

But when asked if he felt the administration was open to change, Baron's response shifted.

"In a lot of ways, no," he said. "They've already been through the discussion [on certain issues]. I think they are willing to hear and talk about those issues, but [arguments] are not something they'll necessarily listen to."

Baron said he doesn't predict a major change in residential life at Notre Dame.

As he pointed out, there hasn't been a "mass exodus" of students moving off-campus since the ban on hard alcohol sparked uproar in 2002.

The numbers have been increasing, however, slowly but steadily.

In the past five years, the number of seniors living off-campus has increased from 54 percent to 58 percent, according to the Office of Institutional Research's 2005 Factbook. In 1996, 50 percent of seniors lived off-campus.

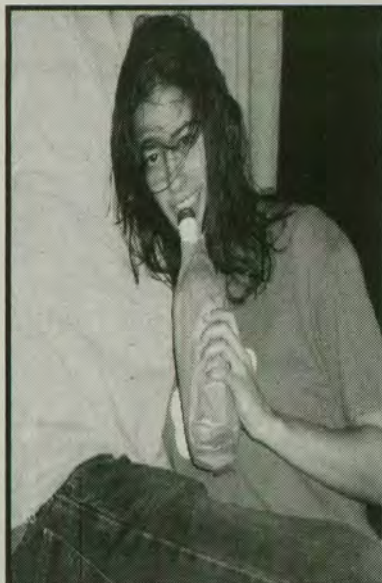
In the past five years, the number of juniors living off-campus has increased from 10 percent to 12 percent. Overall, the number of students living off-campus has increased from 17 to 19 percent.

"I think the main thing is students do like the residential hall system," Baron said, "keeping the dorm identity, keeping the tight-knit community."

But for students like the male junior, torn between equal amounts anger and passion, it's hard to know what to think about Notre Dame.

"It was one of the worst days of my life when I got waitlisted here," he said. "I love this school, which sucks ... I just love this school."

Contact Maddie Hanna at
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Jury convicts Smith of kidnapping, murder

Case of 11-year-old girl brutally raped, strangled to death closed with conclusive evidence

Associated Press

SARASOTA, Fla. — The grainy images captured by a car wash's security camera were chilling: a burly, tattooed man in a mechanics uniform grabs the wrist of an 11-year-old girl walking home from a friend's house and leads her away. Carlie Brucia's half-naked body turned up several days later outside a church.

Jurors concluded Thursday that a former mechanic was the man in those images, which were broadcast nationwide during the search for Carlie's killer. After deliberating five hours, they convicted Joseph Smith, 39, of kidnapping, raping and strangling the girl.

Prosecutors built their case on the footage, the testimony of Smith's friends and co-workers who said they recognized Smith in the video, DNA and hair-analysis evidence, and the word of the defendant's brother, who said Smith confessed.

Smith, who did not take the stand, showed no emotion when the verdict was read. The jury will return for the sentencing phase on Nov. 28.

Carlie's mother, Susan Schorpen, wept softly with her head bowed when the verdict was read, and the girl's father, Joe Brucia, nodded when each of the three convictions was announced. As he left court, he said only that he was happy with the verdict.

"I can never hold her again. Where's the closure?" Schorpen said outside the courthouse. "I've lost one of the most precious things to me in my life because of an animal, a disgusting, perverted animal."

When asked if she was satisfied with the verdict, she responded: "When he's dead. When he meets his maker."

Carlie's killing spurred the introduction of federal and state legislation to crack down on probation violators.

At the time of the slaying,

Smith was in violation of the terms of his probation on a cocaine charge because he failed to pay \$411 in fines and court costs. But a judge declined to put him in jail, saying Florida does not have a "debtor's prison."

At the trial, Smith's lawyers raised questions about the reliability of the FBI lab where the evidence was analyzed and challenged the motives of Smith's brother, John, suggesting he was interested in the reward money.

The brother told the jury Smith had confessed to having "rough sex" with the girl and killing her, and told him where the body was. Prosecutors played taped jailhouse conversations Smith made with his brother and others in which Smith talked of being on drugs while committing the crimes.

An FBI code breaker translated an encrypted letter Smith wrote his sibling saying he had left Carlie's clothes and backpack in four trash bins.

Also, DNA analysis connected him to a semen stain on Carlie's shirt, and strands of hair from Smith's vehicle were found to match the girl's hair.

Before Carlie's slaying, Smith had been arrested at least 13 times since 1993, mostly on drug offenses. In one case, he was charged with kidnapping a 20-year-old woman, but was acquitted. He pleaded no contest in another case in which a woman said he hit her in the face with a motorcycle helmet. He was sentenced to 60 days in jail. He also served 17 months in prison on drug possession and fraud charges.

After the slaying, Rep. Katherine Harris, R-Fla., introduced legislation, named Carlie's Law, that would expand the reasons that could get a convicted criminal on federal probation sent back to prison. A version limited to sex offenders ultimately passed. Smith had not been convicted of sex offenses before Carlie's death.

Police find 54 guns in Pa. home

Associated Press

LITITZ, Pa. — Police seized 54 guns from the home of an 18-year-old man charged with killing his girlfriend's parents and fleeing the state with her, according to court documents filed Thursday.

Warwick Township police removed the weapons, which included an array of rifles, shotguns, handguns and ammunition, on Sunday afternoon from the home where suspect David Ludwig lived with his parents. The search occurred as police were still trying to find him and 14-year-old Kara Beth Borden.

David Ludwig is being held without bail on murder and kidnapping charges after being flown back to Lancaster County on Tuesday from Indiana, where police captured him following a chase.

Police allege Ludwig shot Michael and Cathryn Borden shortly before 8 a.m. Sunday at their home in Lititz following an argument over his relationship with Kara. The two had been dating, apparently secretly, friends and witnesses said.

Ludwig was arrested around midday Monday after he crashed his parents' car into a tree in Belleville, Ind., about 600 miles from the murder scene, during a police chase. Neither Ludwig nor the girl, who has not been charged, was injured in the crash.

Investigators have said they are treating Kara Borden as a crime victim but that the investigation is continuing.

Ludwig's parents, Gregory and Jane Ludwig, issued a statement Wednesday expressing their sorrow over the slayings but have not spoken publicly.

HERE & Happening

Notre Dame vs Syracuse Book Signings

Friday, November 18

Notre Dame Baseball Greats

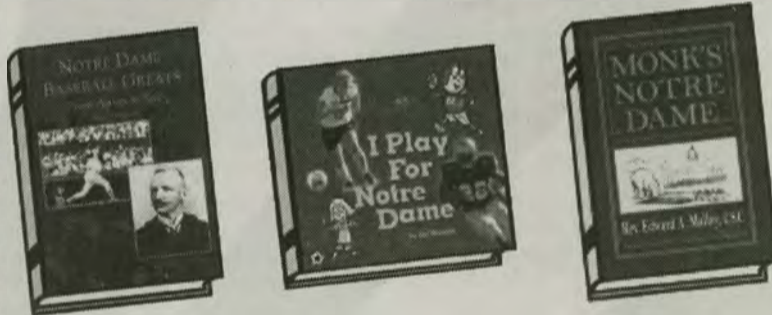
Cappy Gagnon
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

I Play for Notre Dame

Ted Mandell
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Monk's Notre Dame

Fr. "Monk" Malloy
11:00 am – 1:00 pm



Saturday, November 19

Future Domers

Sharon Bui
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Notre Dame vs The Klan

Todd Tucker
11:00 am – 1:00 pm

The Spirit of Notre Dame

Jim & Jeremy Langford
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Legendary Notre Dame Quarterbacks

will be in the bookstore signing their new DVD "Inside the Irish Huddle" from 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

My First Notre Dame Words: GO IRISH

Connie McNamara
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

The Christmas Quilt

Jennifer Chiaverini
10:00 am – 12:00 pm

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THE OBSERVER VIEWPOINT

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Friday, November 18, 2005

THE OBSERVER

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A duLac compromise

Notre Dame is not paradise. It's not prison, either, despite what many disgruntled post-ResLife students may say.

The reality is somewhere in between — and the University community could debate indefinitely about where that balance lies.

Recent history of disciplinary policy changes — and the quick student outcry they prompt — indicates there has long been tension in the Notre Dame family between those who make the “in loco parentis” rules and those who are expected to follow them. For the past few decades, there have always been administrators and rectors who detest parietals violations, and those with a more relaxed approach. There have always been students who set duLac in flames at the first hint of a tightened underage drinking leash, and those who won't touch a beer at a tailgate even after they're legal.

Chances are, there always will be.

And while open discussion of policies that fundamentally shape the Notre Dame undergraduate experience should always be encouraged, it's in students' best interest to recognize that the rules aren't likely to collapse anytime soon under the weight of their complaints. Policies that are the University's trademark — strict punishments for parietals violations, premarital sex, hard alcohol and drugs among them — are also grounded in the University's values, as administrators stand by all rules that, they say, protect the community's status as a positive, Catholic educational environment.

Immersion into that environment and all its benefits — the all-encompassing “Notre Dame experience” ranging from academics to athletics to faith — also means immersion into residence life and the regulations that come with it. Students who embrace seemingly every aspect of the University community while simultaneously blasting its rules should recognize the hypocrisy in their arguments. Like it or not, the rules are a part of the package, and choosing to attend Notre Dame implies consent to their consequences.

But that doesn't mean the University should have free reign to enforce those rules irregularly or alter their consequences on a whim — which is how many frustrated and confused students perceive the current system. Interviews and statistics indicate that enforcement hinges on a variety of factors, including the offending student's gender, dorm and rector and the RAs and hall staff involved. Particularly troubling are the stories of students whose rectors allegedly set in motion the students' disciplinary proceedings without so much as a timely one-on-one conversation — contradicting their own counseling roles and the punishments' “educational” intent. Equally damaging is the “boys will be boys” mentality that seems to justify stricter environments and harsher punishments for rule-break-

ing in women's dorms than in men's, as holding female students to a so-called higher standard of behavior only serves to paint Notre Dame as lagging behind the times in its perception of gender equality.

No disciplinary system is flawless, and administrators acknowledge the University's is imperfect. But they also claim there's an overall consistency when it comes to enforcement — “even if students don't see it.”

There's the problem. Students must see it. Students asked to obey relatively strict regulations need to have confidence not only that the system is designed for their best interest, but also that they are being judged fairly amongst their peers. Students who feel the system is unfairly skewed will begin to distrust the University's motivations, and will be more inclined to break rules they feel are unjust. They will be less inclined to associate the residential experience with closeness of community than with overbearing discipline, and they will leave the residence halls to live off campus with little remorse.

So how to show students the system is fair?

Transparency, for one. Any aspects of the disciplinary process that appear secretive — such as hall staff avoiding direct communication with offending students — should have no place in it. Same with ResLife punishments — students should know exactly why their offense equals 20 hours of community service, where that \$100 fine will end up and what those requirements are intended to accomplish. There is also no excuse for some incoming freshmen to learn about parietals only when they arrive on campus for Orientation Weekend, or for students who get in trouble off-campus to discover weeks later that ResLife can and is also levying a punishment. Posting duLac online is not enough — Notre Dame must find a better way to open the channels of communication with students if it expects the student body to trust its policies and enforcement.

Respect, for another. Treating students like children — barging in on closed doors, causing students to feel “terrified” in their own dorms, “protecting” “girls” more than “boys” — demonstrates the University's disregard for students' abilities to develop their own maturity. Treating students like adults — even when they make fairly childish decisions — will demonstrate the University's respect for students' abilities to deal with the realities and consequences of independent adulthood.

The rules aren't going anywhere, and reasonable students and administrators can and do — and will undoubtedly continue to — disagree about their fairness. But there should be no debate about the fact that students deserve to see and experience a fair, consistent disciplinary system at Notre Dame.

The Observer Editorial

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relatively strict regulations
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amongst their peers.*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Sexual assault dialogue needed

In response to Sean Hoban's Nov. 17 letter to the editor “Keeping Perspective,” I think he misunderstood the argument Katie Kelly and others are making. He said “these e-mails should be thought of as a tool for fighting rapists rather than a slander on the victims.” Had I just been sexually assaulted and the next day a reminder (in response to my assault) warned others to take precautions, watch their drinks and not to wander off with strangers, the implication is that I did not take these precautions. Sexual assault occurs whether we watch our drinks or not.

And I'm not saying all men are rapists or that all rapists are men because this isn't true. Sexual assault affects men, women and children, so how come only women get talked to about rape? How come nobody ever talks to men about why it is not okay to sexually assault another human being? We talk to women because they are more likely to be assaulted but we don't talk to men who are more likely to be the assaulters.

I believe Kelly's quote in the Nov. 15 Observer article, “Group voices concern over e-mail wording,” was “I think it is great and important to know about [sexual assault incidents on campus], but it is how they put it out there that is

the problem.” Nobody is saying that safety precautions aren't necessary or helpful, but I think it's important to examine the information we put out, leave out, who we address and who we don't address. Kelly also acted in response to anonymous postings in an online forum page, some of which said things about a women's personal responsibility to not lead men on and to watch what they wear because women can send mixed signals. When we have people who believe that a victim holds some responsibility because of what she was wearing then having an e-mail that states what precautions women need to take to avoid sexual assault enhances that belief.

This is an important dialogue that needs to take place and I'm glad it's finally being addressed. Sexual assault is never okay. And if you are a victim, it is never your fault.

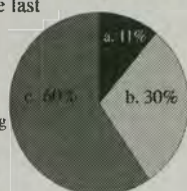
Lety Verdullo

Assistant Director for Community Connections
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Saint Mary's College
Nov. 18

OBSERVER POLL

Are you planning to go to the last pep rally?

a. No, not enough student seats
b. No, pep rallies are boring
c. Yes, I wouldn't miss it for anything



*Poll appears courtesy of www.ndsmcobserver.com and is based on 302 responses

Submit a Letter
to the Editor at
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QUOTE OF THE DAY

“The great thing in this world is not so much where you stand, as in what direction you are moving.”

Oliver Wendell Holmes
author

The first last

It all began for me in the fall of '86. Some of the details may be a little fuzzy considering that I was not yet two, but that was when I first came to South Bend for a Notre Dame game. From what I am told, we arrived in the "Bus of Fun," — an RV that was green and played the Fight Song when you honked the horn. You better believe I was one of those little girls dressed in the Notre Dame cheerleaders' uniform.



Molly Acker

Nobody Likes a Dumb Blonde

Since that first time in 1986, I have always made it down to Notre Dame for football season. I remember being 7 years old with a broken leg and having to go in a wheel chair because it was too long of a walk to the stadium. When I was 8 we had front row seats and the Leprechaun came over to talk to me. The lady behind me asked what we talked about and I replied, "I wasn't listening to him. He had really bad breath." Sometimes when it was too cold to tailgate outside we'd go to the Morris Inn. My brother and I often got in trouble for playing football down the halls.

While my first few years were mostly spent watching the cheerleaders and beg-

ging to go to the bookstore rather than appreciating the action on the field, I've always had very fond memories of football season.

It was not until I was a teenager that I really enjoyed coming down for the game itself. Once I was in high school my older brother and his friends would sneak me into the student section. It was once I experienced a game from those seats that I knew I had to be a part of the Saint Mary's and Notre Dame community. By my senior year of high school I pretty much knew I would be in South Bend the following fall (I was just waiting for that letter to confirm it). The last home game rolled around in 2001 and the student section put their arms around each other to sing the Alma Mater. My brother's friend said to me, "Get up here, Moll! You better sing too since you will be here with us next year." I could hardly wait to be a student.

That first football season was so much fun. To be in the student section (legitimately) and be a part of the push-ups and jigs was great. In 2002 up until we played Boston College we were undefeated. Though now we know that it was mostly pure luck, it was sure fun while it lasted. We traveled down to Jacksonville for the Gator Bowl as true fans do when your team makes it a bowl game. Although we were disappointed with the loss, as a student I could never have regretted going.

It seems as though my sophomore and junior football seasons kind of blur together. While the tailgating was excellent, I cannot say the same for the team. Still week in and week out we would trek over from Saint Mary's to partake in the typical game day festivities. Even though we often found ourselves saddened by the losses, we still loved football Saturday's and cheering on the Irish (did I mention the tailgating?).

Perhaps I am just being nostalgic, but I think that this has been the best football season I can ever remember. Thanks to Charlie Weis's influence on the team we are actually good. The tailgating is even better now that my friends and I are legal. Each weekend the weather seems to be lovelier than the last. Sadly, it seems that every weekend someone's parents has to remind us that we are seniors and this will all be over soon.

I can hardly believe our last home game as seniors has come. Having always been a fan, I know this is not the end of my days of cheering for the Irish. While I have seen many seasons come and go without even a blink of the eye, this one seems to be ending in tears. I cannot even say that this is a bittersweet moment — it's simply sad. It seems as though this is beginning of the end. Our first of many "lasts" to come. Some of us will be lucky enough to come back several times a year to the games. Others may just make it back to a few

more games in their lifetimes. Either way, it will never be the same — from tomorrow on we will be like the others who come to South Bend on weekends and relive their glory days of college. This is the last time we get to sit with all of our friends and be surrounded by our fellow classmates. This is the last time we'll stand for the entire game and put each other up for push-ups. It's the last time we will get to applaud the team once the game is over and sing the Fight Song and Alma Mater all together.

It's not that I mean to make us all depressed about the inevitable, it is just to say that we should make this weekend even more memorable. Get into the game a little early to see the team come out of the tunnel. Go up for push-ups and do the jig. Stay for the entire game no matter how cold and wet you may be. When we sing the Alma Mater, it's okay to shed a few tears. Though it may be our last game as students, this is not goodbye quite yet. To all my fellow seniors, here's to a great last game. Go Irish!

Molly Acker is a senior communication and humanistic studies double major at Saint Mary's. She can be contacted at acke6758@saintmarys.edu

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The minimum wage imperative

Have you ever stopped to imagine what life is like for workers surviving on a minimum wage trying to provide for themselves and their families? Does it strike you as unjust that minimum wage jobs translate into yearly wages below the poverty line? We often fail to recognize the harsh realities of America's working poor not out of indifference but, rather, out of disbelief. The mere reality of a life at a low wage is incredulous to us from our insulated, isolated and comfortable towers at the University. While the faces and the inherent dignity of persons always trump statistics, calling to mind the numerical inequality of our economic system will bring us closer to identifying with those who toil on the current minimum of \$5.15 per hour.

For instance, did you know that the average minimum wage earner brings home more than half of his or her family's weekly earnings? What's more, the minimum wage today is just 33 percent of the average hourly wage of American workers, the lowest level since 1949. As it stands, the minimum wage in real terms is 26 percent lower than it was in 1979. For that majority of minimum wage workers who are the primary breadwinners of their families, their income simply does not add up.

Even with the earned income tax credit, meant to benefit the working poor, a single mother earning a minimum wage with two children would have a combined income of \$14,097, 5 percent below the federal poverty threshold of \$14,824. These numbers are even more startling if you put much faith in "family budget" measures of poverty which suggest that the annual income needed to support a family is between \$23,000 and \$46,000.

The minimum wage is not indexed to inflation and thus is only increased at Congress' discretion. The last increase was in 1996-97, nearly 10 years ago, the second-longest stretch of government inaction since the minimum wage was instituted in 1938. We and other Democrats propose that the minimum wage should be increased to \$7.25 per hour by 2007. But would such an increase really benefit that many people?

Traditionally, minimum wage increases did not curb poverty greatly because many poor families did not have any family members in the paid labor force. With welfare reform, more poor families are, however,

now forced to rely on their earnings from low-paying jobs. Thus, now more than ever, a minimum wage increase is likely to have an impact on reducing poverty. Combined with the earned-income tax credit, this minimum wage increase would put a family's income at \$17,790 per year, about 16 percent above the federal poverty line.

The Economic Policy Institute estimates that 7.3 million workers would benefit from an increase in the minimum wage. Of those workers, 72.1 percent are adults and 60.6 percent are women. Taking into account spillover effects on other low-wage earners and near-poor families, an additional 8.2 million workers earning up to a dollar above the minimum wage would benefit from an increase. Approximately 1.8 million parents with children under 18 are contained within that larger 15.5 million people who would benefit from an increase. Through whichever lens you look at a minimum wage increase, it would make life better for a large number of poor and working families and individuals.

Arguments against a minimum wage increase usually focus on the idea that such increases will result in job losses or will erode the financial well-being of businesses. Yet several studies which looked at the 1996-97 increase recorded no systematic or significant job losses as a result of the higher wage. In fact, the researchers found that the low-wage market performed better than it had in decades with lower unemployment rates, increased family income, decreased poverty rates, decreased absenteeism and increased worker morale.

Americans are particularly fond of merit-based arguments. The claim goes as follows: If you work as hard as you can, then you should have your fair share of the pie. Given the evidence above however, it is clear that low wage workers suffer from grossly unequal pay. Catholic Doctrine informs us that we must have a preferential option for the poor. So, let us begin the process of restoring justice to all of our workers by committing ourselves to that preferential option and raising the federal minimum wage to \$7.25 per hour.

Peter Kralovec
Colin Taylor
Co-Presidents
Notre Dame College Democrats
Nov. 18

Notre Dame shows class High standard of sportsmanship

Growing up as an Irish Catholic kid on the East Coast, I think I've always rooted for Notre Dame — that is until I entered the United States Naval Academy after high school in 1987. Then the Irish were relegated to my "second favorite team." We've seen some incredibly close games that seemed to give even the most cynical Navy fan hope, only to have it all come crashing down because of something — a controversial first-down spot at Memorial Stadium in Baltimore in 1986, the 2002 game in Baltimore that saw the Irish come from behind to win after scoring twice in the last 2:20 of the game, Fitzpatrick's 40-yard field goal as time expired to win in 2003 — I could go on, but I won't.

Despite a 42nd reason to have my Saturday ruined, last Saturday wasn't the case. Never have I been so moved (in a non-Army game) than what I witnessed last Saturday. I don't know how a non-Academy grad can ever fully understand what the Navy Blue and Gold means to

us, but it would appear that the Notre Dame Football Program and indeed the fans in attendance at a minimum appreciate that value. Not only does Coach Charlie Weis get "it." His team gets "it." The whole stadium seemed to get "it."

I hope that those that play the game from the ranks of Pop Warner to the NFL take notice and start holding themselves to such a standard of sportsmanship, so that the examples set by Michigan State, Clemson-South Carolina or Terrell Owens become nothing more a bad memory.

Much thanks to you, Coach, not just for what you have done for Notre Dame Football, but the statement you sent to all Annapolis grads around the world and to the game of college football.

Good luck to you and the University and beat Army!

Kevin Filan
United States Naval Academy
Class of '91
Nov. 18

Respect for Navy appreciated

Permit me to thank you for your post-game ethical demeanor and conduct following the recent Navy-Notre Dame football game. Your actions are the indicators of the principles of your soul. Your act of taking your football team to the Navy sideline to honor the playing of my Alma Mater is a true tribute to your team, your fans, you and the wonderful and honorable institution — Notre Dame.

As a member of the United States Naval Academy's Class of 1965, I was fortunate to be present at the last Navy victory over Notre Dame. Every year we "leave it out on the field" in our duel with Notre Dame and it is an honor for our team to participate in games against Notre Dame; however, we have been on the losing side of the ledger in the last 42 games. What Notre Dame students, fans, your team and you did on Saturday was pure class.

Navy will never "give up the ship;" and by 2016, we will beat Notre Dame. More importantly than a football victory are the principles, class and elegance that you demonstrated today. Your actions will be inculcated into the psyche of both Notre Dame students and Naval Academy Midshipmen forever. Respect is not something one talks about, respect is something one shows and does. In Navy vernacular, there is an acronym — Bravo Zulu (BZ). Bravo Zulu is hoisted in flags on the super structure when a ship or an individual does an outstanding job.

Bravo Zulu, Charlie Weis — you are a true professional and a credit to the humanness of God's creatures.

James Savard
United States Naval Academy
Class of '65
Nov. 18

'Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire'

Release date: Nov. 18
Distributor: Warner Bros.
Budget: \$150 mil.



Mike Newell
eleventh career film

Lifetime gross total:
\$195.7 mil.
Previous high film:
"Mona Lisa Smile"
\$63.9 mil.

Mike Newell
director

HARRY POTTER AND THE GOBLET OF FIRE

"Difficult times lie ahead, Harry."

Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) Having faced many challenges in the previous film, Harry must get ready for a big one: adolescence. He, as well as many of his classmates, must begin the arduous process of growing up, and must do so in a magical world that is being challenged by the resurgence of evil. Harry has the added burden of his mysterious entry into the Triwizard Tournament and learning more about his relationship to Voldemort.

Cedric Diggory (Robert Pattinson)
As another participant in the Triwizard Tournament, Cedric emerges as Harry's rival, even though they both attend Hogwarts. Their competition extends to fighting for the affections of Cho Chang, another student, but the two ultimately forge a partnership under the duress of battle.

Fleur Delacour (Clémence Poésy)
The beautiful and mysterious competitor from the French magical academy, Beaux Batons, Fleur emerges not only as a challenge to Harry in the tournament but also to every male at Hogwarts due to her inexplicable charms.

Viktor Krum (Stanislav Ianevski)
As a world championship Quiddich player, Durmstrang student Viktor Krum is a celebrity even before he enters the Triwizard tournament. He has a gruff, serious manner and, to the seeming chagrin of Ron, becomes interesting in Hermione.

Alastor 'Mad Eye' Moody (Brendan Gleeson)
The next in a series of rotating Defense Against the Dark Arts professors at Hogwarts, 'Mad Eye' Moody, a former Auror (a wizard trained to fight against the Dark Arts), is an eccentric teacher at best. He manages to terrify, interest and confuse his students with a mix of knowledge and strange, superstitious habits.

Rita Skeeter (Miranda Richardson)
A pesky reporter who seems to know more than she should about the goings-on in the wizard world, Skeeter seems bent on painting Harry in a poor light, or whatever light will sell the most papers.

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

June 1997 - Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone published by Bloomsbury in the U.K. after being rejected by several publishers.

Sept. 1998 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone published in the U.S. by Scholastic. They make several changes to the book.

September 1999 - Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban published in the U.S., and the three Harry Potter novels occupy the top three positions on the New York Times bestseller list.

July 2000 - Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire published in the U.S. and U.K. to a combined record-setting first printing of more than 5 million copies.

November 2001 - Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone released. On the opening weekend, the film grosses \$90 million dollars in the U.S. and 16 million pounds in the U.K.

May 2004 - Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban released grosses \$88 million dollars in the U.S. and 19 million pounds in the U.K. its opening weekend. It goes on to gross over \$789 million dollars worldwide.

July 2005 - Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince released. Within 24 hours of its release, it had sold 6.9 million copies in the U.S., or roughly 250,000 copies an hour, and generated over \$100 million dollars in sales.

November 2005 - Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire released and will open on 3,858 screens.



By MOLLY GRIFFIN
Assistant Scene Editor

The word "controversy" rarely applies to children's movies, as they're typically squeaky-clean, G-rated films. The looming holiday movie season, though, has not one but two movies aimed at the elementary-school set that are sparking debate before they even reach the theatres.

"Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" and "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe" are both inspiring controversy, and, strangely enough, they have a common root: Christianity.

Many Christians have debated The Harry

Potter series due to the belief that it promotes witchcraft and the occult. Richard Abanes's book, "Harry Potter, Narnia and the Lord of the Rings: What You Need to Know About Fantasy Books and Movies," differentiates between Christian fantasy, such as the Narnia and The Lord of the Rings, and those that promote un-Christian behavior, like "Harry Potter."

Others, such as author Connie Neal, writer of "What's a Christian to Do with Harry Potter?" claim that "Harry Potter" does promote virtue and is worthwhile for Christians to read.

While some degree of controversy is expected around the Harry Potter series, the Christian-themed "The Chronicles of Narnia" is unexpectedly stirring up debate.

ACTING

DIRECTING

SCREENWRITING

PLOT

HARRY POTTER

"Potter" returns its core cast of young actors, who have only improved with each successive film. The series also features a solid supporting cast anchored by Robbie Coltrane as the lovable half-giant Hagrid and screen veteran Alan Rickman as the sneering Professor Snape.

Mike Newell is the third director in four films for the "Harry Potter" franchise. He is a veteran director but he has a tough act to follow in Alfonso Cuarón, whose "Prisoner of Azkaban" was easily the best of the series so far. Newell's credits include mostly romantic comedies.

"Harry Potter" scribe Steven Kloves has handled the writing duties for all four films in the series. His writing has become tighter and more effective with each ensuing effort. Here he has the mammoth task of condensing a 734-page book into a 157-minute feature film.

"Goblet of Fire" signals the turning point in the series as the plot is deeper and darker than the previous films. The crux of the action — the Triwizard Tournament — and the growing threat of Lord Voldemort's return cast a pall of foreboding doubt over the proceedings.

NARNIA

"Narnia" takes a gamble by going the "Harry Potter" route — casting mostly unknowns in the lead roles. Balancing this young talent is a veteran supporting cast, which includes Jim Broadbent as Professor Kirk and Liam Neeson as the commanding voice of Aslan.

Adamson is no stranger to fantasy, as his skewed fairy tales "Shrek" and "Shrek 2" met with commercial success and critical acclaim. It remains to be seen if he can translate his animated triumphs to a big-budget epic like "Narnia," but he has shown a touch for sequels.

The first installment in a proposed "Narnia" franchise features no less than four accredited screenwriters, including Adamson himself. Whether or not he can emerge with a cohesive vision remains to be seen. This unique challenge may prove to be the key to the film's success.

The inaugural "Narnia" picture has the challenge of introducing a vast world to uninitiated viewers, much like the first film in Peter Jackson's "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. In the novel, Lewis presents a world that is both whimsical and scary, often at the same time.

ANALYSIS

The real strength of the acting corps of "Narnia" lies with its seasoned supporting cast, which includes Tilda Swinton, Brendan Gleeson and Ralph Fiennes to the fore.

Newell's filmography is uneven at best and he has yet to be tested in a project as big as "Harry Potter." Fortunately, he is supported by a crew well-versed in the "Harry Potter" world. Adamson has proven his mettle, but "Narnia" is his first live-action directorial venture.

Kloves finally hit his stride in "Azkaban," the third "Potter" film, and hopes to continue the trend in "Goblet of Fire." Adamson's screenplay for "Shrek 2" proves that he is a capable writer but splitting time with three other collaborators may impede a cohesive vision.

"Goblet of Fire" has the advantage of familiarity, but "Narnia" is also a story that is beloved by many. Both books so popular.

Scene experts



Rama Gottumukkala
Scene Editor

Mike Newell faces the daunting task of shepherding the \$2.8 billion "Harry Potter" film franchise into darker territory. Andrew Adamson's experiences directing the charming "Shrek" films will be the difference in the first "Narnia" film's ability to fill the mighty shoes vacated by the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. "Narnia" pulls ahead by the length of Aslan's whiskers.



Brian Doxtader
Assistant Scene Editor

"Harry Potter" has established itself as a successful franchise, commercially if not artistically. "Narnia" already has a solid fanbase, but the translation from book-to-screen is still a potentially difficult task. "Harry Potter" has proven that it can be done; "Narnia" hasn't — yet. Both hit theaters with massive expectations, but expect the familiarity of "Potter" to win out over the upstart "Narnia."

PREDICTION: Harry Potter
Narnia

TEXT BY
GOTTUMUKKALA
RAMA

IRISH INSIDER

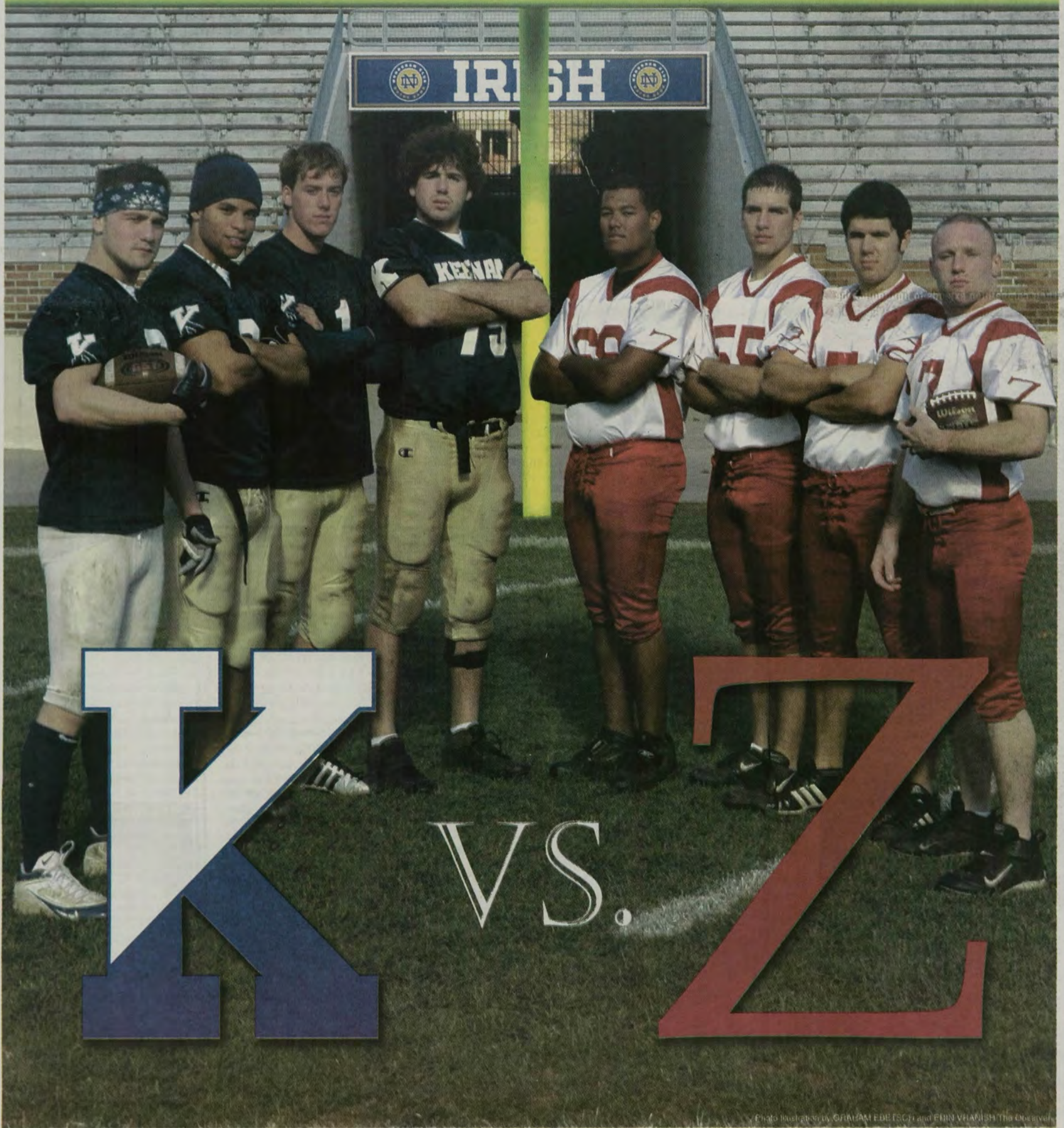
Friday, November 18, 2005

INTERHALL

THE OBSERVER

RIVALRY TO THE END

Keenan and Zahm renew their heated series with a highly anticipated interhall championship at Notre Dame Stadium



MEN'S INTERHALL FOOTBALL

Intense dorm rivalry sets stage for Stadium battle

By CATHERINE KANE
Sports Writer

With victories two weeks ago in the semifinals, Keenan and Zahm added a little allure to one of Notre Dame's biggest dorm rivalries. Sunday, that dorm rivalry will serve as the backdrop to the biggest men's interhall football game of the year.

Zahm and Keenan won out in the Blue and Gold leagues, respectively, and will battle for the interhall championship in Notre Same Stadium.

"I am excited to play in Notre Dame Stadium, obviously, and play for the championship of the best intramural football in the country, especially as my last football game ever," senior Zahm captain Pat Gourley said.

His counterpart at Keenan agreed.

"We are excited for the amazing opportunity to play in the Stadium," Knights captain and lineman Vince Lzyinski said. "It's been a dream of mine and most of the guys on the team for as long as we can remember. Just to be able to step foot on that hallowed ground of Rockne and Montana is surreal."

For many Knights, however, Sunday will not be their first time playing in the championship game, as Keenan cap-

tured the interhall championship last fall, capping an undefeated season. This year, the Knights come to the field with one loss to Dillon, while the Bats fly in with a perfect record.

Both teams feel they have greatly improved on and off the field throughout the course of the season.

"Our team's rushing game has improved the most," Gourley said. "Linemen are making holes bigger and [Zahm running back] Theo Ossei-Anto is finding them better than [he was] at the beginning of the season."

Lzyinski said he too has seen progress in his team since the beginning of the season.

"We've really come together this year as a team, and that is our biggest improvement," he said. "At the start of the year, it seemed like we had the talent to do something special, especially with guys like Dan Zenker, Ben Kaplan and Brandan Hall. And it's been the unselfish team attitude that really has brought that talent out."

Each captain said his team has enough playmakers ready to fight for the interhall title for his team to win Sunday.

Lzyinski said the Knights are strongest at skill positions.

"We have a great mix of upperclassman and underclassmen, and honestly we have some



Keenan receiver Dan Zenker fights off two tacklers during the Knights' semifinal victory over Carroll on Nov. 6. Zenker and the Knights face Zahm Sunday in the championship game.

HY PHAM/The Observer

guys who can just flat-out play," he said. "Our skill position players with the Zenker brothers, Rob Coly at quarterback and Alex Staffieri at halfback give us so many threats on offense, and that allows us to be a very balanced offensive team."

Lzyinski said the Keenan linemen and defense complement the Knights' offensive weapons well.

"Our line has really pulled together in the last few weeks,

and we're hoping to continue that trend into the Stadium," he said. "Defensively, I can't say enough. Hall, Kaplan, linebacker Ben Ramsour and the rest of our defense has really been able to shut down the other teams and always put us in a position to win. Heck, we've let up 13 points total on the season. That says enough about our 'D.'"

Gourley, on the other hand, attributes the Bats' outstanding record to the team bond that has

developed during the season.

"Factors that led to our team's success have been the chemistry and the commitment of this team," he said. "We get just about everyone out for practices. Our trust in each other is the best I have seen in my four years."

Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m. Sunday in Notre Dame Stadium.

Contact Catherine Kane at ckane2@nd.edu

Zahm follows a traditional championship formula



Zahm running back Theo Ossei-Anto eludes Morrissey defenders during the Bats' victory over the Manorites on Nov. 6. Zahm has used its rushing attack to pound opposing defenses all season.

HY PHAM/The Observer

Rushing attack and defensive prowess power the Rabid Bats

By JAY FITZPATRICK
Sports Writer

If a team is going to be interhall champion, it has to do two things: run and play defense. And there is no better example in 2005 of this championship formula than the Rabid Bats of Zahm.

Zahm, led by running backs Theo Ossei-Anto and Cameron Muhlenkamp, has run all over its opponents throughout the regular season and in the playoffs.

In the Bats' most recent game, the semifinal match against Morrissey Manor, the two running backs combined for more than 100 yards — 71 from Ossei-Anto and 42 from Muhlenkamp. More importantly, Zahm scored its sole touchdown on a one-yard run by Ossei-Anto.

The Rabid Bats might not have made the playoffs — and certainly would not have been the top-ranked undefeated team — without the play of Theo Ossei-Anto.

"Theo has had a great impact on this year's team," Zahm captain Pat Gourley said. "He's quick, and even though he is a little guy, he still is very tough."

Muhlenkamp, who lines up in front of Ossei-Anto at fullback, has also been a vital component of the Rabid Bats' successes this season. With his size and strength, Muhlenkamp has been able to find the holes in opposing defensive lines and create

holes of his own where there are none to get short-yardage gains needed this season.

Zahm's offense this year scored nine touchdowns, and although the scores were about evenly distributed between passing and rushing, the drives were clearly propelled by the powerful running back duo of Ossei-Anto and Muhlenkamp. But the rushing touchdowns are not the sole glory of the running backs, and the team is content with its offensive balance in the red zone.

With a solid offensive line that can create holes for the running backs, Zahm's rushing offense is often overpowering.

"The offensive line has been essential in our offense this year," Gourley said. "They open all the holes and help us get the scores."

The Zahm defense has also played exceptionally well, forcing turnovers at opportune times and, more importantly, not allowing big plays by its opponents.

With the semifinal on the line, Muhlenkamp, who doubles as running back and outside linebacker, stepped up and made a game-changing interception that propelled the Rabid Bats into the Stadium.

The defense contained and crushed opposing offenses all year and hopes to do so one more time Sunday.

To shut down any pass attempts by the opponent's quarterback, corners Kris Patterson and Eddie Gutierrez have kept opposing receivers in check. But Gourley said the entire defense deserves the credit for the Bats' unblemished record.

"There are no single [defen-

sive] players that I can identify as the best," he said. "Our corners have been stepping up all year, the whole defensive line is playing great this year and our middle linebackers are stuffing the run. Overall, it's been a great year on defense."

This year's No. 1 seed is not the first to recognize that success in interhall football rests on mastering defense and rushing. Past finals games have exhibited the importance of a solid defense.

In the 2003 championship game, both Dillon and Siegfried relied mainly on incredible defenses to reach the finals. Dillon's defense allowed only 17 points all year, while Siegfried entered the championship game by forcing turnovers throughout the postseason.

Keenan, 2004 champion, dominated teams all season with a 7-0 record thanks to powerful running back Alex Staffieri and fullback Reed Langton. The Knights' opponent last year, Knott, had a 2-2 record in the regular season but won its first two playoff games with a stingy defense that forced four interceptions.

Although the championship was dominated by passing attacks, it was the steady running games that brought the two teams to the finals.

Zahm has the two key ingredients for success waiting for the championship game on Sunday. Ossei-Anto and Muhlenkamp stand ready to pound the Knights, a relentless rushing attack against a defense that has proved itself in all six games this year.

Contact Jay Fitzpatrick at jfitzpa5@nd.edu

WOMEN'S INTERHALL FOOTBALL

PW's Weasels seek redemption against Pangborn

Teams ready for tough championship game Sunday in Stadium

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

Two teams will enter the Stadium through the same tunnel Sunday to play for the 2005 Women's Interhall Football Championship, but the paths they took to this point couldn't be more different.

The Pangborn Phoxes, the No. 2 seed with a 5-1 regular season record and 13-0 drubbing of Walsh in the semifinals, will face the Pasquerilla West Purple Weasels, the No. 5 seed that compiled a 3-1-2 regular-season record and upset top-seeded Cavanaugh last week in an overtime thriller to make it to the championship game.

The two teams played once in the regular season, with Pangborn coming out on top 20-0 on Sept. 29, but both squads know this will be a totally different game.

"We played PW before and won," Pangborn sophomore linebacker Ali Frogameni said. "But they've gotten better, so we're not overconfident."

The Purple Weasels also think they've struck the right balance between caution and confidence.

"We're not overconfident, but we're not lacking confidence. We're really excited, really proud to be in the champi-

onship," Pasquerilla West captain Julie Putnam said. "We're going to bring our game, just like we have in every single game. We have a lot of spirit and we really love the game and going out there, and we'll try our best."

"We don't doubt that we have the ability. We're going to bring it."

The Purple Weasels feel they learned from the loss and said they'll be ready this time.

"[The first game against Pangborn was] before we developed a couple of new things on offense and defense," Putnam said. "That game was the ignition to our new strategies that we've used this season."

Neither team has reached the championship in the last four years, so this is a first-time experience for all of the players on both teams.

"It's really fun to be a part of all the excitement of playing in the Stadium,"

Pangborn freshman defensive lineman Nicole Koors said.

"We haven't won a championship since 1993," Putnam said.

Though playing in Notre Dame Stadium is a dream for many, each team said it will not let its nerves get to it during the game — channeling players' excitement into playmaking instead.

Both teams are doing some extra preparation for the big day to prepare in that regard.

"Our practice this week is geared towards perfection,

perfecting all of our plays," Pangborn sophomore defensive lineman Kristin Drach said. "We're not in the Stadium just to be there, we're there to win. This is going to be an intense week."

Frogameni and Drach said the Phoxes are especially working on their pass defense, and Koors said Pangborn was "very focused." Several Pangborn players said they are looking forward to showcasing the team's passing game, which took a backseat in the semifinal due to strong winds.

Koors said a balanced offense helps her team play the full 60 minutes.

"We're not just a first-half team anymore; we can play the whole game," she said.

Putnam said Pasquerilla West will look to "continue our defensive strength, and not let up. We won't run anything too tricky, we'll just play our game. We're having normal practice, nothing special."

"We'll stick with our regular game, fight hard and play to win," PW wide receiver and safety Maureen Spring said. "There will be nothing new or fancy, just what we've been doing the whole season."

Pangborn will look to star running back Brynn Johnson to carry the offense along with quarterback Katie Mooney, and the Phoxes are confident they will get big games from Katie Riersma and Stephanie Lewis on both sides of the ball. But they know the whole team will have to play well for them to win.

"All the girls are crazy," Drach said. "In the Stadium, anyone could have great game."



Pangborn's Brynn Johnson avoids the grasp of a Walsh defender during the Phoxes' semifinal game last Sunday. Pangborn faces Pasquerilla West Sunday in the championship game.

Both teams think they will come out on top on Sunday and acknowledge their paths to the Stadium were very different.

"We took it one game at a time, one play at a time, even, and it all added up," Putnam said.

The Phoxes displayed confidence since the beginning of

the year.

"It was our goal all season, we worked hard and we hoped for it," Frogameni said.

Koors had an even stronger opinion.

"It was expected," she said. "We knew it from day one."

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu

Putnam and Schmidt are the Weasels' unsung heroes

Two Pasquerilla West linemen take pride in helping rest of defense shut down opposing offenses all season

By CHRIS HINE
Sports Writer

Caroline Schmidt and Julie Putnam, two juniors who comprise the defensive line of Pasquerilla West, describe themselves as "the clowns of the team" — and linebacker Gretchen Ryan agrees.

"They always act crazy at practice," Ryan said. "They

are always quoting 'Napoleon Dynamite' and entertaining themselves. We just stand back and shake our heads."

All kidding aside, Schmidt, a chemistry major, and Putnam, a marketing and political science major, are a large part of the reason the Weasels will be playing at Notre Dame Stadium Sunday in the championship against Pangborn. After winning just three of six

regular season games, the Weasels won their first two playoff games in overtime to advance to the finals.

But the duo's contributions often go unnoticed in the game summary.

"They do a great job pressuring the quarterback, which makes the job of the defensive backs a little easier," PW coach Joe McCarthy said. "They are the first in line of a

chain reaction that leads to many interceptions. They have the ability to corral the quarterback, get pressure on her and make her throw a bad pass."

Schmidt and Putnam said there is more to their defense's success than just the pressure.

"We've realized our role and we're not the only ones," Schmidt said. "It's the defensive backs, offensive line, and every part of the team. We might not be the rah-rah stars, but if you play your position well each time and do your part, it might not have a huge significance then, but over the course of the game you make your impact."

Putnam said that impact begins before the snap.

"The huddles are ridiculous," she said. "There's this fire and intensity we have that wasn't there before. Last year there was a lot of rotating of positions, but now there's a set number and the same people play the same positions."

This lack of rotation has enabled Schmidt and Putnam to specialize in their positions.

"Last year, our defensive line coach, Jess Greenwood, helped us learn how to zig-zag around and do spin moves that

are good to have because they give you strategy on how to get to the quarterback," Putnam said.

In the first game of the year against Farley, the Weasel defense had three goal-line stands.

The unit recorded two against McGlinn in the first round of the playoffs, and on Sunday, it was Schmidt's sack in overtime on third-and-goal from the 3 that helped seal the Weasels' victory over Cavanaugh.

"Our defense prides itself on goal-line stands," Ryan said.

Those stops begin and end with the defensive line, and that's why Schmidt and Putnam are so important to PW.

When the duo takes the field, all their energy is focused on winning.

"It's very easy to get comfortable on the field," Schmidt said. "At the end of a play, we say to ourselves, 'Gee, we should actually try on this next play.' And we say, 'We have nothing else to do but homework when the game is over, so we might as well give it all we got.'"

Contact Chris Hine at chine@nd.edu



The Pasquerilla West defensive line stands ready to make a stop on third-and-goal against Breen-Phillips on Oct. 6. The Weasels' defensive line has been a key component of their success.

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 18, 2005

THE
OBSERVER

INTERHALL

NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS

1924

NATIONAL
CHAMPIONS

1929

POISED AND PROUD



Pangborn and Pasquerilla West are set for the final showdown in the Stadium this Sunday.

HEAD



Graphics by MATT HUDSON/The Observer

An unusual argument has been posited by Philip Pullman, a children's fantasy writer who authored "The Golden Compass." In an interview with a UK newspaper, The Observer, Pullman claims that the books contain, "... a wish blend of racist, misogynistic and reactionary prejudice; but of love, of Christian charity, [there is] not a trace." Controversy has also arisen in how the film being marketed. There are those who feel that the series' Christian themes are being deemphasized, and there are others who feel that they are being downplayed so that the series can keep up with "Harry Potter." A New York Times article entitled, "Marketing Narnia without a Christian Lion" questioned the intent to which the Christianity was going to

be washed from the series in order to achieve wider popularity. Other groups see the "Narnia" series as an opportunity to open the Christian message up to new audiences. A group called Catholic Outreach has advertised for 150 coordinators to promote film across the country, and many hope that the film will be a success on par with not only "Harry Potter" but with another successful Christian film — "The Passion of the Christ."

Both "Harry Potter" and "The Chronicles of Narnia" will face critics and admirers. While debates rage, the ultimate question will have to be settled at the box office.

Contact Molly Griffin at mgriffin@nd.edu

1950 - *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* was first published. It was not well-received, and it was notably criticized by Lewis's friend, J.R.R. Tolkien for having too many clashing elements.

1955 - *The Magician's Nephew*, a prequel to *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* published. The books in the Narnia series were published in a different order than the order that the story follows.

1956 - The final book in the series, *The Last Battle*, published. It was awarded a Carnegie Medal, one of the highest distinctions for achievement in children's literature.

1967 - A ten episode series based on *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* ran in the U.K.

1979 - A full-length animated version of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* created for children. It won an Emmy for Outstanding Animated Program.

1988-1990 - BBC made a successful television series based on *The Chronicles of Narnia*, but only *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, *Prince Caspian: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, and *The Silver Chair* were filmed.

2005 - Disney produces a full-length feature version of *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. It had a production budget of \$150 million dollars.

'The Chronicles of Narnia'

Release date: Dec. 9
Distributor: Buena Vista
Budget: \$150 mil.

Andrew Adamson
third career film



Andrew Adamson
director

Lifetime gross total:
\$708.9 mil.
Previous high film:
"Shrek 2"
\$441.2 mil.

THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA: THE LION, THE WITCH AND THE WARDROBE

There are a thousand stories in the land of Narnia...the first is about to be told.

Aslan (Voice by Liam Neeson)

The presence of Aslan in Narnia is supposed to end the reign of the White Witch, and he is part of the battle between the sides of good and evil for control of the magical land. He appears to be a Christ-like figure in the book, because he is killed but rises from the dead.

Peter Pevensie (William Moseley)

The oldest of the Pevensie children at 14, Peter usually leads his siblings, and ultimately leads some of Aslan's army in the battle between good and evil for Narnia.

Lucy Pevensie (Georgie Henley)

The youngest of the Pevensie Children, the 8-year-old discovers that the wardrobe leads to Narnia while playing hide-and-seek with her siblings. Her siblings initially don't believe claims about the kingdom in the closet, but her assertions are eventually proved true.

Susan Pevensie (Anna Popplewell)

The oldest "daughter of Eve" who enters the kingdom of Narnia, Susan helps keep her siblings together and fights in the battle for the kingdom.

Edmund Pevensie (Skandar Keynes)

After secretly following Lucy into the wardrobe, Edmund meets the White Queen and becomes her informer due to his desire to taste Turkish Delight. Edmund, as the Judas figure, betrays Aslan but he is ultimately forgiven and crowned a ruler of Narnia after the White Queen's forces are defeated.

Mr. Tumnus (James McEvoy)

Mr. Tumnus is the first person that Lucy meets when she enters the wardrobe, and the kind faun refuses to hand her over to the White Witch, in spite of his orders. He is transformed into stone by the vengeful witch, but is restored when Aslan's army is victorious.

Jadis, the White Witch (Tilda Swinton)

The evil witch has been ruling Narnia in the absence of Aslan and has kept the land in a state of perpetual winter. She has a garden full of individuals she has turned to stone for threatening her power, and she uses Edmund to find out what her enemies are doing. While she manages to kill Aslan on the Stone Table, he rises from the dead and kills her, ending the battle between good and evil in the kingdom.

GRAHAM EBETSCH/Observer Graphic

AUTHOR

The millions of "Harry Potter" novels sold worldwide speak for themselves. J.K. Rowling, once a stay-at-home mother, has parlayed her unique wizard world into a genuine phenomenon. Nearly a decade after the release of the first book, the franchise shows no signs of slowing down.

C.S. Lewis — a one-time Oxford professor and friend of "Lord of the Rings" author J.R.R. Tolkien — is one of the world's most beloved authors and "The Chronicles of Narnia" is his most renowned work. The series' status as an enduringly popular classic is unquestionable.

While Rowling is undoubtedly among the world's most popular living authors, she has not yet completed the "Harry Potter" opus, so judgment has to be reserved. Lewis' reputation as a timeless storyteller has made him a perennial favorite among both readers and critics.

HEROES

While Harry himself is the titular star, most of the other heroes are given equal footing in the series, including his best friends Ron and Hermione. The adults in the story — notably Dumbledore and Hagrid — are also well-represented and provide much-needed guidance.

The world of Narnia itself revolves around the benevolent lion Aslan, who guides the Pevensie children as they explore their strange but fascinating new surroundings. Akin to the "Harry Potter" series, the first "Narnia" film boasts its own strong core of young characters.

Both "Narnia" and "Harry Potter" feature a wise mentor — Aslan and Dumbledore, respectively. In "Narnia," the children must make their own choices.

VILLAINS

The principal threat in the "Potter" series, Lord Voldemort — played by Ralph Fiennes — finally makes his long-awaited physical debut in "Goblet of Fire." Adding to the intrigue is the fact that no images of Voldemort's appearance have escaped the film's set, leaving his visage a mystery.

Castig Tilda Swinton as the White Witch, a merciless ruler who threatens the safety of Narnia, was a stroke of brilliance. She brings her icy, unrelenting stare and ethereal appearance to the role. Swinton has also shown a penchant for subversive roles in films like "The Beach."

While Swinton will impress in a star-making turn, the sheer malevolence of Lord Voldemort will provide a sinister adversary for Harry. Fiennes has demonstrated his ability to play pure evil, as previously seen in his performance as a Nazi in "Schindler's List."

INTANGIBLES

The recent summer release of the massively successful "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" has heightened the excitement around the Pottermania juggernaut. A PG-13 rating has raised some eyebrows and piqued interest around the darkest "Potter" film to date.

The success of the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy — including its 11 Oscars two years ago — has raised awareness of Lewis' own fantasy masterpieces. The underlying Christian message has been a key platform for the film's marketing strategy, similar to "The Passion of the Christ."

There's little doubt that "Goblet of Fire" will follow in the proven financial track of its predecessors. But the future success of the "Narnia" series hinges on this first effort. Therefore, this film has greater immediate risk and potentially more to gain this winter.

HARRY POTTER

NARNIA

ANALYSIS



Liz Byrum
Assistant
Scene Editor

"The Chronicles of Narnia" towers above "Harry Potter" in literary history. While audiences will finally get a chance to see Lewis' works translated into a big-budget film, the "Harry Potter" series holds the upper hand for its ability to enthrall the children of this generation. "Narnia" has a fair chance for box office glory, but "Harry Potter" will reign supreme this winter.

PREDICTION: Harry Potter
Narnia



Chris McGrady
Assistant
Scene Editor

When "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" goes head to head with "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe," it is going to be a nasty, tough-fought, and magical brawl. Both movies will have strong plots, amazing visuals and stunning attention to detail. However, the proven cast of "Harry Potter" will not be strong enough, and Narnia will edge the perennial power by a hair.

PREDICTION: Harry Potter
Narnia

Scene experts

NBA

Howard's 25 lead Mavs past winless Hawks

Garnett, Timberwolves overcome 33 points from Arenas to down Wizards; Spurs' defense grounds Rockets' attack

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Mavericks shot under 40 percent and committed 16 turnovers. That was still enough to extend the Atlanta Hawks' season-opening losing streak to eight games.

Josh Howard had 25 points and five blocked shots, and Dirk Nowitzki added 20 points and 13 rebounds, helping Dallas to an 87-78 victory Thursday night.

Dallas got off to a sluggish start, falling behind 16-11 in the first quarter, the Mavericks' lowest-scoring quarter of the season.

But the Mavericks used a 29-point second quarter for a seven-point halftime lead, and the Hawks were never able to get closer than three the rest of the way.

"It was a weird game for us," Nowitzki said. "We never got going. It was an ugly basketball game but at the end we made the right plays to win the game."

Keith Van Horn added 14 points for the Mavericks, who won their fourth straight, improving to 3-0 at home and 6-2 overall.

Dallas held Atlanta to 38 percent shooting, the second straight game in which the Mavericks limited an opponent to less than 90 points and 40 percent shooting. Atlanta finished 1-for-9 from 3-point range.

"We had a bad shooting night. We really had to fight those guys off," Howard said. "What helped us out was we finished strong at the end of quarters."

Zaza Pachulia led the Hawks with a career-high 21 points. Atlanta and the Toronto Raptors are the league's only winless teams — both at 0-8.

The Hawks took no solace from making the Mavericks work for the win.

"The only morale boost is for us to get a win," Atlanta coach Mike Woodson said. "This was a winnable game. We scraped and scratched but they were a little better at the end of the game."

Joe Johnson scored 18 points, and Al Harrington added 15 points and 10 rebounds for Atlanta.

Dallas held a 65-57 lead heading into the fourth quarter.

The Hawks got within 81-77 on Johnson's three-point play with 2:12 left, but the Mavericks finished with a 6-1 run over the final 1:36 to seal the victory.

The Mavericks missed 15 of 20 shots from the field in the opening quarter, and Nowitzki went scoreless in 10:51 of the first quarter before getting nine in the second quarter.

Dallas played better defense at the urging of coach Avery Johnson, holding Atlanta to 7-for-20 shooting in the second quarter, and the Mavericks led

40-33 at the break.

Timberwolves 109, Wizards 98

Kevin Garnett's play drew nearly as much attention as his pregame criticism of Minnesota Timberwolves vice president Kevin McHale.

Garnett had 25 points, 13 rebounds and nine assists to lead Minnesota to a 109-98 victory over the Washington Wizards on Thursday night.

"He dominates in the first three quarters and in the fourth quarter, everybody pays attention to him and he finds everybody else," Gilbert Arenas said. "That's why he's No. 1 in the world."

Wally Szczerbiak scored 17 points, and Richie Frahm and Troy Hudson added 16.

"It took a little load off me," said Garnett, of his teammates' scoring.

Garnett then handled questions about his pregame comment on TNT that last year McHale, "wanted in his heart to coach, but he didn't want the responsibility of being a coach."

McHale took over for the fired Flip Saunders halfway through a disappointing season, filled with player bickering and lackluster performances.

"Kevin has a very, very high basketball IQ," Garnett said after the game. "But managing egos and things, I don't think he wants to do that."

McHale said he knows Garnett was frustrated with last season, in which the Wolves failed to make the playoffs for the first time in eight seasons.

"I hope he wants to be here," McHale said after the game. "There's a lot of uneasiness in the changes we've made."

One of major changes was hiring Dwane Casey, and Garnett made sure to say that he thinks the coach has the team on the right track. Garnett did not express any unhappiness with being in Minnesota.

"There has been not one negative thing about KG," Casey said in response to the pregame comments. "I love the guy."

Six Timberwolves players scored in double figures as Minnesota snapped a two-game losing streak.

Arenas had 33 points and Caron Butler added 15 for Washington, which has lost two



San Antonio Spurs guard Manu Ginobili looks for an open man during the Spurs' 121-115 victory over the Rockets Thursday.

straight. The Wizards had five players in double figures, but no one could prevent Garnett from filling up the stat sheet.

Spurs 86, Rockets 80

Needing a score to hold off the late-surgng Houston Rockets, Robert Horry came through once again with a clutch, 3-pointer for the San Antonio Spurs.

"I'm just happy we got a win," said Horry, who had 16 points in the Spurs' 86-80 victory Thursday night.

Tracy McGrady led Houston with a game-high 27 points and 12 rebounds, but was held to 0-7 shooting in the first half. Yao Ming had 19 points, but just one in the second half.

Tim Duncan had 19 points and nine rebounds and Manu Ginobili had 15 points and four steals. San Antonio, which shot 46 percent compared to Houston's 38.9 percent, dominated on defense and inside, scoring 52 points in the paint in a game that seemed as if the Spurs would cruise to victory.

After Juwan Howard's layup cut Houston's deficit to 64-52 with 2:58 left in the third quarter, San Antonio scored the next eight points to stretch their lead to 20 points. Horry scored the last six points of the run, capped by a pair of free throws for a 72-52 lead with 11:19 remaining in

the game. However, the Rockets scored six straight points to make it 72-58 on David Wesley's jumper with 9:43 left.

McGrady began to score rapidly late, including two jumpers and a free throw that cut the lead to six with 2:24 to go.

"We just have to make sure that we don't make mistakes in the fourth quarter like we did tonight," said Tony Parker, who had 17 points for the Spurs.

McGrady seemed on track to possibly repeat his heroics from last Dec. 9 when he scored nine-points in the final 35 seconds against the Spurs, including a last-second three, that gave the Rockets an improbable 81-80 win at home.

McGrady "scares me from the time I get up in the morning until the game ends," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said. "He's done it game after game after game. ... He's like a Robert [Horry] in that he's a pro. He's confident. He single-handedly brought them back."

McGrady credited the Spurs' Bruce Bowen, who guarded him most of the night, in helping stop the surge.

"Facing a guy like Bruce Bowen, you just have to try to block everything out and concentrate on the moment," McGrady said. "That's a tough night of work."



Mavericks guard Marquis Daniels, left, battles Zaza Pachulia for a loose ball in Dallas' 87-78 win over the Hawks Thursday night.

CLASSIFIEDS

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AROUND THE NATION

Friday, November 18, 2005

COMPILED FROM THE OBSERVER'S WIRE SERVICES

Page 17

NBA

Eastern Conference, Atlantic Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Philadelphia	6-3	.667	-
New Jersey	4-4	.500	1.5
Boston	3-5	.375	2.5
New York	2-6	.250	3.5
Toronto	0-8	.000	5.5

Eastern Conference, Central Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Detroit	7-0	1.000	-
Cleveland	6-2	.750	1.5
Milwaukee	5-2	.714	2
Indiana	4-3	.571	3
Chicago	3-4	.429	4

Eastern Conference, Southeast Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Washington	5-2	.714	-
Miami	5-3	.625	.5
Orlando	3-4	.429	2
Charlotte	3-6	.333	3
Atlanta	0-7	.000	5

Western Conference, Northwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
Portland	3-3	.500	-
Denver	4-5	.444	.5
Utah	4-5	.444	.5
Minnesota	3-4	.429	.5
Seattle	3-5	.375	1

Western Conference, Pacific Division

team	record	pct.	GB
LA Clippers	6-2	.750	-
Golden State	5-4	.556	1.5
LA Lakers	4-4	.500	2
Phoenix	3-4	.429	2.5
Sacramento	3-5	.375	3

Western Conference, Southwest Division

team	record	pct.	GB
San Antonio	6-2	.750	-
Dallas	5-2	.714	.5
Memphis	6-3	.667	.5
Houston	3-4	.429	2.5
New Orleans	2-5	.286	3.5

USCHO.com Hockey poll

team	record	points
1 Michigan	9-1-1	783
2 Wisconsin	7-1-2	751
3 Colorado College	9-2-1	721
4 Maine	9-3-0	653
5 Cornell	4-2-0	596
6 Boston College	4-2-1	583
7 North Dakota	7-4-1	530
8 Vermont	8-2-0	494
9 New Hampshire	6-3-1	483
10 Minnesota	5-3-2	430
11 Denver	5-4-1	405
12 Miami	6-2-0	369
13 Michigan State	5-3-2	36
14 Alaska-Fairbanks	4-2-2	232
15 St. Lawrence	7-3-0	199
16 Bemidji State	7-1-0	192
17 Colgate	6-2-1	181
18 Boston University	3-4-0	103
19 Harvard	3-2-0	89
20 Northern Michigan	5-5-0	69

NCAA



Virginia's Deyon Williams drags Georgia Tech's Djay Jones into the end zone on a touchdown during Virginia's 27-17 win Nov. 12, 2005. Georgia Tech is on probation for 2 years for using 17 academically ineligible players.

Georgia Tech on probation for 2 years

Associated Press

ATLANTA — The NCAA placed Georgia Tech on two years of probation Thursday for using 17 academically ineligible athletes in four sports, including 11 in football.

It is the first time Georgia Tech has been placed on probation. The school had proposed self-imposed sanctions, including one year on probation.

Georgia Tech, which argued the violations were not intentional, is considering an appeal of the penalties.

"We are disappointed by the ruling of the NCAA

Committee on Infractions," said Georgia Tech athletic director Dave Braine. "Yes, mistakes were made, but they were inadvertent and confined to a small number of cases when you consider that we reviewed more than 800 transcripts."

The NCAA's Committee on Infractions accepted the school's proposed scholarship reductions in football and men's and women's track. A violation also was found in the women's swimming program, but the swimmer involved was not on scholarship, so that program was not penalized with a scholarship

reduction.

There were no TV or bowl restrictions placed on the football program.

Georgia Tech already reduced its 2005 football signing class by six and also will reduce its 2006 signing class by six.

The NCAA added a limit of 79 total grants-in-aid for the 2006-07 and 2007-08 academic years in football, down from the normal limit of 85. Georgia Tech's self-imposed reduction of scholarships this year did not include a corresponding overall limit on scholarships.

There are 83 scholarship players on this year's foot-

ball team.

Also, the NCAA vacated Tech's records in the sports between the 1998-99 and 2004-05 academic years and issued a public reprimand and censure.

Gene Marsh, a law professor at Alabama who chaired the investigating committee, said Tech's registrars and academic advisers were inadequately trained in NCAA regulations.

Marsh said the committee concluded the "institutional failure" to train the employees on NCAA rules "constitutes a non-debatable lack of institutional control."

IN BRIEF

Sixteen year old jockey dies in horse race

GROVE CITY, Ohio — Josh Radosevich was born into the life of training and riding horses, so he didn't think of himself as young among jockeys when he started racing professionally at 16.

"That's always what his dream was — to ride, ride, ride," his grandmother, Jacqueline Radosevich, said Thursday at the 40-horse farm south of Columbus run by Jake and Shelly Radosevich, the boy's parents.

On Wednesday, six weeks into his career, the jockey was killed when the horse he was aboard broke a leg and rolled over him during a race at Beulah Park.

Staff at the track had known the younger Radosevich since before he began hot-walking his father's horses on the backstretch. They say he was a surprisingly steady rider despite his lack of experience and gangly build of roughly 5-foot-7,

115-pounds, which earned him ribbings in the jocks room.

England leads at Golf World Cup in Portugal

VILAMOURA, Portugal — Just four days after beating Tiger Woods, David Howell teamed with Luke Donald for a 13-under 59 to give England a one-stroke lead after the first round of the World Cup.

"Things can't go any better for me at the moment," said Howell, who beat Woods by three strokes Sunday to win the HSBC Champions tournament in Shanghai, China.

The defending champion and the favorite, England took advantage of calm conditions Thursday on Portugal's southern coast. And the English weren't alone, with half the 24 teams recording scores of 64 or lower at the 7,174-yard Arnold Palmer-designed Victoria Clube de Golfe.

Tied for second after rounds of 60 were the Indian pair of Jyoti Randhawa and Arjun Atwal, and

Australians Mark Hensby and Peter Lonard. The Welsh team of Bradley Dredge and Stephen Dodd, and Sweden's Henrik Stenson and Niclas Fasth hit 61s.

Pirates sign Bay to \$18.25 million, 4 year contract

PITTSBURGH — For a player who doesn't show much emotion on the field, Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Jason Bay almost displayed a rarely seen side of himself after signing a contract that sets him up for life.

He nearly cried — an understandable sentiment for a 22nd-round draft choice who went through four organizations before becoming a major league regular.

Coming off two of the best career-starting seasons in Pirates history, Bay agreed Thursday to an \$18.25 million, four-year contract that covers his arbitration-eligible seasons.

"I just came from a wedding for one my best friends, and I started to cry and get all emotional like you do at weddings," Bay said.

around the dial

NBA

Orlando at Cleveland

7:00 p.m., ESPN

Detroit at Houston

9:30 p.m., ESPN

Charlotte at Indiana

7:00 p.m., FSN

NHL

Atlanta at Philadelphia

7:00 p.m., TSN

SMC BASKETBALL

Belles look to kick off season with a tournament victory

Bender hopes team can improve on rebounding and intensity in two games at the Hanover Tip-Off Classic

By TIM KAISER
Sports Writer

After a two-game exhibition schedule, Saint Mary's will kick off its regular season this weekend at the Hanover Tip-Off Classic in Hanover, Ind.

The Belles will play Hanover tonight at 6 p.m. and then face Franklin at 1 p.m. tomorrow afternoon.

First-year coach Steve Bender's team has a lot of new faces this season, with only five returning players on the roster of 13.

Bender comes from coaching basketball and tennis at Buchanan High School in Buchanan, Mich. He led the boys' tennis team at Buchanan High to the 2003 Michigan state championship and will continue to coach the team this year. The Belles hope that he can parlay his considerable coaching success at Buchanan into a winning season for Saint Mary's.

Saint Mary's takes on two new seniors in Shelly Bender and Nicole Tucker, as well as five freshmen in Nicole Beier, Meghan Conaty, Calli Davison, Emily Light, Erin Newsom and

Katie Rashid. Bender is pleased with both his veteran players as well as the incoming ones, and the team looks to be deeper than it has been in a while.

"We have a lot of depth, which is key. But we also have great leadership from our two captains," Bender said in an interview earlier this season. "Our athleticism, and the depth that we have, will help us extend pressure on teams throughout the game."

Saint Mary's is ranked No. 7 in the MIAA pre-season coaches' poll after an 11-15 overall record and a 6-10 MIAA record last sea-

son. The Belles are led this year by captains Bridget Boyce and Bridget Lipke. Boyce, a senior, was a second-team all-MIAA selection last season while averaging 12 points a game and starting every game at guard. The junior Lipke earned an MIAA honorable mention selection last season, and led the team with 86 assists last season from the other guard spot while playing a team-high 860 minutes.

The Belles also return sophomore standout Allison Kessler, who averaged 8.3 points a game while sophomore and junior Bernadette and Stephanie

Broderick will come back this season to help the Belles.

Bender realizes his new team has some work to do and this weekend's tournament will not be easy.

"We've got to get a lot more physical on the boards," Bender said after last Friday's scrimmage against Lake Michigan College. "We've got to develop more of a post presence, and pick up our intensity. Hanover and Franklin are going to come at us tough."

Contact Tim Kaiser at tkaiser@nd.edu




KELLY HIGGINS/The Observer

Saint Mary's point guard Bridget Lipke avoids two Tri-State defenders in a Dec. 11, 2004 game at the Angela Athletic Center. Lipke is one of three returning starters for the Belles.

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NHL

St. Louis tallies winning goal in first game back



Robert Nilsson, right, and Mark Parrish celebrate Nilsson's goal during the first period in Tampa Bay Thursday night.

Lindros' goal and assist give Toronto its third straight win

Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Martin St. Louis' surprise return gave the Tampa Bay Lightning a much needed lift.

St. Louis scored a tiebreaking, rebound goal with 1:43 left, leading the Lightning past the New York Islanders 3-2 on Thursday night.

St. Louis was back in the lineup less than a week after breaking a bone near the tip of his left ring finger. It was first thought that St. Louis, who sat out two games, would miss two-to-four weeks. The 2004 NHL MVP also damaged his nail bed after being hit in the hand by defenseman Darryl Sydor's shot in practice last Sunday.

"It was completely unexpected ... nobody knew," said Tampa Bay's John Grahame, who made 34 saves. "But that's the type of player he is. He's got the biggest heart of anybody in the league, probably. Just having his presence out there really helped us."

St. Louis scored from in-close after Vincent Lecavalier, who lost his stick, kicked a loose puck toward the goal. The sequence started on Pavel Kubina's shot from the point.

"It definitely feels good," St. Louis said. "It's a great play by Vinny. I just happened to be at the right place at the right time ... and I'll take those."

St. Louis said his hand felt a little uncomfortable.

"I think I'll be playing with that for a little while," St. Louis said. "It's just getting used to it."

New York goalie Rick DiPietro stopped 28 shots, but no chance on St. Louis' winner.

"The puck's going way over the net," DiPietro said. "It catches Vinny in the back and then it just falls right to his feet. You've got to give them credit. They worked hard. They were in the right spot, but that's a tough one for us to drop."

The defending Stanley Cup champion Lightning have won two of three after a six-game losing streak.

"You can just sense it's going to be a year that's a dog fight every game," Tampa Bay coach John Tortorella said. "We have to realize that, buckle in and get ready for the ride here as far as each and every night."

Alexei Yashin had a goal and an assist for the Islanders, who had won a season-best three straight. He got New York even at 2 after picking up a loose puck and scoring from the right circle 57 seconds into the third.

"We gave away a point," Islanders coach Steve Stirling said. "That's a disappointment we got beat. Played hard, played against a good team and played pretty well for 57, 58 minutes but it's not enough."

Robert Nilsson put New York ahead 1-0 at 5:35 of the first. He scored from the right circle off a nifty backhand pass by Yashin.

The Lightning tied it at 1 on Ruslan Fedotenko's goal with 1:28 left in the first. Fedotenko scored off a pass from behind the net by Vinny Prospal.

Brad Richards gave Tampa Bay a 2-1 lead on a second-period goal at 11:49.

Maple Leafs 4, Bruins 1

Toronto turned to its power play and backup goaltender to beat Boston.

Eric Lindros had a goal and an assist, and Mikael Tellqvist made 31 saves to lift the Maple Leafs to a victory over the Bruins on Thursday night.

"He [Tellqvist] was focused all day," Lindros said. "He faced a lot of shots in the first period, but we have a lot of confidence in him."

Toronto has won three straight for the first time this season and scored two power-play goals. The Maple Leafs began the night with the top power-play unit in the NHL.

"Our power plays have worked because of our quickness," Maple Leafs coach Pat Quinn said. "We work on moving quicker as well as moving the puck quicker."

Lindros and Mats Sundin broke open a 1-1 game in the third period when they scored two minutes apart. Darcy Tucker made it 4-1 with 5:27 left.

"The third period was our best period of the year," Sundin said. "We kept it simple and played smarter without the puck."

Boston (7-8-5) lost its fourth straight and fell to 1-7-1 against its Northeast Division rivals. The Bruins were booed for the final five minutes.

"If I knew what was wrong, we would have won the last six," Bruins goalie Andrew Raycroft said.



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Oil Portrait of Beethoven by Johann Christoph Heckel (ca. 1815)

MEN'S SWIMMING

No. 18 Notre Dame will host St. Bonaventure

By DAN MURPHY
Sports Writer

Notre Dame hosts its first home meet in almost a month Saturday when St. Bonaventure comes to South Bend.

A recent road trip was good to the Irish, who return home with two close wins over Pittsburgh and Michigan State. The team improved its overall record to 3-1 and a No. 18 national ranking. Despite its success on the road, the team is excited to be competing in South Bend.

"We're glad to be home," Irish coach Tim Welsh. "We

like our pool and we are happy to be racing here again."

"It's nice not having to endure the long bus rides for the away meets," Notre Dame captain Patrick Hefernan said. "Everyone swims better at home."

The Irish welcome one of their oldest foes in St. Bonaventure. The two teams have met a total of 39 times, the most of any opponent on the current Irish schedule. Notre Dame has dominated the series (28-10) to this point, and won last season's meet 150-87.

The Bonnies come in fresh off a big victory over LaSalle last weekend, boosting their record to 2-1. Their only loss in

a dual meet this season came to Pittsburgh.

St. Bonaventure's last victory over Notre Dame came in 2003, a loss that still irks the Irish.

"We didn't swim well at all on our last trip [to St. Bonaventure]. We earned the loss," Welsh said.

The coaching staff knows that after two close wins in Notre Dame's last two meets it would be foolish to look past the Bonnies.

All members of the team have also made sure that they are focused on this weekend's meet and will be ready to go Saturday.

"This is one more chance to

race before a lot of us will be resting up, and we will be ready to go," Hefernan said.

The Irish are hoping for a good homecoming to set them up for the much-anticipated Notre Dame Invitational. The program's signature event begins Dec. 1 and is the next competition following St. Bonnie's.

"A lot of guys preparing for the Invite want to know where they are at this point," Welsh said. "This meet will be a good checkpoint to see how much they have improved."

The team has been working hard this past week on getting a stronger push off the wall and maximizing the time

underwater before its first strokes.

The swimmers should be able to get a little extra experience with this meet's 16-event format. Most collegiate meets only have 12 races, the four additional contests will give the Irish an opportunity to work on things they do not use on a regular basis.

This Saturday will mark the last meet of the fall semester and with a win Notre Dame can move to 4-1 on the season, putting it in good position for the string of tournaments coming during the winter months.

Contact Dan Murphy at dmurphy6@nd.edu

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Irish open season at home against Lafayette College

Rebuilding team will look to make statement

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

Irish coach Mike Brey said the only goal for this year's basketball team is to make the Big East tournament, and that quest will begin Sunday when Notre Dame hosts Lafayette College at the Joyce Center in the team's first game of the season.

Brey has a lot of options as far as playing people in different spots, but the Irish coach plans on sticking to a specific game plan and forcing his opponent to play accordingly.

"We'll play the rotation we want to play and won't react to them," Brey said. "[Rob] Kurz and [Luke]

Zeller played against shooting four-men in the exhibitions and had to run the floor and step out on them. We want to do what we do and make them react a little bit."

Notre Dame knows what it has on offense when everything is clicking. It is handling a Lafayette team that has changed over the last season and that might present defensive problems.

"Lafayette has gone from having two big kids pounding the ball inside to having younger bigs and spreading it out and shooting a lot of threes," Brey said. "They kind of spread it out and like to run, so we have to play transition defense. We have to get back."

The Irish may be without freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney, who has been sidelined with a back injury. Brey said McAlarney

worked out for half of Thursday's practice but was not 100 percent.

"He's got to see some increases in workload," Brey said.

The Irish will look for freshman Ryan Ayers to play behind senior co-captain Chris Quinn if McAlarney does not play.

Ayers is a long 6-foot-8 forward who has experience handling the point and has been used in different sets when Quinn is

not on the floor.

"This past year in senior year I had to bring the ball up a little bit so it's a little similar but it's a whole different level," Ayers said. "So it has kind of raised the intensity."

The Irish started out the preseason slow, struggling to gain offensive rhythm in their first game against Lewis University. Notre Dame won the game 59-40 but shot just 35.6 percent from the

field. Notre Dame improved the next week against Quincy — especially on the offensive end — as the Irish shot 55.9 percent.

Quinn led the Irish against Quincy with 20 points on 7-of-13 from the field. Co-captain

Torin Francis added 16 points on 7-of-7 from the field with seven rebounds and three blocks in the win.

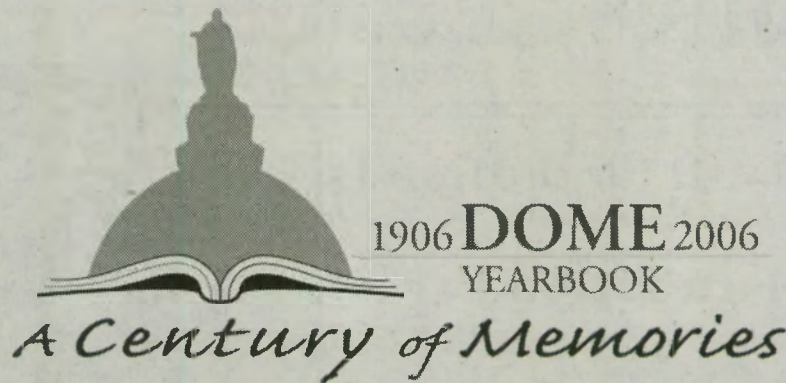
The Irish and Leopards will tip off Sunday afternoon at 2 p.m.

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

"We'll play the rotation we want to play and won't react to them."

Mike Brey
Irish coach

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Hockey

continued from page 28

CCHA victories also snapped a nineteen game conference winless streak for the Irish.

Babin said winning early under first year head coach Jeff Jackson has improved morale at a program that hadn't won a game since Jan. 2 coming into the season.

"[The sweep] was huge," Babin said. "We really needed confidence in ourselves as a group of people. We showed everyone in

the league that there's something here."

Babin was awarded CCHA Defenseman of the Week honors this week after recording three assists in the two games against the Falcons.

After a 2004-05 season in which they struggled to find the net, the Irish have been explosive on offense this season. Over the last four games they're averaging 5.0 goals per game.

Last season, Wes O'Neill and Josh Sciba led the team with six goals each. This year, Sciba has six goals in only eight games and Matt Amado and Tim Wallace

both already have five.

Overall, the Irish have compiled a record of 3-5-0 this season. However, four of those losses have come to No. 1 Michigan, No. 3 Colorado College and No. 13 Denver.

Jackson has rotated freshman Jordan Pearce and junior Dave Brown between the pipes so far this season. Both have played well in spurts. Pearce was given two straight starts last week, but Brown started the 4-2 victory over Bowling Green Friday and shut out the Falcons for two periods.

Jackson said after Saturday's

game that the reason Pearce started Thursday was that he has a light academic schedule on Thursdays and Brown has few classes on Fridays.

The Redhawks, who will be playing only their second home game of the season, come into the contest 6-2-0 overall and 5-1-0 in the CCHA. They lost to North Dakota to begin the season, but then won six straight before falling 3-2 to Lake Superior State Saturday.

Notre Dame and Miami will meet again later this season Jan. 13-14 at the Joyce Center.

This weekend's games are both

scheduled to face off at 7:35 p.m.

Notes:

♦ Jackson signed right winger Christian Minella to the 2005 recruiting class Thursday. Minella will join the Irish, along with early signees Kevin Deeth, Kyle Lawson, and Ryan Thang, for the 2006-07 season.

"We are pleased to add a player like Christian Minella to the Notre Dame hockey program," Jackson said. "He brings size and speed to our roster."

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

ND WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Tough crowd awaits Irish at tournament

Minnesota features three-way scoring

By GREG ARBOGAST
Sports Writer

The Notre Dame women's swimming and diving team did not have long to enjoy its win over Minnesota last week. That same Minnesota team, along with several others, will be eager to prove that they are a superior team to the Irish when the teams gather this weekend for the three-day Minnesota Invitational.

Unlike a regular meet, in which two teams compete against each other for only one day, the Minnesota Invitational will involve multiple teams that will compete against each other

this Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

The Irish enter this weekend's meet confidently, as they have won two consecutive meets over Pittsburgh and Minnesota. The team seems to be gaining momentum as more and more swimmers are elevating their level of performance. While Katie Carroll has been the standout performer on the team so far, Jessica Stephens, Julia Quinn and Rebecca Grove all won multiple events for Notre Dame in the meet against Minnesota. This bodes well for the Irish, as they will need an entire team effort to attain the desired results this weekend.

Contact Greg Arbogast at garbogast@nd.edu

MEN'S CROSS-COUNTRY

Runners travel to the Bronx

Seven Irish athletes to compete in IC4A

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

While the top seven runners on the Notre Dame men's cross country team focus on the NCAA Championships on Monday, some other members of the team have their own season-ending meet to get ready for.

A team of seven Irish runners will travel to The Bronx, N.Y. this weekend for the Intercollegiate Association of Amateur Athletes of America (IC4A) Championships.

Brett Adams, A.J. Andrassy, Dan Bradley, James Miller, Mark Moore, John Popejoy and Jake Watson have all seen limited race time this season. Notre Dame coach Joe Piane said the meet is an opportunity for them to have a goal later in the season when meet fields narrow

and the top seven becomes very hard to break into.

"It's an opportunity for seven more guys to train and have a goal as opposed to saying well, we're just going to train," Piane said.

The veteran coach said without the IC4As, many members of the team would have had little motivation to work hard after the Sept. 30 Notre Dame Invitational.

"If you're the 14th guy, you know pretty well you're not going to the Pre-National meet [Oct. 15] and your season ended on the first of October," Piane said.

The IC4A is the oldest athletic conference in the nation. It contains almost every east coast school that competes in Division 1 athletics. It invites all its members to its Championships but usually the only teams that accept are those who did not qualify for the NCAA Championships.

"It's usually a very good meet.

Everyone on the East Coast will be there, less the teams that qualified for the NCAAs," Piane said. "It's the oldest conference in the country. You might even call it the 'NIT' of cross country."

The Irish are unique in sending a team of runners to both the IC4As and NCAAs.

"I use it as a way to keep guys more involved," Piane said. "We're not going out there just to go to dinner. I expect a good performance out of them."

The top seven Irish runners will compete for the NCAA Championship in Terre Haute, Ind. Monday.

Piane said he will be in New York for the IC4As then will fly back to Indiana for the NCAAs. The runners competing for the national championship will travel to Terre Haute Friday and work out on the course over the weekend.

Contact Chris Khorey at ckhorey@nd.edu

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Yale

continued from page 28

lot of people are underestimating. And I think they are looking forward to proving everyone wrong."

The Bulldogs are one of just three unseeded teams left in the tournament, and Irish coach Randy Waldrum said he expects a tough game from a well-coached squad.

"Rudy Meredith is a great coach," Waldrum said of Yale's 11th-year skipper. "They'll be very organized. They'll be very prepared."

Waldrum said he expects Yale's confidence from its game against Duke to carry over into tonight's match, especially because the Bulldogs are used to playing as underdogs.

"I think they're just kind of on a roll ... in the tournament, and [they] did some things that they were probably the only ones that expected to do that," he said. "I think we've got to be really ready to play on Friday."

While Duke may have overlooked the Bulldogs and focused on a potential matchup with the Irish a bit too early, Notre Dame's players said they have concentrated only on Yale throughout the week.

"Our focus is just taking it one game at a time," senior forward Katie Thorlakson said. "This week is Yale, last week was — I don't even remember who it was it's so far away."

Freshman standout Kerri Hanks said the whole team feels a sense of responsibility each game during the tournament to win for the seniors.

"We go out, and I'm like, 'This could be the last game that I'm going to play with the seniors, so this is their championship game,'" Hanks said. "So we just take it game by game and hopefully we can continue and make it to the Final Four."

Waldrum said he sees that attitude in all the underclassmen.

"All the players will tell you they want to win again for their senior group," he said.

Thorlakson said she understands the gravity of playing in do-or-die games as a senior.

"Every night before game day now, I can hardly sleep because it could be my last game," she said. "And I'm like, 'I don't want it to be my last game.' So I don't think that feeling is going to go away."

But she knows she will only have a negative feeling if her career ends on a loss. So for now, Thorlakson said she wants to do all she can to win.

"I wouldn't say I was confident, I'm just trying to go out there and play as hard as I can," she said.

Waldrum said Thorlakson and Notre Dame's other forwards will have to continue their relentless attack if the Irish hope to beat Yale.

"I think you've got to go at it with that same approach — I

don't think you start to get conservative at this point," Waldrum said. "And the way we've been playing defensively, if we keep that part going, I just feel confident with our group that we're going to get our chances ... We've got to convert those opportunities, but we'll go all out again."

Hanks said the forwards are ready to execute Waldrum's game plan to help the Irish to a victory.

"It's going to be a good game, and all that we can expect is to believe in what we know how to do and just have faith in our coach in giving us what to play and how to play," she said. "We're not overconfident ... but we are confident. There's no way we should be not confident coming into this game. We've done well this whole season, so we should do well now."

In Thorlakson and Notre Dame's seven other seniors, Hanks' hope is magnified.

Thorlakson said her main goal is to end her career with a win.

"I hope we can take it to the national championship and it won't be my last game until I hold the trophy up," she said.

But the Irish must win tonight to have dreams about a national championship.

"I don't think we can be looking past anything beyond this," Waldrum said. "And that's kind of the approach we've taken — every game is the national championship."

Free busses for students attending tonight's game will be running to and from Alumni Field, library circle, the Grotto and McKenna Hall from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Notes:

♦ Four Notre Dame players were named Missouri Athletic Club Herman Trophy semifinalists Thursday.

The award, given annually to the top soccer player in the

nation, began in 2001 after the Missouri Athletic Club and Herman Trophy merged their player-of-the-year presentation.

Notre Dame's four finalists are senior forward Katie Thorlakson, senior defender Candace Chapman, junior midfielder Jen Buczkowski and freshman forward Kerri Hanks.

Thorlakson and Hanks are the nation's leading scoring

tandem, totaling 134 points in 23 games — 67 points apiece. The duo broke its preseason goal of 130 points Sunday during Notre Dame's second-round victory over Michigan State in the N C A A Tournament.

Hanks said she was focused on the team's upcoming game against Yale rather than personal individual achievements.

"Between me and Katie, we haven't even said anything

about reaching 130 points," Hanks said. "I guess we're just looking at Friday's game hoping maybe we can get some more."

Last season, Thorlakson was one of 15 semifinalists but did not make the final cut of three. Despite leading the Irish to the national championship and taking home three player-of-the-year awards from soccer publications, the forward was not included in the final ballot.

Each NCAA Division I coach gets a ballot, and Thorlakson is one of the favorites heading into the vote.

"I don't think we can be looking past anything beyond this. And that's kind of the approach we've taken — everything is the national championship."

Randy Waldrum
Irish coach

Contact Ken Fowler at kfowler1@nd.edu

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Midfielder Alex Yoshinaga works for ball control during Notre Dame's 4-2 penalty kick win over Syracuse on Nov. 12. The win came in the first round of the Big East Tournament, the last game the Irish played at Alumni Field.

MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

NCAA

continued from page 28

the team to the tournament every year since coming to South Bend.

Western Illinois (6-9-4) is one of only two squads (Stetson is the other) in the 48-team tournament with a losing record. The Leathernecks qualified for the tournament by winning the Mid-Continent Conference tournament. Western Illinois edged Oakland 4-3 in overtime in the conference championship match.

Despite the poor record, Clark expects a stiff challenge from the Leathernecks.

"They must be the best 6-9 team in the country," Clark said. "I spoke to several coaches that have played them. I've heard they are a very good team with some very good players."

Clark said that the momentum Western Illinois built up in its conference tournament makes the Leathernecks a very dangerous team.

"Early in the season they lost some close games," the coach said. "They're going to come in very confident."

The Leathernecks are in the NCAA tournament for the second consecutive season, after capturing the Mid-Continent Conference title in 2004.

Notre Dame is coming off an up-and-down regular season. The Irish finished the regular season outside of the NCAA top 25 for the first time in Clark's tenure.

However, Clark attributes Notre Dame's inconsistencies to a challenging schedule. A record seven Big East teams made the NCAA tournament. The Irish also played several top out of conference teams, including Indiana. The Hoosiers, who beat the Irish 3-0 in Bloomington Oct. 26, will host the winner of Friday's game on Tuesday in the second round.

The Irish have the benefit of hosting a first round game, but Clark hopes his players do not put too much stock in their home field advantage.

"The home field is always an advantage, but that's what we do on the home field that's going to be more important," Clark said. "At the end of the day, the home field doesn't win it for you. We've got to take care of that. The players themselves have got to take care of that."

Clark is optimistic, however, because of the improvement he has seen from his team over the season. The coach thinks the Irish have the talent to make a run in the tournament.

"This team has gotten better every week," Clark said. "We're now looking as good as any team that I've ever coached at Notre Dame."

"This team is looking very good."

Notes:

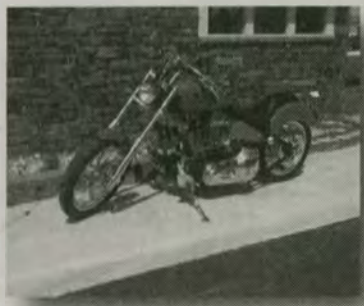
♦ Junior tri-captain Greg Dalby was named one of 15 semifinalists Tuesday for the prestigious Hermann Trophy. The award is given each year to the top player in Division I soccer.

Dalby, who has played as a midfielder and defender for the Irish in 2005, is only the third player in program history to be named a semifinalist. Last season, defenders Kevin Goldthwaite and Jack Stewart both made the semifinalist list for the trophy.

♦ For those wanting to escape the chilly walk to this season's game, busses will be shuttling students in a loop from Library Circle, the Grotto and McKenna Hall to Alumni Field between 4 p.m. and 9 p.m.

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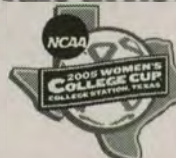
Friday, November 18



Free Admission for first 100 ND, SMC, and HCC Students & Free ride to the game on TRANSCO (4-9pm) (stops @ Library Circle, Grotto, McKenna Hall)

WOMEN'S

3rd Round of NCAA tournament vs. Yale at 7:30pm

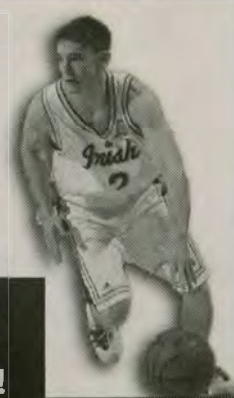


MEN'S BASKETBALL

Joyce Center Arena Sunday November 20 vs. Lafayette at 2pm

First 1000 fans will receive a BE THERE shirt!

HACIENDA WILL GIVE ONE LUCKY NOTRE DAME, HOLY CROSS, OR SAINT MARY STUDENT A CHANCE TO WIN TUITION FOR A YEAR!



Stewart

continued from page 28

met there was intelligent. The football players were intelligent and I just had a good feeling about it."

Stewart is the third offensive lineman to commit to Notre Dame this season and Frank expects Weis to bring

in at least two more offensive linemen.

He received four out of a possible five stars and is rated the No. 30 offensive lineman in the nation according to Scout.com. But Frank said Stewart might be underrated.

"You can pretty much flush those rankings down the toilet," Frank said. "All you need to know is that he was

one of the first offensive linemen that Weis and his staff offered. He impressed them that much that they said 'Heck, we want this kid. Let's go after him.'"

Boasting an impressive 390-pound bench press and a 500-pound squat, Stewart had his choices narrowed down to LSU, Texas A&M and Ole Miss before choosing Notre Dame.

Jackson is the fourth wide receiver to commit to the Irish and reminds Frank of a larger version of current Notre Dame receiver Rhema McKnight. The 6-foot-2, 195-pound Clermont, Fla. native had 46 receptions this season for 536 yards and five touchdowns. This might be a result of being double-teamed by opponents after he burned his competition his junior

season for 72 receptions, 1,272 yards and 11 touchdowns.

"It seems like he gets faster the more he runs," Frank said of Jackson, who has been timed at 4.6 seconds in the 40-yard dash. "He's just got that extra gear to pull away from people."

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu

Michigan

continued from page 28

like, 'Gosh, can we just play a game,'" McGraw said. "So I think that's the point we're at right now — they're ready for a game, I'm ready for another week of practice. ... We have a lot of stuff to put in that we haven't worked on."

But if the No. 15 Irish win tonight against Michigan, it will be McGraw's 500th career win, making her the 27th NCAA Division I coach to reach that milestone and the 10th to do so before age 50.

However, Michigan won't be as easy to defeat as its 5-23 record and last-place finish in the Big Ten a year ago may indicate.

"I just think they're a threat," McGraw said. "You can't look at last year's record. It's a whole new team, a whole new attitude, and we're a whole new team too. We're still trying to figure ourselves out."

Michigan, which has played two regular season games already this year, has been led

by freshman Stephany Skrba, who averaged 13.5 points and six rebounds per game. Skrba earned all-tournament honors at the Women's Sports Foundation Challenge in Eugene, Ore., in addition to being named the Big Ten Player of the Week. Skrba was joined by fellow freshman Jessica Minnfield, who averaged 10.5 points per game. The Wolverines lost their first game 65-48 to No. 21 Temple, but defeated St. Francis (Pa.) 80-52 in the second game. These two games were in addition to the two exhibitions played by Michigan, something McGraw sees as a distinct advantage.

"They've had four games already," she said. "That's a big difference when you're talking about the opening night."

McGraw also said she is concerned with the defense of the Wolverines.

"They press a lot, they're quick, they're very active defensively," McGraw said. "[Michigan head coach Cheryl Burnett] is kinda known for her defense. She's just a really good defensive coach. They play hard, they get up in the

passing lanes, they deny. They're really going to make it tough for us."

Meanwhile, the Irish are led by senior point guard Megan Duffy, who should be joined in the backcourt by sophomore Tulyah Gaines. Freshman Lindsay Schrader is expected to start her first ever collegiate game, and rounding out the lineup will likely be forwards Crystal Erwin and Melissa D'Amico.

Erwin is a player who McGraw has been very happy with in the early part of the season.

"Crystal's attitude has been fantastic, in that she's in here all the time saying, '[Coach] Angie [Potthoff], can I watch film?'" McGraw said. "She came in great shape and really ready, but she's like a sponge. She's just trying to learn everything she can, and we've just been really thrilled with her work ethic in every way."

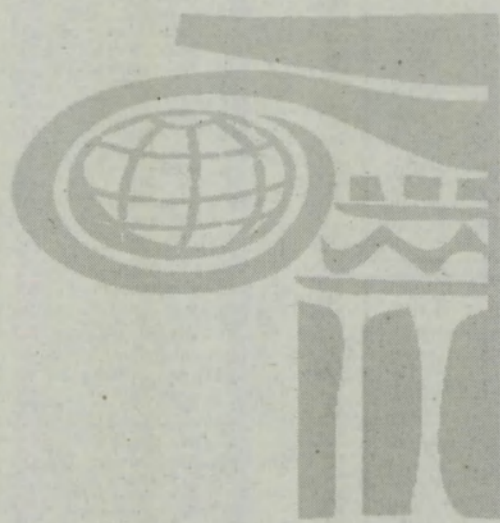
Tipoff is set for after the football pep rally tonight at 9 p.m. in the Joyce Center.

Contact Heather Van Hoegarden at hvanhoeg@nd.edu



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Sophomore center Melissa D'Amico plays defense in Notre Dame's 96-45 win over Ferris State on Nov. 10.



INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK 2005

November 14-18

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For a calendar of events go to: www.nd.edu/~issa/IEW

Campus Events for FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18...

Ten Thousand Villages Fairly-Traded Goods Sale ends TODAY!

Beautiful handcrafted jewelry, papers, ornaments, drums, and other gift items.

10 am - 4 pm

Great Hall, O'Shaughnessy

Asian Allure

Tickets on sale at LaFortune Box Office, \$5 per person.

8 pm

Washington Hall

Cuisine Around the World

8:30 pm

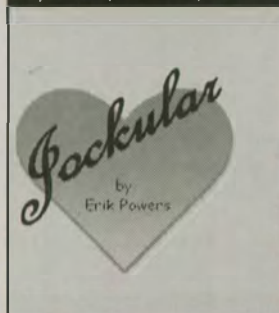
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SINCERE THANKS TO ALL WHO SPONSORED AND PARTICIPATED IN THIS YEAR'S IEW EVENTS!

JOCKULAR

ALEC WHITE AND ERIK POWERS

With Alec swamped with work, Erik finally gets to draw the strip the way he's always wanted



Today started out as such a good behavior day! I woke up before dawn, got in a 2k walk before my yoga class, skipped my soy latte for a protein shake, and did all my crunches while learning French on tape.



But then I could only schedule one class because my computer crashed and my hair was perfect right up until South Wind ruined it with its stupid dumb quad my eyes teared up and my mascara ran and I was the last person to class and the only seat left was in the middle of the room!



And now the only thing that'll make me feel better is eating this double-chocolate pancake with strawberry ice cream and Lucky Charms on top!



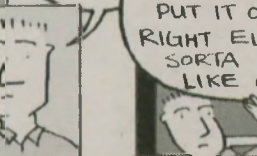
CROISSANTWORLD

ADAM FAIRHOLM

10 YEARS FROM NOW... I'D LIKE TO SAY THAT I AM HONORED THAT YOU HAVE CHOSEN ME, DENIS ZHANGA, TO BE YOUR NEW FOOTBALL COACH.



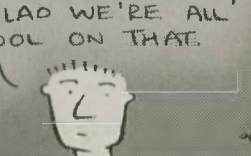
FIRST OFF, I WANT TO GET THE WHOLE 3RD / 4TH QUARTER 1812 OVERTURE THING OUT OF THE WAY.



IT'S KINDA HARD TO MAKE IT GO UP AND DOWN BUT IF YOU SORTA ROCK YOUR BODY BACK AND FORTH THAT WORKS.



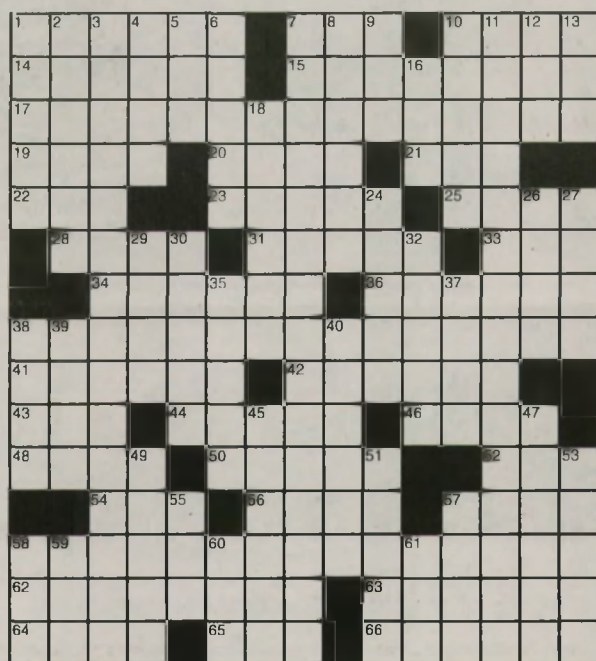
YEAH, THAT'S ACTUALLY PRETTY GOOD. SO, LIKE, TOTALLY GO NUTS DURING THAT. I WANNA SEE YOU GUYS FRIGGIN' FLIP OUT WITH THE "Z" THING. OKAY, GLAD WE'RE ALL COOL ON THAT.



CROSSWORD

WILL SHORTZ

- ACROSS**
- 1 Historic trials
 - 7 High-tech heart, for short
 - 10 Somewhere over the rainbow
 - 14 One affected by a strike
 - 15 Like some devils?
 - 17 Question upon hearing an accent
 - 19 Host
 - 20 Surface
 - 21 Buck passer?
 - 22 Particle stream
 - 23 Possible penicillin target
 - 25 Capital of Cambodia
 - 28 It's not out of the ordinary
 - 31 Put ___ (shove off)
 - 33 Factor in some acad. probations
 - 34 Starchy
 - 36 Dramatic opening
 - 38 Buck passer?
 - 41 Kutchner who hosted TV's "Punk'd"
 - 42 Horse-drawn vehicle
 - 43 It may go for mi. and mi.
 - 44 Sentencing request
 - 46 A load
 - 48 Point in the right direction?
 - 50 Pageant put-on
 - 52 Starter's aid
 - 54 "Black" day in the stock market crash, 10/29/1929: Abbr.
 - 56 "Don't be so shy!"
 - 57 Ring sport
- DOWN**
- 1 Not just bickering
 - 2 Mehrabad International Airport site
 - 3 Intelligence concern
 - 4 Not at all lethargic
 - 5 Windsor, for one
 - 6 Comes (to)
 - 7 Rally Sport, e.g.
 - 8 Wage earners
 - 9 See 66-Across
 - 10 Concerning
 - 11 Curriculum requirement, often
 - 12 Te ___
 - 13 Kind of sleep
 - 16 Fizzle
 - 18 Knocking noise
 - 24 Topping for fish or meat
 - 26 Thrusted thing
 - 27 Nest
 - 29 Etymologist's concern
 - 30 Classic comedy film about gender-role reversal
 - 32 Succeed in a big way
 - 35 "Déjeuner sur l'herbe" artist
 - 37 Nevada's second-largest county
 - 38 Tour's river
 - 39 Court org. since 1881
 - 40 Wood problem
 - 45 Comparatively creamy
 - 47 Gordon ___ a ka Sting
 - 49 Coach
 - 51 It's negative
 - 53 With 59-Down, unimpressive
 - 55 Some aliens take it: Abbr.
 - 57 Vulnerable gap
 - 58 ___ Friday's
 - 59 See 53-Down
 - 60 Writing: Abbr.
 - 61 East Lansing sch.

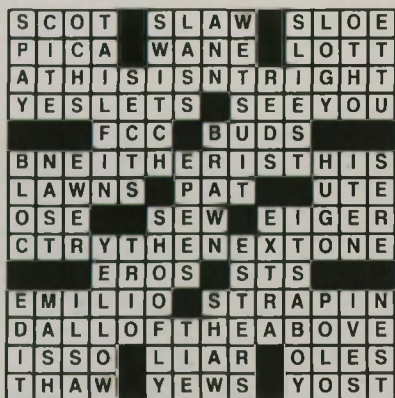


Puzzle by Michael Shteyman

- 32 Succeed in a big way
- 35 "Déjeuner sur l'herbe" artist
- 37 Nevada's second-largest county
- 38 Tour's river
- 39 Court org. since 1881
- 40 Wood problem
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- 58 ___ Friday's
- 59 See 53-Down
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- 61 East Lansing sch.

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ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

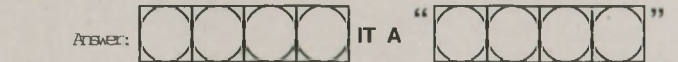
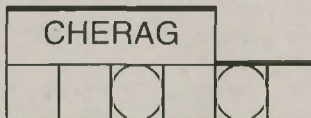
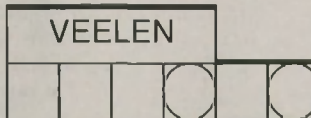
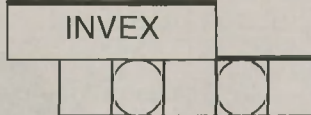
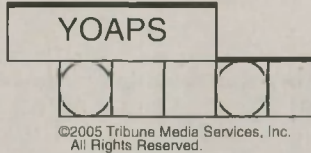


JUMBLE

HENRI ARNOLD
MIKE ARGIRION

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Yesterday's Jumbles: QUILT DADDY JERSEY HUNTER
 Answer: How the manicure student did on her final exam — SHE "NAILED" IT



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

HOROSCOPE

EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Isaac Hanson, 25; Daisy Fuentes, 39; Danny DeVito, 61; Lorne Michaels, 61

Happy Birthday: Prepare to take on challenges this year. You will have no problem standing up to whatever comes your way, but you may have some trouble dealing with the people involved. Have a clear-cut idea of what you are trying to accomplish. Don't be afraid to make a mistake -- confidence is the key. Your numbers are 9, 23, 25, 34, 37, 44

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be honest with yourself and others. Take any opportunity to do things with friends, relatives or neighbors. You can teach others what you know and learn something yourself. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You need to be social, especially with people who can help you move in a direction of prosperity. Keep things simple and don't lead people to believe that you have more to offer than you do. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll find it difficult to contain your emotions. If you don't want things to get out of hand, clear the air and tell it like it is. Someone you care about will be understanding and help you through whatever ordeal you face. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A sudden change of events must not be looked at as a negative. If you are quick to react, you can see the benefit of change. An older relative or friend can offer you some good advice. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't get left out because you were hemming and hawing. Make plans early so you don't end up sitting at home alone. You need to boost your confidence, and by participating, you will do just that. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Watch what you say to others. A problem with friends or relatives will leave you feeling emotionally tired. Do your best to avoid arguments, but don't let anyone get the better of you. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Love, romance and adventure should all be on your mind and in your plans. It's time you confirmed the way you feel and what your intentions are to the people around you. Travel plans should be discussed. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Money will come to you in an unusual way. Your hard work and dedication to others will pay off. Thinking big can't hurt -- you can always size down your ideas once you have interest in your plans. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You have added discipline so why wait? The more you participate in activities that will keep you at your best, the better you will do in all aspects of your life. An emotional issue must be dealt with.***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An all-out effort to get a better job or to make more money must be your goal today. Someone will be willing to do a favor for you. Take advantage of any opportunity to make things happen. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will have a very unusual effect on the people you interact with today. Talk about your ideas and thoughts, and you will capture the attention of someone who can make a difference to your future. A partnership may develop.*****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): No matter what you do, it will be difficult to get the recognition you are looking for today. Put in the extra time and be sure to compliment individuals who contribute to whatever you are working on. **

Birthday Baby: You know how to charm your way into anything. You are bright, articulate and worldly. You have a strong sense of what will work, and you are capable of doing whatever it takes to succeed.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

THE OBSERVER

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FOOTBALL RECRUITING

Offensive lineman Stewart commits to team

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Notre Dame literally received one of the biggest recruits in school history Thursday when 6-foot-5, 360-pound offensive lineman Chris Stewart gave his verbal commitment to the Irish.

"He's a guy that absolutely engulfs people," Mike Frank of Irisheyes.com said. "He's

got so much potential it's unbelievable."

Apparently, Irish coach Charlie Weis agreed with Frank's assessment of the Klein, Tex. native.

Along with wide receiver Richard Jackson, who also



Stewart

committed to Notre Dame on Thursday, Weis now has 22 known verbals in his first full recruiting class.

None of the recruits can sign official letters of intent until February.

However, Stewart said he has met with Notre Dame Director of Admissions Dan Saracino and will be enrolling in school in January along with running back recruit James Aldridge.

They are believed to be the first Irish football recruits in the modern era to enroll a semester early at Notre Dame.

The chance to enroll before the majority of his teammates was one of several reasons the massive offensive lineman chose Notre Dame.

"There's no school in the world like it," Stewart said in an interview with The

Observer Thursday. "There's a unique blend of atmosphere and people from around the world."

Stewart intends to major in history and Spanish — a combination that he feels will help him achieve his career goal of being a foreign ambassador. "Being able to graduate from Notre Dame would be incred-

see STEWART/page 26

NCAA SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Stayin' alive

Irish face Western Illinois in a first-round home matchup

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

The recent turn in the weather does not bother Bobby Clark.

"It's great to think that we're playing still when there is snow on the ground," the Irish head coach said. "Think about all the other 152 teams that aren't lucky enough to play in the snow now. They're out. Their seasons are over."

"When you are in the tournament, you are usually playing in bad weather. And that's great because that means you are in the tournament."

Notre Dame (10-7-3, 6-4-1) opens the NCAA tournament against Western Illinois tonight at Alumni Field at 5 p.m. Clark, in his fifth season at the helm for the Irish, has led

see NCAA/page 23



Matthew Smedberg and Dustin Menella/The Observer
Ian Etherington, left, and Christie Shaner are veterans leading their teams in the first and third rounds of the NCAA Tournament, respectively.

Bulldogs are scary underdogs in third round of tournament

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Notre Dame doesn't want to do what Duke did.

Five days after Yale stunned the overconfident No. 10 Blue Devils with a last-second goal to advance to the round of 16 in the NCAA Tournament, the defending national champion Irish will host the Bulldogs in a battle of two of the hottest teams in the country tonight at Alumni Field, which will kick off 40 minutes after the conclusion of the men's game.

"I think any team coming off a momentous win, like scoring in the last second of a game, they are on a huge upswing," senior Irish midfielder Annie Scheffter said. "I think that Yale is a team that a

see YALE/page 22

HOCKEY

Irish take a two-game streak to Miami Ohio

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

After a two-game sweep of Bowling Green that evened its CCHA record at 2-2, the Notre Dame hockey team will travel to Goggin Arena in Oxford, Ohio to take on No. 12 Miami University.

Unfortunately for the Irish, they have not won in Goggin Arena since 2003 and have lost seven of their last 10 games there.

"We don't like playing there," Notre Dame defenseman Noah

Babin said. "Over the past few years it's been our downfall. We have a lot of guys on the team who want to get past that little curse."

Still, this year the Irish have an advantage they did not have in the past — coming into the game riding a winning streak after the sweep of the Falcons.

The two wins last weekend represented the first time Notre Dame had swept a two-day series since Feb. 27-28, 2004 when they beat Michigan. The

see HOCKEY/page 21

ND WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Wolverines travel to JACC

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame coach Muffet McGraw wishes she had another week of practice instead of tonight's first regular-season game, despite what her players may say.

"I always feel like we need another week of practice, and the players always feel

See Also
"Making her point"
Irish Insider



Claire Kelley/The Observer
Sophomore guard Charel Allen takes the ball down the court in a Nov. 10 win over Ferris State.

see MICHIGAN/page 26

SPORTS AT A GLANCE

WOMEN'S SWIMMING

Carrying a two-game winning streak, the Irish will compete in the Minnesota Invitational this weekend.

page 22

MEN'S SWIMMING

The No. 18 Irish have their first home meet in nearly a month, facing St. Bonaventure.

page 20

MEN'S BASKETBALL

Notre Dame vs. Lafayette
Sunday, 2 p.m.

The Irish open their season at home.

page 20

SMC BASKETBALL

Hanover Tip-Off Classic
Today, 1 p.m.

The Belles will begin their season at this annual tournament.

page 19

IRISH INSIDER

ZAHM FACES KEENAN AND PANGBORN BATTLES PASQUERILLA WEST IN THE INTERHALL CHAMPIONSHIPS SUNDAY IN NOTRE DAME STADIUM

IRISH INSIDER

Friday, November 18, 2005

THE
OBSERVER



No Easy Layups

Senior point guard Chris Quinn has the ball in his hands and the Irish on his back as Notre Dame begins the post-Chris Thomas era

Performance clashes with transition

There is no more NCAA talk. There are no more guarantees. There are no more preconceptions of the team they have, the team they'll be or the team they should be. All the Irish know right now is that they are not the same team they were last season.



Pat Leonard

Sports Writer

And in some ways, that may be the best realization this team could come to before opening the 2005 season against Lafayette on Sunday.

Chris Thomas' graduation means a new era and a new start. Going into Thomas' senior season last year, Notre Dame had high expectations of a player who wore the number one. He swaggered into the gym on media day in Oct. 2004, and the team swaggered in behind him.

Coach Mike Brey, his assistant coaches and the players all knew they had the potential to accomplish as much, if not more, than the program had in recent memory — and that's taking into account a Sweet 16 bid in March 2003. Brey had Thomas (an explosive guard), Torin Francis (an inside scoring threat) and Dennis Latimore (a relatively unknown but promising transfer).

So Brey strode to the preseason podium, sat down in the Joyce Center Auditorium and said, with confidence, "We've got to get back to the NCAA tournament."

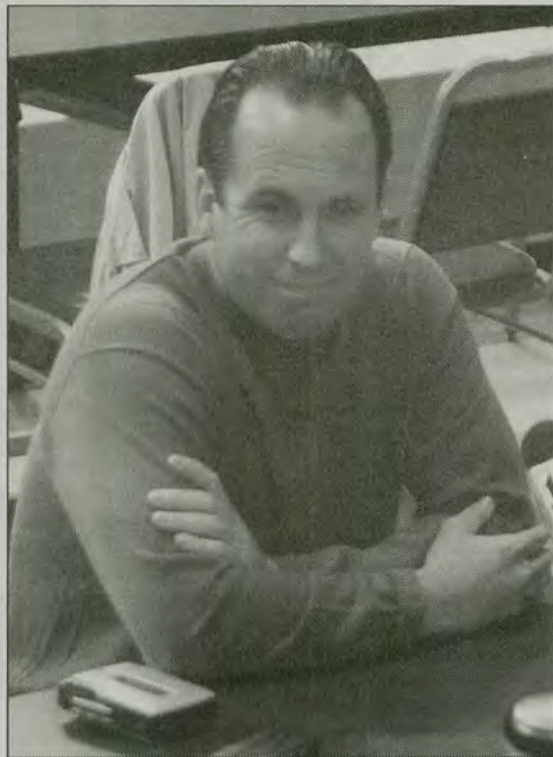
That was his goal, because he knew the Irish could achieve it.

Expectations did not motivate that particular group. Notre Dame bowed out of NCAA consideration with a first-round Big East Tournament loss to Rutgers, only to further self-destruct in a first-round NIT home loss to Holy Cross.

So Brey is responding by



Notre Dame point guard Chris Quinn, left, played shooting guard in his first three seasons. Now, Irish coach Mike Brey, right, is entrusting Quinn to run the offense and co-captain his team.



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

removing lofty expectations from his new team and replacing them with realistic ones.

"We're not picked in any polls," the coach said on this year's media day. "For this group, that's probably a very good atmosphere for this group to be in."

The key for Brey, then, is to establish that mentality early to leave him room to work with lineups, younger players and offensive schemes to get the best out of this particular group.

More than any year during Brey's tenure at Notre Dame — he is in his sixth season — this Irish team will go as far as its coaches take them. And this isn't because the players are unskilled or unable to compete. They are able.

It's because in the 2005-06 season, the Irish will be trying their hardest to reach Madison Square Garden, to compete for serious wins and postseason berths, while simultaneously

transitioning from the Thomas era to the McAlarney era, the Ayers era, the Hillesland or Zeller era — a chapter in Notre Dame basketball history that has not begun.

And right smack in the middle of it all stands Chris Quinn, a reliable ball-handler and consistent shooter who finally has the opportunity to prove himself at his natural position.

And there are countless other factors weighing on Brey's mind.

Rick Cornett is a senior but has not yet seen significant minutes. Francis began his career at Notre Dame with a bang and then fizzled into single digit averages in points and rebounds last season. He even tested NBA waters in June before returning for his final season.

But what some may perceive as uncertainty — junior Omari Israel left the team last Friday — is really just the evolution of

a program and a team. In a point guard-dominated offense the past four years, Notre Dame knew where the ball was, who had it and for whom they would draw last-second plays.

Brey's offense has been successful and will not change. The point guard will continue to run the show on both ends of the floor. But that point guard can only create the team's new, lasting identity when he has time to do so.

And that is why, though late in his career, Quinn is the obvious and best candidate to become Notre Dame's visible leader.

It's just a shame he graduates in May. The Irish could have used him at the point last season.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer. Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Schedule adjusts to Big East

Cincinnati, St. John's absent from 2005-06 Notre Dame slate

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

In the 'new' Big East, with 16 teams and a limited amount of conference games before the postseason begins in March, Notre Dame will not play all of its conference foes — and neither will any Big East team, for that matter.

Each team in the Big East will play 13 separate conference opponents, including three home-and-home series.

Notre Dame plays DePaul, Marquette and Providence all twice this season. But Big East newcomer Cincinnati (from Conference-USA) and longtime conference member St. John's do not appear on the Irish slate.

In arguably the most critical stretch on any team's schedule, Notre Dame has an abnormal nine games scheduled during the school's winter break. In the transition from non-conference to Big East competition, Brey and the Irish will face Niagara — the reigning Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference (MAAC) champion — along with IPFW, Columbia, Fordham and Wofford. Then, the squad will dive into Big East play with two consecutive road games.

Pittsburgh greets Notre Dame soon after the new year at the Petersen Events Center (Jan. 4), followed by a matchup with DePaul (Jan. 7) and an odd schedule Jan. 11 game against Syracuse, before University students return.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

Carter cracks starting five

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

After spending most of last season as a role player used primarily to provide intensity on the offensive end, Russell Carter was excited when he was informed of his starting spot on this year's team.

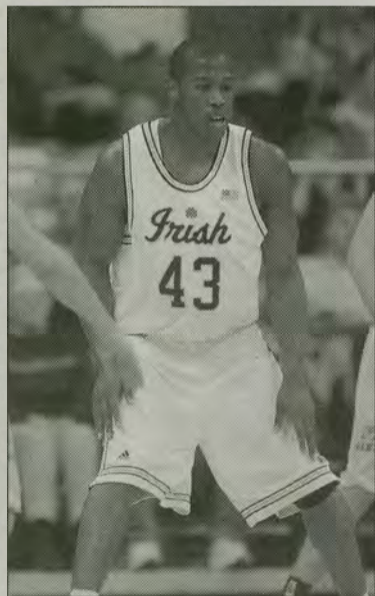
Carter started both exhibition games against Lewis University and Quincy University in the backcourt alongside Chris Quinn and Colin Falls.

The three-guard set is nothing new for Irish coach Mike Brey — who used Falls, Quinn and Chris Thomas together last season. And for Carter, it is relieving to relax on the court without having to look over his shoulder.

"Sitting on the bench watching all the guys do their thing served as motivation," Carter said. "I want to be able to play with the guys that are my teammates and also my friends."

Carter brings an offensive edge to the floor. He scored 11 points on 4-of-9 shooting in the preseason opener against Lewis and had 12 points against Rutgers in a first-round Big East tournament game last season.

"Like coach said, I just bring a



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

Junior guard Russell Carter is an athletic, offensive threat.

spark," Carter said. "I'm just somewhat of a high energy guy. All of my career I've been a scorer, so I really don't know anything else. When it comes to the offensive end, I pretty much know what to do."

But Carter will be asked to do more than shoot this season if he is going to be a productive player. He has to trust the ability

of his teammates to score points just as easily as he can.

Irish coach Mike Brey said throughout the preseason that Carter's main focus should be on becoming easier to play with. Much of that has to do with Carter's need to trust himself as a team player as well as a scorer.

"The coaches have helped me learn to put more trust in my teammates and that everyone can score," Carter said.

Carter proved he was willing to take this role in the team's final exhibition game against Quincy, when he only attempted five field goals in 25 minutes.

The junior guard also will need to continue to improve on the defensive end this season. Carter has shown signs this fall that he has worked on strengthening this aspect of his game.

"I've been impressed [that] Carter has grasped the role of defending more," Brey said. "He's a very good offensive player, but he's been very good in the preseason as far as understanding we need him to guard people too, and guard athletic guys."

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THE NEW BIG EAST CONFERENCE

BIG EAST PRESEASON TEAMS

Boston College's decision to leave the Big East for the Atlantic Coast Conference after last season did not force the Big East into an 11-team schedule. In response, the Big East has morphed into a 16-team superconference with the addition of five former Conference-USA programs.

BIG EAST GAINS:		
	Cincinnati	
	DePaul	
	Louisville	
	Marquette	
	South Florida	
BIG EAST LOSES:		
	Boston College	

Graphic by GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

The 'one' and only

Point guard Chris Quinn will lead and teach his way through his final season

By **BOBBY GRIFFIN**
Associate Sports Editor

Notre Dame's success this season rests on the shoulders of point guard Chris Quinn. It's a lot of weight to carry, but the 185-pound senior wouldn't want it any other way.

Quinn came into summer practice focused. His team missed the NCAA tournament last season and graduated its most recognizable player, Chris Thomas. The Irish were on nobody's preseason radar. Instead of thinking about the Final Four, they were focused on the Big East tournament.

But Quinn knows he is playing for something more. For the first time in his collegiate career, Notre Dame is his team. No. 2 on the Irish roster is finally playing the one.

As a lifelong point guard that started at shooting guard alongside Thomas for the past two seasons, this new task means a lot to the senior from Dublin, Ohio.

"I've always been a point guard my whole life since I was real young," Quinn said. "It was always a position I loved playing, always the position I worked at and took pride in."

It's not that Quinn doesn't like to shoot the ball — the Irish will depend on his scoring to win games this season — but this is the first year the senior will be able to both lead his own team and mature at his true position.

Following in line

Brey's teams immediately began to develop around point guards with leadership and scoring ability when he arrived at Notre Dame in July 2000.

In the past five seasons, Brey has had two point men — Martin Inglesby and Chris Thomas — who were both named captains by their senior year.

Quinn is the third to follow in this legacy, and he understands the importance of playing the point, especially in Brey's offense.

"It is an important part of what Coach Brey tries to do," Quinn said. "In basketball, point guard is an extremely important position. You're the quarterback out there, you're the guy who's getting everything started."

Quinn is confident but so is his coach. Brey considers Quinn one

of the only sure things on a team full of question marks and is not worried about passing him the torch.

"Nobody lost sleep over Chris Quinn having the ball," Brey said Oct. 13 during media day. "He's, I think, one of the underrated guards in our league and in the country."

And if anyone is suited to be the successor to Thomas, it's Quinn.

Quinn averaged 13.6 points, three assists and three rebounds while shooting 46-percent from 3-point range and 78-percent from the free throw line last season. More impressive is his career 2.9-to-1-assist to turnover ratio.

But Quinn knows taking over the offense involves more than statistics. It's about leading, and it's about winning.

"I think when you get down to the stretch of the game, guys are going to be looking up to their senior leaders," Quinn said. "That's our job to step up in those situations and find a way to win."

Brey has a unique relationship with his point guards because of the responsibilities he gives them. Quinn has recognized the development of a unique bond with Brey as a co-captain and senior point guard.

"There are times where Coach Brey will pull [co-captain] Torin [Francis] and I in the office and talk to us a little bit about different things about our team," Quinn said. "I think that goes with being experienced and also being a point guard. He's going to coach me even more."

Simultaneous learning and teaching

Quinn has earned a certain amount of respect from his team in these roles, but with this respect comes a lot of responsibility. He must balance the pressure of leading the Irish on the court with teaching his younger teammates off of it.

The program is faced with the reality that another first-year starter will be running the team next season, even though the

Irish want to win now. The young guys need experience this season, and Quinn is the senior who needs to make sure it happens.

Quinn's tutelage should most benefit Kyle McAlarney, his most likely successor. The Staten Island native scored 2,566 points in high school while earning two state player of the year awards.

"[I'll do] anything I can do to help Kyle especially," Quinn said.

"It's going to be pretty much his team after this year. Anything I can do to help him to become a better player, become a better leader, become a better point guard for this team, I'm going to definitely try to do that."

Quinn was once in this position with Thomas as his teacher.

"My freshman year, [Thomas] and Matt Carroll were guys I used to look up to," Quinn said. "They had been through the Big East season, [and] they had been through a lot already in college basketball. They were guys I looked at to see how they did things on the court and off the court."

But that situation was different. Thomas showed Quinn the ropes while they were playing together for three years. Thomas had the luxury of knowing that Quinn would develop alongside of him, not behind him.

Quinn only has one season to figure out how to lead his own team and how to prepare the Irish for the future. So far his teammates believe he is doing well.

"Just watching [Quinn] and everything just helps me be a leader, get more comfortable with the guys, be able to talk to them and be more vocal," McAlarney said. "That's what a point guard does especially in this offense."

Reflective as a whole

Quinn's situation at point guard reflects the transition of the team as a whole. Just as the point guard position is stable but evolving, so the team's direction is gradually taking shape.

Colin Falls is now the starting

"I think when you get down to the stretch of the game, guys are going to be looking up to their senior leaders."

Chris Quinn
Irish point guard



PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer
Irish point guard Chris Quinn sets up against Jestin Anderson in a 80-53 exhibition win over Quincy on Nov. 11.

Graphic by MATT HUDSON/The Observer

Notre Dame will need Quinn to continue scoring while maintaining his ball control at point guard. He has a solid 2.9:1 assists-to-turnover ratio heading into the season.

Season	Points per game	Total assists	Total turnovers
2002-03	3.9	51	15
2003-04	14.3	104	37
2004-05	12.6	86	31
Career	10.1	241	83

shooting guard after being the third guard in a three-guard set last season. Rob Kurz is now a low post threat after not playing for much of last year. Rick Cornett is now figuring out what kind of role he will have as a senior playing behind Kurz and Francis.

Russell Carter is now a starter after being a bench player last season.

Ryan Ayers, Luke Zeller and McAlarney are now adjusting to college while hoping to have significant roles on this year's team.

So while Quinn spends his time learning how to run the offense and helping McAlarney along the way, he will also be responsible for leading a group that needs guidance.

"We're just like a family and

he's just like the older brother, he holds us together," Carter said. "We can shoot 0-for-20 from three point, and he's going to tell us the next shot is going in. That's just helpful on the floor, and when we're playing against another team away in front of 15,000, that's comforting."

But for Quinn, this is all he could have asked for. He has a full plate and a bigger appetite. And he's ready to prove himself as more than a suitable replacement for those who came before him.

"It's exciting for me to be a senior, to be a captain, to be a leader," Quinn said. "And to just take charge of this team."

Contact Bobby Griffin at rgriffi3@nd.edu

Israel's departure illustrates Brey's dilemma

Position Depth Chart

Coach Mike Brey has multiple lineups to choose from. Here are his choices at each position. Current starters are listed first for each category:

- PG: Quinn/McAlarney/Ayers
- SG: Falls/Quinn/Carter/McAlarney/Ayers
- SF: Carter/Falls/Ayers/Hillesland
- PF: Kurz/Cornett/Zeller
- C: Francis/Cornett/Kurz/Zeller

Graphic by MATT HUDSON/The Observer

By **PAT LEONARD**
Sports Writer

When junior forward Omari Israel announced he was leaving the Irish last Friday, Notre Dame coach Mike Brey expressed disappointment but remained confident his team would persist.

That's because Israel's departure still leaves Brey with 10, able scholarship players to juggle in-and-out of a constantly evolving lineup.

If anything, Israel's abrupt absence proves just how many players Brey has to choose from — and just how few minutes are available for all of them.

"We have to get guys that haven't had experience ... we

have to get them reps and playing time through November and December to get them ready for league play," Brey said on media day.

Brey will start the same five players on Sunday that he did in the preseason — Chris Quinn, Colin Falls, Russell Carter, Rob Kurz and Torin Francis.

That lineup, though, is not "etched in stone," as Brey said following an 80-53 win over Quincy on Friday.

"When you have young guys like we have, there's just no telling where they're going to be in another week, in another month, in another six weeks," Brey said.

The coach has the task not only of allowing Chris Quinn to

become this team's on-court leader. He also must prepare the Irish for next season and play freshman point guard Kyle McAlarney, who was sidelined with lower back spasms as of Wednesday evening.

Those two could see the court together, or McAlarney could give Quinn breathers. Freshman guard/forward Ryan Ayers has auditioned at the point in McAlarney's absence, as well.

At the two-guard slot, Falls is the current starter, but he and Carter play a similar position. Against bigger teams, one of the two may see less playing time as either Ayers, freshman forward Zach Hillesland or freshman forward Luke Zeller spell them at small forward.

Brey's substitution dilemma continues into the frontcourt, as Francis and Kurz have distanced themselves from the pack in the early going but are not proven, consistent inside threats.

Senior Rick Cornett spells Francis at center or Kurz at forward, though Brey is hesitant to play Francis and Cornett together because it decreases speed and transition offense.

And Zeller has shown, with a 6-foot-11, 240-pound frame, that he can bang down on the low block, as well, making him a viable option to give most likely Kurz a breather.

Contact Pat Leonard at pleonard@nd.edu

MEN'S OUTLOOK

Photos by PHIL HUDELSON/The Observer

RYAN AYERS

GUARD/FORWARD
6'8", 203 lbs.
No. 42 — FR

Senior H.S. stats
Points 15.0
Rebounds 8.0
Assists 4.0

2005-06 expectations
Ayers was the 2005 Gatorade Player of the Year in Pennsylvania. The slight versatile shooter has a long wingspan and also has auditioned at point guard.




RUSSELL CARTER

GUARD
6'4", 223 lbs.
No. 43 — JR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 8.5
Points 3.5
Rebounds 1.4

2005-06 expectations
Carter started both preseason games and brings an offensive boost. If his defense and decision-making improve, he could become a dangerous threat.




RICK CORNETT

FORWARD
6'9", 244 lbs.
No. 11 — SR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 9.4
Points 3.7
Rebounds 2.6

2005-06 expectations
Cornett went to a big man camp in the summer and lost significant weight. He will be asked to rebound, defend and begin the season as Francis' backup.




COLIN FALLS

GUARD
6'5", 204 lbs.
No. 15 — JR

2004-05 stats
Points 12.6
Rebounds 2.1
3-point % 41.3

2005-06 expectations
Falls looks no bigger or stronger since March. He remains a deadly 3-point shooter but must defend and expand his offensive repertoire for this team.

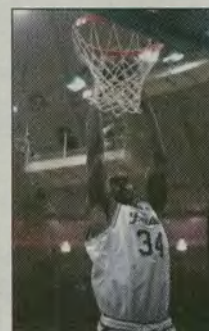


TORIN FRANCIS

FORWARD
6'11", 252 lbs.
No. 34 — SR

2004-05 stats
Points 9.3
Rebounds 7.8
FT % 68.4

2005-06 expectations
Francis backed out of June's NBA draft to return for his senior season. He must establish the low post early in games or Notre Dame will not score many points.




ZACH HILLESLAND

FORWARD
6'9", 226 lbs.
No. 33 — FR

Senior H.S. stats
Points 15.3
Rebounds 9.0
Assists 4.0

2005-06 expectations
Hillesland plays intelligently and patiently. He has players ahead of him, but he can contribute with defense and consistent midrange shooting.




ROB KURZ

FORWARD
6'9", 238 lbs.
No. 31 — SO

2004-05 stats
Minutes 4.7
Points 1.4
Rebounds 1.1

2005-06 expectations
Kurz has gained significant weight and the confidence of his coach. Brey hopes Kurz can consistently replicate his 2005 NIT double-double performance.




KYLE McALARNEY

GUARD
6'1", 200 lbs.
No. 23 — FR

Senior H.S. stats
Points 34.8
Assists 8.0
Rebounds 7.0

2005-06 expectations
McAlarney is fighting lower back spasms but brings an explosive and confident presence to the backcourt. He scored 2,566 points in high school.



CHRIS MURPHY *Walk-on

FORWARD
6'7", 216 lbs.
No. 24 — SR

Senior H.S. stats
Points 15.8
Rebounds 8.5
Assists 3.0

2005-06 expectations
Murphy, who played at Benet Academy and hails from Downers Grove, Ill., is in his second straight season as a skilled Irish walk-on.




CHRIS QUINN

GUARD
6'2", 185 lbs.
No. 2 — SR

2004-05 stats
Points 12.6
Assists 3.2
Assist/TO 2.9/1

2005-06 expectations
Quinn is playing his natural position for the first time in four years. He commits few turnovers and will have everything to do with this team's fate.




LUKE ZELLER

FORWARD/CENTER
6'11", 240
No. 40 — FR

Senior H.S. stats
Points 19.6
Rebounds 8.9
Assists 4.0

2005-06 expectations
Zeller passes well and makes shots from midrange. The reigning Indiana Mr. Basketball could become a major contributor as the season goes on.



MIKE BREY

HEAD COACH
6th season
102-56 overall

2004-05 record
Season 17-12
Big East 9-7

2005-06 expectations
Brey has not taken the Irish to the NCAA tournament since the 2002-03 season. He must juggle minutes among players while also identifying his core.



THE SCHEDULE

Graphics by GRAHAM EBETSCH/The Observer

2004-2005 Schedule

Nov. 20	Lafayette
Nov. 22	Hofstra
Nov. 26	at North Carolina St
Dec. 3	Michigan
Dec. 7	at Alabama
Dec. 10	Florida International
Dec. 18	at IPFW
Dec. 21	Niagara
Dec. 23	Columbia
Dec. 28	Fordham
Dec. 30	Wofford
Jan. 4	at Pittsburgh
Jan. 7	at DePaul
Jan. 11	Syracuse
Jan. 14	Providence
Jan. 20	at Marquette
Jan. 24	Georgetown
Jan. 28	Villanova
Feb. 1	at West Virginia
Feb. 4	at Louisville
Feb. 8	Rutgers
Feb. 15	South Florida
Feb. 18	at Seton Hall
Feb. 21	at Connecticut
Feb. 25	Marquette
Mar. 1	at Providence
Mar. 4	DePaul
Mar. 8	Big East Championship
Mar. 16	NCAA Championship

The Stretch - Nov. 26 — Dec. 7
This three-game, non-conference lineup contains the AP preseason No. 15 team (Crimson Tide) and a meeting with the Wolfpack at Conoco Fieldhouse.

Pittsburgh - Jan. 4, 8 p.m.
Point guard Carl Krauser and the Panthers beat the Irish twice last season in bumping Notre Dame to the NIT.


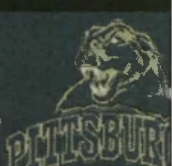



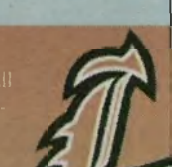

DePaul - Jan. 7, 8 p.m.
The Irish and Blue Demons open a home-and-home series in Chicago and renew a storied rivalry.

Syracuse - Jan. 11, 7 p.m.
Preseason co-Big East MVP Gerry McNamara guides the reigning Big East champs into the Joyce Center.

Villanova - Jan. 28, 6 p.m.
Possibly the game of the year. No. 1 vs. No. 3 preseason with incredibly strong guards.

Louisville - Feb. 4, 12 p.m.
Notre Dame invades Freedom Hall to meet the former C-USA powerhouse Cardinals and coach Rick Pitino.

Connecticut - Feb. 21, 7 p.m.
Preseason co-Big East MVP Rudy Gay and coach Jim Calhoun host the Irish in a hostile Hartford Civic Center.

PRESEASON BIG EAST HONORS

PRESEASON CO-PLAYERS OF THE YEAR
Rudy Gay, F — Connecticut
Gerry McNamara, G — Syracuse

PRESEASON ALL-BIG EAST TEAM
*Josh Boone, C — Connecticut
Rudy Gay, F — Connecticut
Taquan Dean, G — Louisville
Carl Krauser, G — Pittsburgh
Darryl Hill, G — St. John's
*Gerry McNamara, G — Syracuse
Randy Foye, G — Villanova

PRESEASON ALL-BIG EAST TEAM (CONT)
Allan Ray, G — Villanova
#Curtis Sumpter, F — Villanova
Kevin Pittsnogle, C — West Virginia

PRESEASON ALL-BIG EAST HONORABLE MENTION
Eric Hicks, F — Cincinnati
Brandon Bowman, F — Georgetown
Jeff Green, F — Georgetown
CHRIS QUINN, G — NOTRE DAME

* — denotes unanimous selection
— player is out indefinitely (injury)

MEN'S PRESEASON POLLS
First-place votes in parentheses

1. Duke (61)	1. Duke (28)
2. Texas (6)	2. Connecticut
3. Connecticut	3. Texas (2)
4. Michigan State (4)	4. Villanova (1)
5. Villanova (1)	5. Michigan State
6. Oklahoma	6. Oklahoma
7. Louisville	7. Gonzaga
8. Gonzaga	8. Louisville
9. Kentucky	9. Arizona
10. Arizona	10. Kentucky
11. Boston College	11. Boston College
12. Memphis	12. Memphis
13. Stanford	13. Stanford
14. West Virginia	14. Alabama
15. Alabama	15. West Virginia
16. Syracuse	16. Syracuse
17. Illinois	17. Illinois
18. Wake Forest	18. UCLA
19. UCLA	18. Wake Forest
20. Iowa	20. Iowa
21. George Washington	21. Maryland
22. Nevada	22. Indiana
23. Indiana	23. Iowa State
24. Maryland	24. George Washington
25. Iowa State	25. Nevada

AP Poll
Coaches Poll


Big East CONFERENCE
Men's Preseason Coaches Poll
First-place votes in parentheses

Team	Point total
1. Villanova (9)	221
2. Connecticut (7)	215
3. Louisville*	191
4. Syracuse	183
5. West Virginia	167
6. Georgetown	155
7. Pittsburgh	128
8. NOTRE DAME	118
9. Cincinnati*	113
10. St. John's	98
11. DePaul*	78
12. Marquette*	73
13. Providence	60
14. Rutgers	57
15. Seton Hall	48
16. South Florida*	15

*First season as member of Big East Conference

WOMEN'S OUTLOOK

CHAREL ALLEN



GUARD
5'11"
No. 2 — SO

2004-05 stats
Points 7.7
Rebounds 4.2
Assists 1.4

2005-06 expectations
Allen returns after having off-season knee surgery. She burst onto the scene as a freshman and could be key for the Irish as she gets to 100 percent.

BRITTNEY BOLDEN *Walk-on




GUARD
5'7"
No. 14 — FR

High school stats
Points 13.3
Rebounds 6.1

2005-06 expectations
Bolden is a late addition to the Irish and should provide depth at guard. Her physical play will help the Irish prepare for more physical opponents.

MELISSA D'AMICO




CENTER
6'5"
No. 33 — SO

2004-05 stats
Minutes 6.1
Points 1.9
Rebounds 1.4

2005-06 expectations
D'Amico is much-improved and should be a force down low for the Irish. She will be right in the mix for a starting spot from the beginning.

MEGAN DUFFY




GUARD
5'7"
No. 13 — SR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 37.0
Points 12.3
Assists 5.4

2005-06 expectations
Duffy is the floor general for the third straight year and is the team's undisputed leader. She is the face of the program now that Batteast is gone.

CRYSTAL ERWIN




FORWARD, 6'5"
No. 34 — JR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 17.5
Points 5.3
Rebounds 3.8

2005-06 expectations
Erwin is a physical presence in the post for the Irish. She will be looked upon for more scoring and leadership as an upperclassman this year.

TULYAH GAINES




GUARD
5'7"
No. 1 — SO

2004-05 stats
Minutes 13.7
Points 2.4
Rebounds 2.0

2005-06 expectations
Gaines has played in control this year, limiting turnovers that plagued as a freshman. She will complement Duffy in the backcourt.

BREONA GRAY




GUARD
5'9"
No. 32 — JR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 23.9
Points 5.5
Rebounds 3.3

2005-06 expectations
Gray is still coming back from some off-season injuries. Once healthy, she will be the defensive stopper, but she has to score more this year.

COURTNEY LAVERE




FORWARD
6'3"
No. 41 — SR

2004-05 stats
Minutes 20.8
Points 7.5
Rebounds 3.9

2005-06 expectations
As a freshman, LaVere showed signs of being a dominating presence. She needs to return to that form to have the senior year McGraw wants her to have.

LINDSAY SCHRADER



GUARD
6'0"
No. 24 — FR

High school stats
Points 20.7
Rebounds 10.0
Steals 3.0

2005-06 expectations
Schrader can score. But can she play enough defense to please McGraw? Either way, the freshman will see the court because the Irish need a scorer.

CHANDRICA SMITH



FORWARD
6'1"
No. 21 — FR

High school stats
Points 11.1
Rebounds 6.1
Steals 2.4

2005-06 expectations
Smith should bring athleticism and rebounding ability to the Irish. McGraw hopes she will contribute early as a freshman.

CHRISTINE TREZZA *Walk-on




FORWARD
6'0"
No. 22 — FR

High school stats
Points 10.4
Rebounds 12.0

2005-06 expectations
Trezza is another body for the Irish who was a late addition this year. She was an all-conference performer her senior year in high school.

AMANDA TSIPIIS *Walk-on



GUARD
5'10"
No. 11 — SO

2004-05 stats
Minutes 2.7
Points 0.5
Rebounds 0.1

2005-06 expectations
Tsipis provides the Irish with depth in the backcourt. The niece of assistant coach Jonathan Tsipis, she will give the Irish another solid guard on the bench.

THE SCHEDULE

2004-2005 Schedule

Nov. 18	Michigan
Nov. 20	at Western Michigan
Nov. 23	at Indiana
Nov. 27	USC
Nov. 29	Iona
Dec. 4	at Wisconsin
Dec. 7	at Purdue
Dec. 17	at Arkansas
Dec. 18	at North Carolina
Dec. 28	Valparaiso
Dec. 31	Tennessee
Jan. 4	at St. John's
Jan. 7	Seton Hall
Jan. 10	Marquette
Jan. 14	at Louisville
Jan. 17	DePaul
Jan. 21	at Georgetown
Jan. 24	at Rutgers
Jan. 28	South Florida
Jan. 31	at Syracuse
Feb. 4	Providence
Feb. 7	Villanova
Feb. 12	at DePaul
Feb. 19	Connecticut
Feb. 22	West Virginia
Feb. 25	Cincinnati
Feb. 28	Pittsburgh
Mar. 4	Big East Tournament
Mar. 18	NCAA Tournament

Purdue - Dec. 7, 7 p.m.
The Hoosiers had a memorable 40-year last year, finishing 17-13. But they remain optimistic. Lindsay Williams-Hyatt and junior Tracy Lawrence from the team that was defeated by Notre Dame last year.

Tennessee - Dec. 31, 2 p.m.
Tennessee is the preseason favorite to win it all. With the return of Candice Parker, a high school star who won the McDonald's All-American team dunk contest two years ago, the Lady Vols will be tough to beat. Look for Big New Year's Eve matchup to be a tough one for the Irish.

Marquette - Jan. 10, 7 p.m.
Last year, Notre Dame needed Jacqueline Batteast's three pointer at the buzzer to beat the Golden Eagles. Marquette, who is now in the Big East, should provide the Irish with a tough conference game at the Joyce Center.

Louisville - Jan. 14, 1 p.m.
The Cardinals are one of the teams that come to the Big East from Conference USA. They made the NCAA tournament last year, finishing 23-9 and earning a No. 9 seed in the tournament before losing in the first round. They are picked to finish sixth in the Big East, but since the Irish haven't played them in recent years, they could be present a challenge.

DePaul - Jan. 17, 7:30 p.m., Feb. 12, 4 p.m.
DePaul is the only team in the Big East that Notre Dame plays twice. The Blue Demons and head coach Doug Benson were a top 25 team last year that didn't really lose any key players. All-American Khasea Smith, a 6-foot-2 senior, leads the way for DePaul, who was upset by Liberty in the second round of the NCAA Tournament last year.

Rutgers - Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m.
The Scarlet Knights will be one of the top two teams in the Big East. This physical and athletic team is led by Cappie Pondexter, who won a gold medal with Irish point guard Megan Duffy this summer. This game will help decide who is at the top of the conference and in exactly what order.

Connecticut - Feb. 19, 2 p.m.
It's no secret the Huskies are good—they've always been good. This ESPN2-television game should be the deciding factor for the Irish's spot in the Big East. The Huskies are led by Barbara Turner, the tough guard/forward who really hurt the Irish last season. She is joined by slingshotter Ann Strother.



WOMEN'S PRESEASON POLLS
First-place votes in parentheses

1. Duke (17)	1. Tennessee (22)
2. Tennessee (23)	2. Duke (6)
3. LSU (3)	3. LSU (1)
4. Ohio State	4. Ohio State (1)
5. Rutgers	5. Baylor
6. Baylor (1)	6. Rutgers
7. North Carolina	7. Connecticut
8. Georgia (1)	8. North Carolina
9. Connecticut	9. Stanford (1)
10. Michigan State	10. Georgia
11. Stanford	11. Michigan State
12. Texas	12. Texas
13. Texas Tech	13. Texas Tech
14. Maryland	14. Maryland
15. Notre Dame	15. Arizona State
16. Minnesota	16. Notre Dame
17. Vanderbilt	17. Minnesota
18. DePaul	18. DePaul
19. Purdue	19. Temple
20. Arizona State	20. Vanderbilt
21. Temple	21. Utah
22. Utah	22. Oklahoma
23. N.C. State	23. USC
24. USC	24. Purdue
25. Oklahoma	25. N.C. State

AP POLL
COACHES POLL

Big East CONFERENCE
Women's Preseason Coaches Poll
First-place votes in parentheses

Team	Point total
1. Rutgers (11)	221
2. Connecticut (5)	215
3. NOTRE DAME	191
4. DePaul	183
5. Villanova	167
6. Louisville	155
7. West Virginia	128
8. St. John's	118
9. South Florida	113
10. Marquette	98
11. Georgetown	78
12. Seton Hall	73
13. Pittsburgh	60
14. Syracuse	57
15. Cincinnati	48
16. Providence	15

The floor general

Senior point guard Megan Duffy returns to lead a young but talented Irish team

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Practice was over, but Megan Duffy was not ready to leave just yet. While all of her coaches and teammates had already exited the Joyce Center practice gym last week, Duffy remained on the floor, taking jumper after jumper.

Notre Dame's senior point guard has been going through this routine for the past four years, acquiring a reputation as a gym rat.

"I just kind of realized with my own personal game that I'm not one of those naturally gifted athletes," Duffy said. "I've got to be in the gym, and I've got to manufacture my productivity. And I know I have to get in the gym a lot to have my shot feeling good."

The hard work has paid off, as Duffy has developed into one of the nation's top point guards.

The second-year Irish captain prides herself on being fundamentally sound in all facets of the game — and she is.

Last season, Duffy was Notre Dame's second leading scorer at 15.8 points per game. The point guard led the Big East Conference in free throw percentage and steals, and she finished second in the conference in assists, averaging 5.39 per game. Duffy plays smothering defense, dives for loose balls and can shoot with both hands.

The captain hopes the manifestations of her work ethic will rub off on her teammates.

"I want to be the example for this team," Duffy said. "If they

see me in the gym, hopefully they'll kind of look at that, and they'll stay a few more minutes extra and get some shooting in."

Early accolades

Duffy enters her senior season surrounded by hype. The Big East coaches voted her to the preseason all-Big East team, and she is a preseason candidate for Big East Player of the Year. In August, Duffy was one of 30 players named to the watch list for the John Wooden Women's Award, an honor given annually to the top player in women's college basketball.

The senior is flattered by all the attention, but not very concerned with personal awards.

"It's definitely a different role for me to have these preseason accolades coming into the season," said Duffy, who until this year had played in the shadow of All-American Jacqueline Batteast. "But my biggest focus is concentrating on the team and getting us prepared for our first game against Michigan."

concentrating on the team and getting us prepared for our first game against Michigan."

A general and a cheerleader

Duffy is entering her second season as a captain for the Irish, but head coach Muffet McGraw says the point guard has been playing that role since she first arrived on campus.

"Megan has been the leader of the team pretty much for four years," McGraw said. "Even as a freshman, she stepped in and when she was on the floor, she was unquestionably the leader out there."

In a testament to her leader-

"I just kind of realized with my own personal game that I'm not one of those naturally gifted athletes. I've got to be in the gym, and I've got to manufacture my productivity."

Megan Duffy
Irish point guard



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Senior point guard Megan Duffy is a co-captain and the undisputed leader of the Irish this season. With the graduation of Jacqueline Batteast, McGraw will look for Duffy to do even more.

ship capabilities, Duffy was voted a co-captain of the United States team that participated in this summer's World University Games in Turkey. Duffy led the Americans to an undefeated record en route to a gold medal.

Duffy said she is using her experiences from playing on the national team to help her Notre Dame teammates elevate their games.

"I took a lot of leadership skills from it from the standpoint of managing a team of eleven all-stars," Duffy said of captaining Team USA. "I think I honed my own skills a little bit out there. And I'm trying to relate what I learned over the summer to these girls today."

Duffy's duties as captain are magnified this season with eight of the 12 players on Notre Dame's roster being sophomores or freshmen. Duffy said having so much youth changes her approach somewhat.

"We have to make sure that they're staying confident out there because they are young," Duffy said. "We have a propensity some time to get down on ourselves when we make mistakes. I have to be the general out there and also kind of being the cheerleader too because they have to stay confident."

Changing roles

With the graduation of Batteast, Notre Dame's leading scorer each of the past three seasons, Duffy will now be the focus of the Irish offense.

"I think she is going to look to score a little bit more," McGraw said. "Certainly, we want Megan to shoot the ball as much as she can."

Duffy is not necessarily concentrating on upping her scoring but on improving across the board.

"From the whole standpoint of my game, I'm looking to increase my stats a little bit more in each category," Duffy said. "I'm not looking at it that I have to completely change my game, but elevate it a little more in each area."

Coach on the court

McGraw, a former point guard herself, has come to rely on Duffy as the coach's eyes on the court. McGraw knows she can always count on her point guard to be in the right spot and do the right thing.

"She really has developed into somebody whose opinion I really respect," McGraw said. "So a lot of times ... I'll just ask her, 'What do you think of this? What do you think we should do here?' And just kind of get her input on things because she has a little different sense of it from the floor than we do from the bench."

Duffy has valued McGraw's mentorship both on and off of

the court.

"I think we've always had a very strong relationship," Duffy said. "Coach McGraw is one of those people that I can come in and talk to about anything basketball related or not."

Duffy and McGraw hope to cultivate this positive relationship for one final season and have it translate into positive results on the floor. The pair helped guide the Irish to consecutive NCAA Tournament Sweet 16 appearances in 2003 and 2004.

Duffy knows the Irish, who were picked to finish third in the Big East in the coaches' preseason poll and are ranked No. 15, enter the season a little less heralded than in seasons past. But the point guard is optimistic about her young team's capabilities.

"I think coming into the season there is a lot of uncertainty knowing who is going to step up for this team," Duffy said. "But I'm

very confident with what we have on the floor, and I think it's getting better every day.

"I'm excited to see what we have when game one comes along. We're a little bit under the radar right now, but I think we have a lot to prove."

"She really has developed into somebody whose opinion I really respect."

Muffet McGraw
Irish head coach



Observer File Photo

Duffy and the Irish open the regular season tonight against Michigan at the Joyce Center. Tipoff is at 9 p.m.

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Besides Duffy, this team has a lot of 'ifs'

There's about one thing that is certain about this Irish team — Megan Duffy is its point guard. But beyond that, the Irish are going to have to figure a lot of things out if they are to have a season like the one of a year ago in which they finished second in the Big East, won the Preseason WNIT and defeated seven ranked opponents on the year. With the graduation of All-American Jacqueline Batteast and shot blocker Teresa Borton, Notre Dame has big shoes to fill this year, and it starts with its senior point



Heather Van Hoegarden

Sports Writer

guard.

Duffy is the core of this team, both on and off the court. Chances are she will have a good senior year, but she can't win games on her own.

And so the Irish, who have just one senior besides Duffy, look to their younger players to step up and fill the void left by Batteast, Notre Dame's go-to scorer.

"I think it's going to be a balanced attack," Irish coach Muffet McGraw said. "I think it's going to be a game-by-game go-to player."

But with this scorer-by-committee philosophy, Notre Dame will face one problem — consistency.

"I think we have a lot of choices, but the question's going to be who's going to be the consistent one, and that's going to determine who the

go-to-player is going to be," McGraw said.

Surrounding Duffy will be sophomore Melissa D'Amico, junior Crystal Erwin and senior Courtney LaVere in the post, and sophomore Tulyah Gaines and junior Breona Gray on the perimeter.

D'Amico will have to develop into a force in the paint, Erwin is going to have to score and LaVere must return to the player she was three years ago when she was named to the Big East All-Rookie team.

Meanwhile, freshman Lindsay Schrader, who averaged more than 20 points per game in high school, is needed to score again at the next level. She just has to make sure she plays good enough defense to please McGraw.

Guards Gaines and Gray must take the pressure off Duffy in the backcourt, with Gray stepping up as not only the defensive stopper, but a threat to score as well.

But regardless, the Irish need someone to score, because when the shot clock is winding down, Batteast is no longer going to be there for the Irish to find.

"I think that it's a little different mindset for this team, in that they're going to be called to [score] and they don't have the experience yet," McGraw said.

There are a lot of question marks with this team, and none bigger than Charel Allen, who is back from a knee injury that held her out all summer. Allen was named to the Big East All-Freshman team last year, and if she can return to that form, the Irish will benefit greatly.

However, all of these points are "ifs." If LaVere returns to



KERRY O'CONNOR/The Observer

Sophomore Melissa D'Amico will start for the Irish this season, and she must be a presence in the paint.

her freshman year form, if Erwin can score, if Allen can get back to 100 percent — "if."

And so McGraw is a little worried about this team, but no more than she has worried about teams in the past.

"No, [I don't think we're where we want to be]," McGraw said. "But I don't think I've ever felt that way since Ruth [Riley's] senior year [when Notre Dame won the 2001 national championship]."

But, amongst these "ifs," one thing is certain — Duffy is the point guard. Duffy is the leader. Duffy will be the center around which this young team is rebuilt.

The opinions expressed in this column are those of the author and not those of The Observer.

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Observer File Photo

Irish coach Muffet McGraw has a young team to build around senior point guard Megan Duffy.

Freshman Schrader ready to jump right in for Irish

ND guard brings a scorer's mentality to Irish starting lineup

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Notre Dame will miss All-American Jacqueline Batteast in a number of ways. But the most obvious area where Batteast's absence will be felt is in the scoring department. Batteast, who graduated in May, led the Irish in points scored each of the past three seasons as their go-to scorer.

One of the players head coach Muffet McGraw will rely on to fill the scoring void has no collegiate basketball experience — freshman shooting guard Lindsay Schrader.

"She's an offensive-minded player," McGraw said of Schrader. "She's somebody that is comfortable in the scoring role, and that's what we want her to be."

Schrader had no problem playing the role of scorer in her first two exhibition games. In a Nov. 1 win over Indianapolis, Schrader recorded 13 points. The talented guard then poured in 19 points — hitting 8-of-12 shots from the field — in a Nov. 10 victory over Ferris State.

Schrader said she was nervous at first in the Indianapolis

game, but quickly settled down. "After a couple of minutes I got relaxed and started just getting into the flow of the game," she said. "I was really excited."

The early productivity from Schrader came as no surprise to Irish captain Megan Duffy.

"Right off the bat, we know that Lindsay is very talented," Duffy said. "She can score in different ways."

Schrader scored in just about every possible way as a standout at Bartlett High School in Bartlett, Ill. The versatile star played all five positions during her four years at Bartlett and scored in double figures in 114 of her 117 career games. As a senior, Schrader averaged 22.1 points per contest and scored more than 30 points in five different games. She was selected to the McDonald's All-American team and was named Illinois Miss Basketball.

"I think offensively she really came in as a pretty complete player," McGraw said.

Standing six feet tall, Schrader is bigger than most guards. McGraw believes Schrader's size will create matchup problems for opposing teams all year. If she is defended by a player as tall as she is, Schrader should be able to use her quickness to beat the defender off the dribble. And if a smaller, faster defender is

guarding her, Schrader will move down low.

"When a smaller guard takes her, we are going to try to get her on the block," McGraw said. "And that's something she's pretty comfortable doing."

But the transition to college basketball was not a seamless one for Schrader. It took time for the freshman to adjust to the pace of the collegiate game.

"I went home for fall break and watched some of the games from high school," Schrader said. "I thought it was in slow motion. The game is so much quicker when you are at the college level. So I think that was one big adjustment for me — the speed of the game."

But Schrader's shift to the next level was aided by her confidence in her abilities. She entered Notre Dame expecting to play right off the bat.

"In the women's game, it is so important that you come in with confidence," McGraw said. "[Schrader] kind of came in and said, 'I've got as good a chance of starting as anybody. It's time to come in and start playing right away.'"

Thanks to that confidence, Schrader has already accomplished her goal of starting in her freshman year. She has started each of the two exhibition games and will likely be in the lineup when the Irish tip-off the regular season against



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Freshman guard Lindsay Schrader dribbles the ball upcourt in an exhibition game against Ferris State on Nov. 10.

Michigan tonight at 9 p.m.

Schrader's focus, though, is firmly set on giving maximum effort and helping the Irish post another successful season.

"I want to help the team as much as possible," she said. "I just want to play to my ability

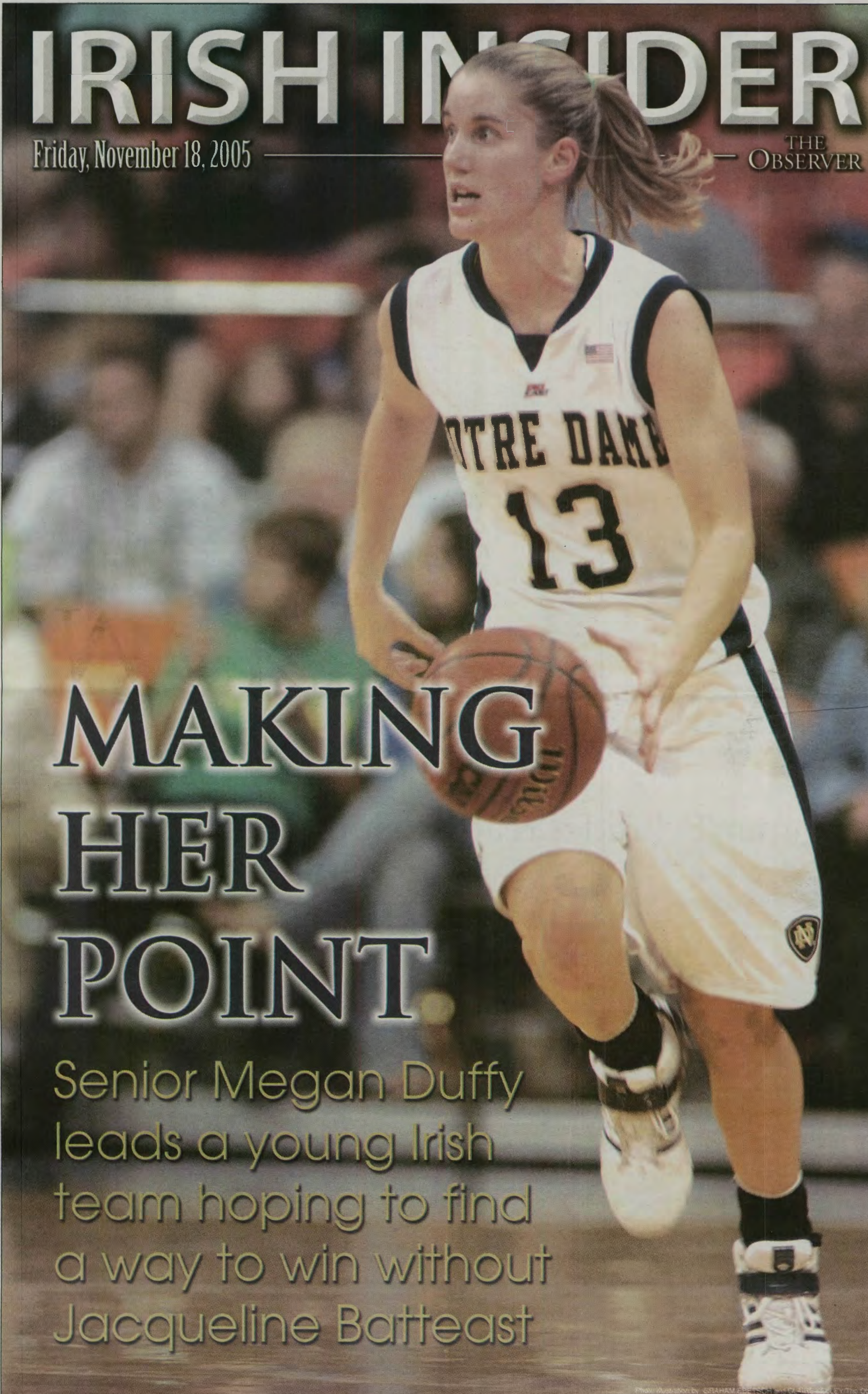
every single game. If I do that, then I'll be perfectly happy with my performance. I just want to play 100 percent every single game."

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MAKING HER POINT

Senior Megan Duffy leads a young Irish team hoping to find a way to win without Jacqueline Batteast

IRISH INSIDER

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THE CLASS OF 2006 HAS ENDURED BOWL-LESS SEASONS, COACHING CHANGES AND RELENTLESS SCRUTINY. AND NOW, IT'S ALL PAYING OFF.

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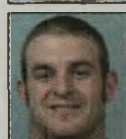
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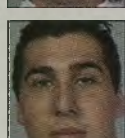
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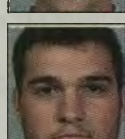
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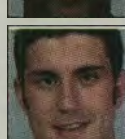
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Fourth-year seniors with eligibility remaining pages 22-23

QUOTING THE IRISH

"I consider myself very fortunate to be in the spot where things are going right, and I expect them to continue the rest of the year."

Brian Beidatsch
defensive lineman

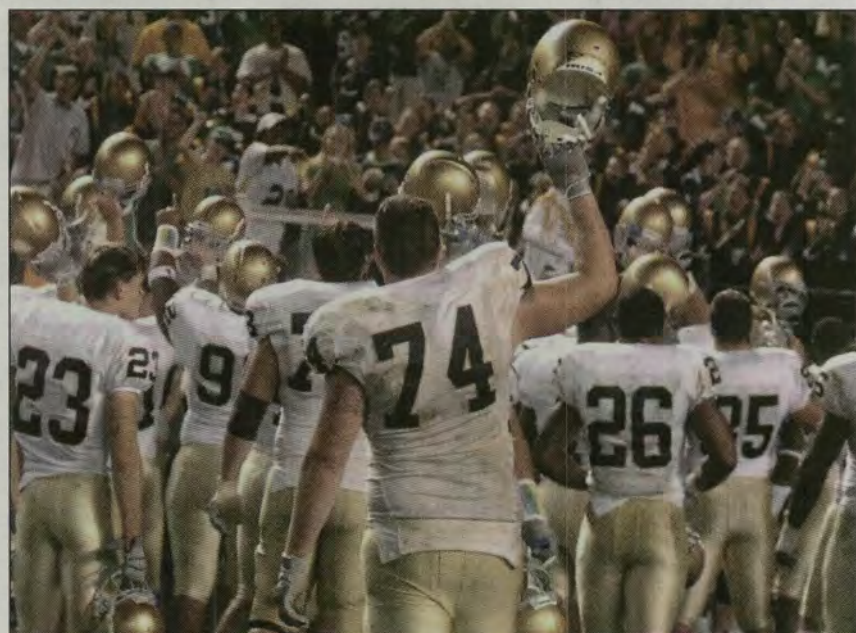
"It has been a great experience for me ... I don't really know what to feel — it's excitement, it's sadness, a whole bunch of stuff rolled up in one."

Matt Shelton
wide receiver

"Right now, I'm just trying to soak it up. I'm enjoying every minute. This is one of the greatest opportunities any person could ever have — to be here at Notre Dame and play for this team."

Dan Chervanick
defensive lineman

Give seniors credit for ND team's progress



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Offensive lineman Dan Stevenson, center, salutes the student section with the rest of the team after a dominating 49-28 win at Purdue.

Somebody tell them it's a bad dream. Somebody tell them it's just some cruel trick. Somebody tell the Notre Dame senior class of 2006 that they will be back next season, that they aren't really leaving when they have been the ones front and center, turning the tide of Notre Dame's football current.



Mike Gilloon

Sports Editor

Unfortunately for Brandon Hoyte, Corey Mays, Maurice Stovall and the other 23 seniors playing their last game in Notre Dame Stadium tomorrow, they aren't coming back next season. They won't have a chance to experience how far Irish coach Charlie Weis leads this team in years to come.

If not for a couple plays against Michigan State and USC running back Reggie Bush's helpful push of quarterback Matt Leinart into the end zone, the Irish might be on the verge of a senior trip to sunny Pasadena this season.

Much of the credit for the turnaround has to be given to Athletic Director Kevin White and the Notre Dame administration. They finally hit the jackpot with Weis. This season isn't built on luck or a forgiving schedule. Weis is a darn good football coach who has a job in South Bend as long as he wants it. His play calling is world class, and he evidently knows how to motivate college kids.

For this success, Weis too deserves a lot of credit.

But more of the applause for the marvelous season should be directed right at these seniors.

When Weis was hired last December as the fourth (counting George O'Leary) Irish coach in the past five seasons, it was this class that held the team together.

None of these men knew Weis would be a success. None of them knew whether the first-year coaching staff would abandon them, preferring to build for the future by utilizing younger players.

None of them knew if sticking around for their last season at Notre Dame would be worth it.

They could have transferred to a Division 1-AA school, where their talent would have assured them a starting role. They could have ignored their new coaches and let animosity over the public-relations fiasco of the Tyrone Willingham firing divide the team and hinder the resurgence of the program. They could have simply quit.

But they didn't. And even if this season is just an appetizer for what's

to come in 2006, sticking around was worth it.

Too many recent seniors have ended their time at Notre Dame on a dreary note.

Nick Setta, Julius Jones and the rest of the class of 2003 finished up their careers in the Carrier Dome, on the ugly end of a 38-12 score.

Carlyle Holiday and his class of 2004 fell to Walt Harris and Pittsburgh in their final home game last season.

Even the 1993 team — whose 31-24 win over Florida State was one of the few games in Irish history that can match the excitement of this season's near-upset of USC — walked out of Notre Dame Stadium in tears after being booted by David Gordon and Boston College.

There should be no tears this weekend — at least no tears of frustration. These seniors have nothing to regret about their time at Notre Dame.

Yes, they spent four years wondering why their talent wasn't being used properly and if the administration would ever find a coach who could handle the massive expectations under the Golden Dome. But they've done something so monumental it overshadows any past failure. They've set the foundation for a championship.

If these seniors didn't stay, this team would have fallen apart.

Without the leadership of Hoyte and Mays, the Irish aren't 7-2. Without the strength and heart of Mark LeVoor and Dan Stevenson, Notre Dame's offense flounders; it doesn't flourish.

Without every one of these seniors, the negativity that surrounded this program in December keeps Weis from winning like he has.

Next season, Notre Dame will be on television every weekend, favored in most every game.

But LeVoor won't be there. He might be at home, resting up for his NFL game just like Stovall, Hoyte, Mays, Stevenson and D.J. Fitzpatrick hope to be.

Craig Cardillo intends on going to San Diego to fulfill his Naval ROTC commitment. Matt Shelton might be working a desk job for the University. Jeff Jenkins wants to be earning a paycheck from the FBI.

Weis is loading up the car, ready to drive Notre Dame back to national prominence. And these seniors, instead of buckling up and settling in for the ride, can only watch. But that's O.K. for them. They filled up the tank.

Contact Mike Gilloon at mgilloon@nd.edu.

The views expressed in this column are those of the author and not necessarily those of The Observer.

BRANDON HOYTE

Poetic warrior

Notre Dame's hard-hitting defensive captain has led the team in play and in attitude

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

At first glance, this is the story of two men.

One is a Division I football player with 261 career tackles and a knack for making the big play. He's in his fourth year playing linebacker, and he hits as hard as some of the pros.

The second is a college student, quiet and reserved, who does his best thinking with a pen and a pad of paper. He attends bonfires to recite poetry and does community service.

It's interesting that at second glance, the two men are the same person. It's fitting that fifth-year senior Brandon Hoyte — multitasked and respected — was named Notre Dame's defensive captain when coach Charlie Weis took over for the 2005 season.

"He may seem quiet to everyone else, but once he puts the pads on, puts the helmet on, he's a different person," Notre Dame quarterback Brady Quinn said Wednesday.

Quietly, Hoyte (5-foot-11, 235 pounds) has become a forceful leader for the Irish defense. Playing behind and alongside departed linebackers like Courtney Watson, Mike Goolsby, Rocky Boiman, Tyreo Harrison — even living with Derek Curry — the Parlin, N.J. native has grown through experience and inexperience, in game situations and in a red-shirt freshman season.

Going into the fall, Hoyte made the preseason Butkus Award watch list to honor to nation's top collegiate line-

backer. He was named a Lott Trophy quarter-finalist last week in honor of on- and off-field performance.

But Hoyte — the player and the poet — doesn't lead a double-life. He just lives a complete one.

"Anything you would ever ask for in a model football player, student-athlete and person and captain is what he is," defensive coordinator Rick Minter said Wednesday. "He's our coach on the field, make no mistake about it."

Erik, remember me?

On second-and-eight, from its own 32-yard line with less than 30 seconds remaining in the second quarter, Tennessee lined up in the shotgun. Volunteers coach Phillip Fulmer would regret the play call.

Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge fumbled the snap, and as he scrambled to recover, Hoyte steamrolled into the backfield and drilled Ainge, falling to the turf hard with an orange jersey beneath him.

Ainge had a separated right shoulder. Notre Dame had the momentum and, eventually, a 17-13 road win in Knoxville, Tenn. On Nov. 6 of last season, Hoyte made his presence known with a devastating and nearly season-saving hit.

"You don't just hit people to tackle them," Hoyte said following the game. "You tackle them so they won't get back up."

The Irish would lose to Pittsburgh the following week, eliminating the possibility of a strong finish to the season. But Hoyte had set the tone of how the Irish defense should play —

and of how Hoyte would become their leader.

"I think [I lead] first and foremost by producing on the field," Hoyte said. "You can say what you want, but you have to produce."

Hoyte leads the team in tackles this season with 56 (33 solo). He has four sacks and 11.5 tackles for loss — five more than the next closest player, defensive end Victor Abiamiri. Hoyte is averaging eight tackles per game and on pace to shatter his previous season-high of 74 (2003 and 2004). But he always shifts his concentration away from previous accomplishments when he discusses his football career.

Following last season's 6-6 finish, for example, Hoyte said outright he did not play his best and that he was glad he had another year to rectify it. Now, with only four regular season games and a possible bowl berth looming on the horizon of his days wearing No. 39, Hoyte refuses still to give a final evaluation.

"I'd say [I'm] not finished because the season's not finished," Hoyte said Wednesday when asked to assess

his career's progress. "Game to game, I see myself getting better."

A way with words

Hoyte strives to improve in other endeavors, as well, but they present different obstacles. In football, for example, you can't run out of ink.

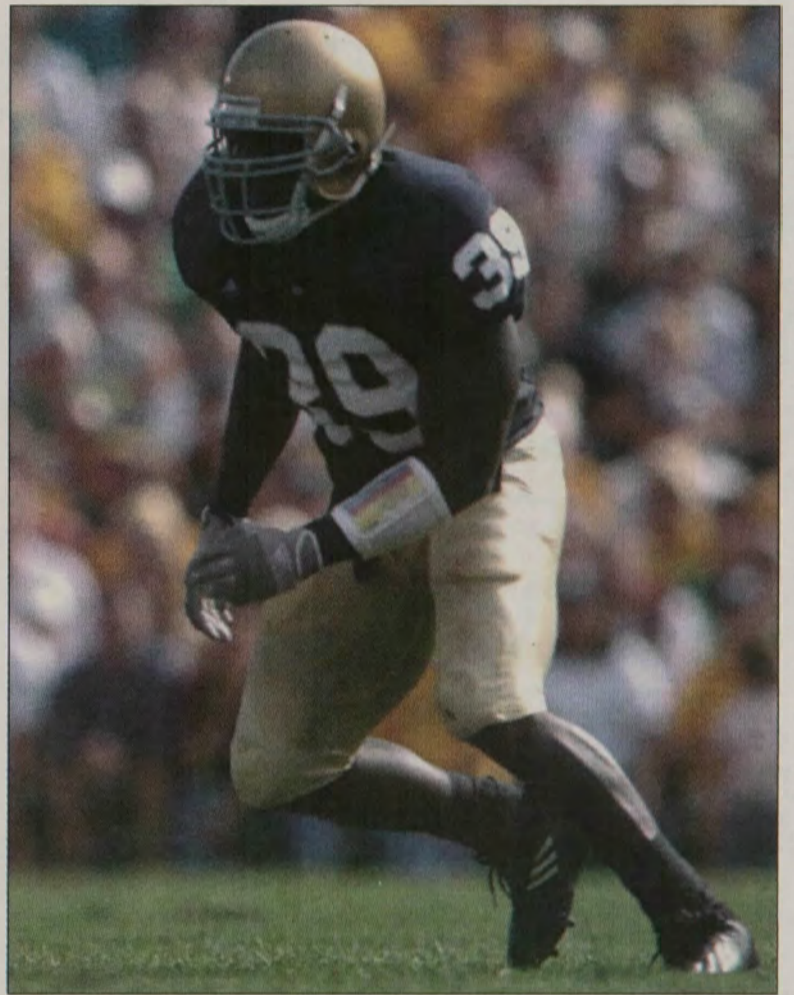
Hoyte writes poetry in his spare time and even recites it publicly, proving that when people or teammates label him as "quiet," they don't mean he

"He may seem quiet to everyone else, but once he puts the pads on, puts the helmet on, he's a different person."

Brady Quinn
Irish co-captain



Hoyte



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Linebacker Brandon Hoyte pivots towards the ball during the 44-41 overtime loss to Michigan State on Sept. 17.

keeps to himself. They mean he is thoughtful and both soft- and well-spoken.

"He's one of those guys who I think is obviously quiet, I wouldn't say soft spoken," Quinn said, searching for words to accurately describe his co-captain. "But at the same time when he speaks I think everyone listens because of ... his passion."

The linebacker's passion and empathy rub off on the people he has worked with off the field ever since he arrived in South Bend.

On Oct. 5, Hoyte joined a group of fellow Notre Dame and Saint Mary's students for a bonfire at the soccer field behind Angela Athletic Center. Hoyte recited two original poems to the group. He has been writing poetry since junior high school.

On April 28, Hoyte was the featured speaker for the Literary Council of St. Joseph's County's eighth annual Luncheon for Literacy.

"He was wonderful to work with," said Brenda Green-O'Connell, the council's executive director. "He's such a generous person."

In a nationwide sports atmosphere of scandal and debate, athletes like Hoyte seem to bridge the gap of understanding. His tendency to mingle with any person — athlete or non-athlete — makes him a natural favorite of those he runs into, those he has class with and those he takes snaps with.

The only question remains: how many people in the world can knock a quarterback out of a game and also write poetry regularly?

"I would say it's a normal person, to be honest with you," Hoyte said, laughing at any hint of abnormality in the situation. "I just like having fun, and

that's my way to have fun and my way to get away. "I get away from life when I get onto the football field, and I get away from life when I write poetry."

Closing out

Getting on with life after Notre Dame should not be any more difficult for Hoyte.

Whether he continues a football career or puts his 3.35 GPA to use, the man on the weak side of the Irish linebacking corps has set himself and the Irish up perfectly.

On the field, opposing players have criticized Hoyte's speed. He is not the tallest player, either. But his vocal leadership and hard hitting contribute to new respect teams have for Notre Dame's defense — a team with 16 turnovers forced in seven games.

"We don't take him off the field," Weis said Tuesday. "He's earned our trust as the most dependable guy we have in all situations."

So maybe, as the saying goes, Hoyte is not a warrior poet at all. He is, instead, a poetic warrior, writing his final verse.

The Volunteers are in town, and Notre Dame's defensive captain has three home games remaining to close out what has been — but what he won't yet admit to be — a memorable career, on and off the field.

"I don't think you can ever sell yourself short with effort," Hoyte said. "I think that's one I've learned over the years playing this game is that sometimes effort beats talent, sometimes effort beats smarts."

"And I hope that at the end of the day people say, 'You know, what? That kid plays really, really hard.'"

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Brandon Hoyte, center, leaps over a pile of Michigan State players on Sept. 17. In his spare time, Hoyte writes poetry, does community service and maintains a 3.35 GPA.

BRANDON HARRIS

Soul of a musician: Harris chose ND for fine arts

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

Brandon Harris came to Notre Dame to perform, but not on the football field.

Harris took up the violin at age six and chose Notre Dame for the sterling reputation of its music department rather than the historic mystique of its football program.

Harris starred on the gridiron at Benjamin Harris High School in New Orleans, La., playing running back, wide receiver and defensive back and earning team MVP honors his senior year. He contemplated playing football in college at a smaller program like Davidson College in North Carolina, but was not offered any scholarships.

"I was debating between going to college for music or going to college to play football," Harris said. "But in the end I chose to go to college for music."

Harris came to Notre Dame and focused on the violin, initially pursuing a major in musical performance and eventually switching to music theory. But soon his thoughts drifted to football again.

"I went to the football games,

and it was so exciting," Harris said. "I just wanted to go out there and play at that moment."

In the second semester of his sophomore year, Harris decided to try to walk on to the football team. He hadn't put on a helmet since his senior year of high school, not even playing interhall football.

"It wasn't too hard getting back into it because I had still been working out," Harris said. "But, yeah, it was hard moving my body up to speed to the level of college football."

Harris, who has 4.4 speed in the 40-yard dash, made the team as a receiver. He chose wideout over defensive back, feeling he was more experienced on the offensive side of the ball.

Harris was immediately impressed with the treatment of the walk-ons by both the coaches and the scholarship players.

"Basically, the life of the walk-on is similar to the life of everyone else," Harris said. "You do the same things as everyone else. When you first come in, you get thrown right in basically."

To his own surprise, Harris played in one game in 2004. With the Irish leading lowly Washington 38-3 late in the fourth quarter, Harris saw 1:24 of action at receiver. While not recording any receptions, he was thrilled to see actual game time.

"I was real excited to be out there," Harris said. "I just had no idea what it would feel like out there. I finally got out there and

had a good time."

Since Charlie Weis replaced former head coach Tyrone Willingham, Harris has moved from receiver to cornerback. During 2005 spring practice, talk spread that Harris could possibly contribute as a kick returner and defensive back.

The coaching staff was so impressed with Harris that they granted him a scholarship before the start of his senior season. Harris said he was shocked by the offer.

"It was so exciting getting the scholarship because, for one, it made my parents happy and it made me really happy, feeling that all my hard work had finally paid off," Harris said.

Harris entered the 2005 season listed as a starting kick returner on the depth chart. In the season opener at Pittsburgh, Harris returned one kickoff for 11 yards. In the home opener against Michigan State, Harris returned another two kickoffs for 42 yards.

"I was having a whole lot of fun going out there and being with the team," Harris said. "Every week it's a challenge, but at the same time it's so thrilling."

Harris has since fallen on the depth chart as freshmen receivers David Grimes and D.J. Hord are currently the first team kick returners. Harris is not upset about losing his starting job.

"No, I'm not disappointed," Harris said. "I know the coach is doing what's best for the team,



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Brandon Harris, who composes music in his free time, jogs onto the practice field with teammates in August.

and you just have to wait your turn."

But Harris still has his first love — music — to rely on. Harris plans on pursuing a career in music after graduating, possibly as a composer of film scores.

"I love composing music," Harris said. "I do it in my spare time. I'm pretty good at it. I can see myself doing that in the future at some point."

Wherever Harris goes in life, he

says he will always treasure his memories of the 2005 football season.

"I'm going to be really happy to say that I was a part of something that was really special, something that I can always look back on and remember, something that I can be really proud of."

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MARK LEVOIR

Keeping guard

Offensive tackle Mark LeVoir is no stranger to protection, of his quarterback and his family

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Taking care of others tends to come naturally to Mark LeVoir.

He is the most experienced player on an offensive line that has given Irish quarterback Brady Quinn time to throw for 27 touchdowns and 2,931 passing yards this season. He has helped clear defenders out of the way for Notre Dame running backs Darius Walker and Travis Thomas to run for 1028 total yards. He even gives Irish tight end and fellow Minnesotan John Carlson rides to the airport.

But growing up, the senior Notre Dame offensive tackle kept watch over someone closer to him than any teammate — his brother Andy, who has Down syndrome.

"Andy's older than me, but I felt like I was the older brother," LeVoir said. "We'd take him out, do stuff and watch him. I'd just really look out for him when we were out playing with other kids because they didn't really understand he has Down syndrome. They know he's different, just because of physical features and stuff. You have

to watch out for him and stick up for him."

LeVoir has learned well from his brother on how to stick up for someone.

The Irish right tackle has started every game since the 2003 season opener against Washington State and is currently teaming with left tackle Ryan Harris, guards Dan Stevenson and Dan Santucci and centers John Sullivan and Bob Morton to vault Notre Dame's offense to one of its most productive seasons in recent memory.

The Irish are averaging just under 39 points through nine contests in 2005.

"[LeVoir] is just commanding the offensive line," Irish running back Darius Walker said. "He's just an overall leader, and he understands the game so well. It's just great to have him out there."

Despite this praise, LeVoir feels there's a lot of room to improve. There are still two regular season games left on the slate and, he hopes, a major bowl game in the future.

"We just have to keep improving, keep sharpening it up and hopefully be the top offensive line at the end of the season," LeVoir said. "I think I've improved a lot from last year. A lot of that credit can start

with ... Coach [Ruben] Mendoza's strength and conditioning on down the line, especially with [offensive line] Coach [John] Latina, who's come in here and taught me a lot of things and Coach Weis, as well. Just the experience of having played a couple of years ... each year you just keep getting better and better, or hope to at least."

High school standout

With 33 career starts and the team's current No. 6 national ranking, LeVoir's Notre Dame career has to be considered a success. But he also had plenty of experience with winning during his time at Eden Prairie High School outside of Minneapolis.

LeVoir led his team to the 2000 Minnesota class 5A state title with a win over Cretin-Durham Hall, a team that featured current Irish players Rashon Powers-Neal, Ryan Harris and Marcus Freeman.

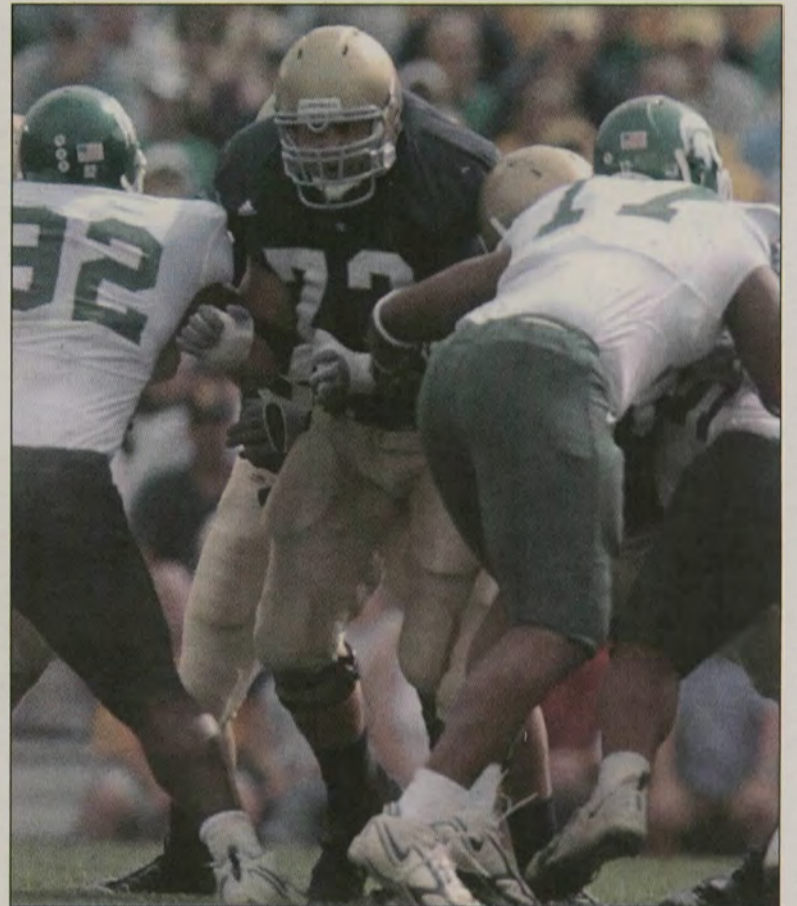
In the 13-0 season that led up to that championship win, LeVoir caught four touchdowns and also recorded 156 pancake blocks playing not tackle, but

"[LeVoir] is just commanding the offensive line. He's just an overall leader and he understands the game so well."

Darius Walker
Irish running back

tight end.

This play attracted the attention of former Irish coach Bob Davie, whose staff



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish offensive lineman Mark LeVoir blocks against Michigan State on Sept. 17.

recruited LeVoir and then moved him to tackle in fall practice his freshman year.

LeVoir didn't see the field in 2001 but played tackle for eight games in 2002 under former Irish coach Tyrone Willingham. Athletic enough to play full-back, wide receiver, full-back and punter in addition to his regular duties as a tight end in high school, LeVoir moved to guard in 2003, starting every game that season. He then made one final switch back to tackle for the past two seasons.

Despite all of this movement, LeVoir seems to have found a home at right tackle, opposite fellow Minnesotan and left tackle Ryan Harris. It is for this stability and other reasons that he is happy he made the decision to come to Notre Dame.

"It's a place I've always wanted to go," LeVoir said. "It's the total package. Every weekend you're playing against the top talent in the country and I wanted to measure myself against that."

And that state championship game? LeVoir says it really hasn't been an issue since he became a teammate, not an opponent, of Powers-Neal, Harris and Freeman.

"I joke with them every now and then," LeVoir said. "It was high school, it's not like it's a big deal."

Versatile in the classroom

All of LeVoir's versatility on the football field is reflected in his interests in the classroom. Beginning college as a business major, LeVoir befriended anthropology pro-

fessor James McKenna during his freshman year. The tackle wasn't too thrilled with the business track he was on and McKenna encouraged him to take a few anthropology courses.

"It was interesting, it was more enjoyable to me," LeVoir said of the subject that would become his major. "You could pick and choose classes. It wasn't as structured. This

is a great liberal arts school so I thought, 'Well I might as well do something I enjoy instead of regretting it every day.'"

Later adding a second major in computer applications, LeVoir isn't sure what he wants to do after he leaves Notre Dame and possibly, a career in the NFL.

"I don't know," LeVoir said. "My dad has a degree in chemistry and he's never done one thing with chemistry in his whole life. He's in sales now. I decided I might as well do something I enjoy."

Predicted by most experts to be a selection in next April's NFL draft, LeVoir again has a lot of hefty expectations placed on him — just like he did as a blue-chip prospect coming out of high school. But it doesn't appear LeVoir is too impressed with himself to be willing to take it easy.

"All [the honors from high school meant] that I had potential," LeVoir said. "Potential doesn't really mean anything, you've got to make your potential."

"Every weekend you're playing against the top talent in the country, and I wanted to measure myself against that."

Mark LeVoir
Irish offensive lineman



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Mark LeVoir, a stalwart on the offensive line, blocks for Darius Walker against Pittsburgh on Sept. 3. The offensive line has been crucial to a near 39-point season scoring average.

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MAURICE STOVALL

Welcome to Motown

The veteran receiver has trimmed down and stepped up as a leader of a potent offense

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

When Notre Dame proclaimed its 'Return to Glory' three seasons ago, Maurice Stovall — a freshman — involuntarily became the face of the campaign.

Sports Illustrated threw a photo of Stovall's touchdown catch against Michigan State on its front cover.

Everyone in the country could identify the tall wide receiver from Philadelphia.

The hype around the program grew. The profile of Stovall grew even larger — he had been a first-team USA Today All-American in high school. And then, with no warning and only the infantile SI curse to blame, the Irish and Stovall both sank off the national radar.

For three seasons, Stovall was a prominent player in an unproductive offense, catching just six total touchdowns. He swears the cover photo had nothing to do with his performance.

"It didn't put any pressure on me at all," Stovall said. "You can't allow stuff like that to affect you."

No matter now. In his senior season, Stovall has morphed into a tough, lean receiver who can pose mismatches and exploit defensive backs with his 6-foot-5 frame. And don't let the sudden production fool you. Stovall insists the player he is now has been in South Bend all along.

"I don't think you can just have everything really thrown into one season," Stovall said. "It's basically a build up of maturity from your freshman year. And ... because of the changing of our program, [you're] given more opportunity to showcase your skills and your talents and be able to do that

consistently on a basis with the type of offense that we have."

Maybe that explains why Stovall is on pace to catch more passes this season (63) than he did in his first three seasons combined (61). Maybe it explains why he's caught the same amount of touchdowns through eight games (six) that he did from 2002 to 2004.

Or maybe it has nothing to do with football.

Through the grapevine

"Mo" is old school. His teammates tell him, and he knows it.

The description doesn't fit his personality, though, as much as it fits his musical tastes. But then maybe again it does describe Stovall's personality since, as running back Darius Walker puts it, "Off the field and even on the field, Mo is a singer."

Stovall constantly keeps a tune, and not only in his head. The senior receiver takes his vocals and his smooth attitude from the shower to the locker room to the practice field, ranging in musical tastes from Barry White to Marvin Gaye to the Temptations and beyond.

"He'll throw on ... all sorts of things from back in the day," Walker said.

It's this laid-back attitude, combined with a resilient work ethic, that makes Stovall a well-liked and respected member of the Irish squad.

Since playing at Archbishop Carroll in Philadelphia, Stovall said he has always brought the same attitude to football and to life — he has fun and works hard.

"Every time we see him, he's singing," Walker said. "Every time we're at practice, he's singing. And it really helps to sort of create a calm atmosphere for us. It's not so serious all the time."

"It's really good to be able to let go a little bit and to play around a little bit in the huddle. Even sometimes in the games he'll joke around."

But once the huddle has broken this season, Stovall has

reversed roles, wiping the smiles one-by-one off opposing defenders' faces.

The senior receiver has 42 catches in eight games for 666 total yards, an average of 15.9 yards per catch, second only to Jeff Samardzija (17.2). Stovall's 83.2 yards per game average also establishes him as an immediate threat to upcoming opponents.

But catching more passes was only half the battle. Stovall climbed back not only into a regular rhythm — he always played significant minutes — but into a complete receiver.

A firm stance

Samardzija broke two records in Notre Dame's win against Tennessee last Saturday. Strong safety Tom Zbikowski scored two return touchdowns. But Irish coach Charlie Weis had only one favorite individual performance after reviewing the game tape.

"The guy I was pleased with the most was actually Maurice Stovall," Weis said at his Sunday press conference. "He only had a couple catches on the game and one for a touchdown, but he made several critical blocks in this game and ended up leading us to having production. Sometimes we single out stat guys rather than things that happen in a game that help us win."

At two turning points in the win over the Volunteers, Stovall made key blocks to free up big plays for Notre Dame.

Stovall made the final block that sprung tight end Anthony Fasano for Notre Dame's first touchdown of the contest. He also helped pave the way for Samardzija on a 73-yard completion down to the Tennessee 2-yard line.

And Walker said Stovall's role in those plays must not go unnoticed.

"The receiver's block is ... not only important for me, but it's important for the other receivers as they're running their routes," Walker said. "In order for a play to work and in



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Maurice Stovall has the strength and speed for yards after the catch, such as this one against Michigan State on Sept. 17.

order for it to be a big play, I think the receivers have to get the blocks.

"Whenever you see me running down the sideline or [tight end Anthony] Fasano running down the sideline, that means one of the receivers made their block."

Stovall's example on the field has caused players like Walker to view him as a leader. And the production — be it catching passes or planting defenders on their backs — could have NFL scouts licking their chops for a proven 6-foot-5 threat.

Stovall, though, said his focus remains at Notre Dame — for now.

"I think about [the NFL] sometimes but not a lot," he said. "I'm just basically trying to enjoy the rest of my college season with my teammates, this great facility here, this campus and then we'll take it from there."

A lighter option

Stovall's sudden resurgence has provoked numerous conjectures on its origin. Some, as Stovall suggested, credit Weis' prolific offense. Some credit quarterback Brady Quinn. But Stovall is sick of hearing how his weight affects his play following the well-documented story of Weis telling Stovall to drop a few pounds at the beginning of

spring practice.

"My weight loss has been a factor in my change of play, but that's not everything," Stovall said. "That's not it. I think a lot of people think that the reason I'm doing so well is just because of my weight. It's not that at all. It's a buildup of things mentally, physically and emotionally."

He has proven that he, as an experienced senior, can use those emotions to benefit himself and the Irish on the field.

"When you see a player like that, it really rubs off on everybody else," Walker said.

But some of the emotion sneaks out in the form of song, and Walker is not as quick to throw praise Stovall's way.

"He thinks he's a good singer. He's an alright singer in my opinion, but he really thinks he's a good singer," the running back said. "You know how those guys are when they really think they can do something? They sort of overdo it."

But after shrugging off early career setbacks, Stovall now easily dispatches of any criticism.

"No, I don't think I'm a good singer," Stovall said, a wink all but implied. "My teammates do."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Wide receiver Maurice Stovall stretches to catch a deep pass from quarterback Brady Quinn against Michigan State on Sept. 17.

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JAMES BENT

Bent was 'caught up in the moment' at Heinz Field

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

There were a little more than nine minutes left in the game, and Pittsburgh had just punted the ball back to Notre Dame. With the Irish leading 42-21, coach Charlie Weis and the coaching staff decided to put in some reserve offensive players.



Bent

And that was how James Bent finally got on the field for the Irish.

The walk-on senior center lined up over the ball and snapped it to back up quarterback David Wolke. Wolke handed off to Travis Thomas, who ran for nine yards off the right side, giving Bent the first official playing time of his career.

"Coming off to the sideline after the first series I was in, some of the guys who play a lot were really happy to see me and some of the other guys, who have working so long, finally get in the game," Bent said. "I got caught up in it for a second, but then we got the ball back and I had to go back in again."

The Irish offense returned to

the field charged with the task of running out the clock, but thanks to a long run by Wolke, they advanced the ball all the way to the 4-yard line before the game ended.

"I was lined up when the clock ran out, so I had my hand on the ball," Bent said. "When the whistle blew, I looked up and it finally dawned on me that I had just played at Heinz Field. It was kind of surreal."

Bent has played in five more games this year. He was on the field for his first touchdown drive during the Purdue game.

Bent grew up in the South Bend area and graduated from Mishawaka High School. His father and two of his brothers attended Notre Dame.

Still, it wasn't a foregone conclusion that he would play for the Irish. Bent considered playing football at Butler, DePauw and Washington University in St. Louis and even took a recruiting trip to Stanford.

But in the end, nowhere compared to Notre Dame.

"The fact that both my father and brothers went here, and the opportunities that Notre Dame opens up later in life, I just felt it was the best option for me," Bent said.

During his visit to Stanford, Bent met Tyrone Willingham, who would later become his coach for three years at Notre Dame.

"I went out [to Stanford] when

he was coach, then I got an award in high school where he was the keynote speaker," Bent said. "Then I had a meeting with him talking about walking on, and then I got a letter in the summer inviting me to fall camp."

Bent toiled on the scout team for three seasons, an experience he said made him a better person and football player.

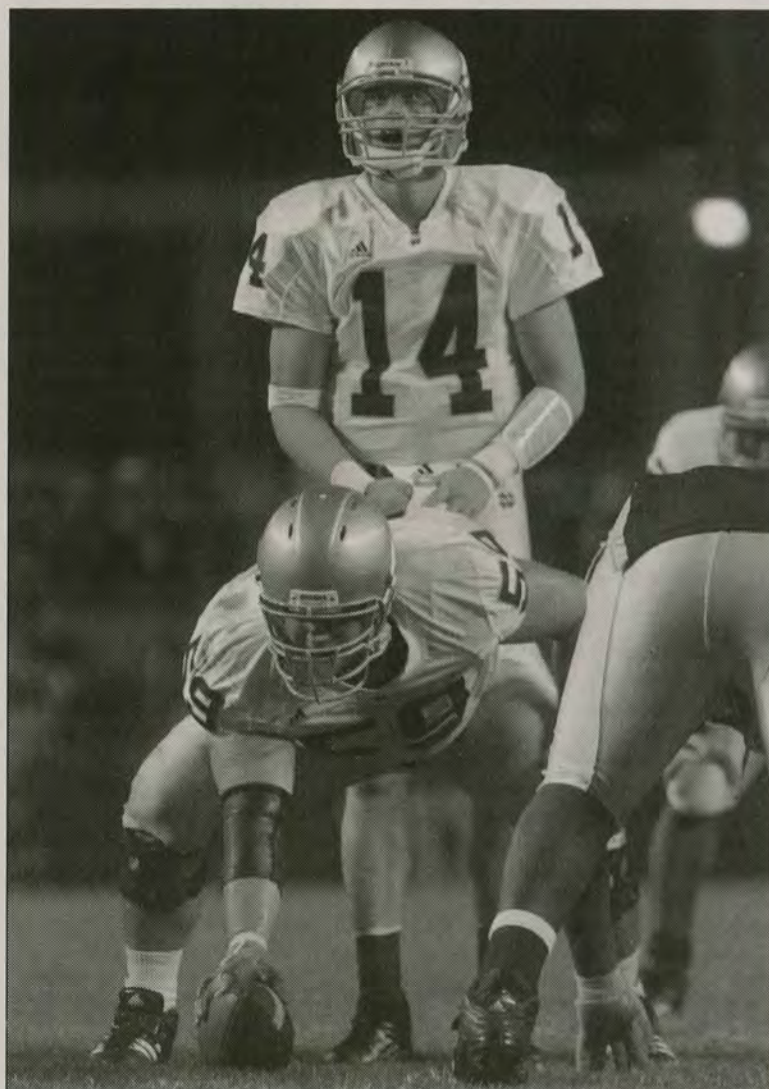
"I think that being on the scout team and then finally my senior year getting on the field made me realize that not everything in life comes easily," he said. "Plus going against the starting defense makes you a better player. I've gotten a chance this year to play in five games and I don't think I would have been able to if I'd just been in the back somewhere."

Bent, who is majoring in marketing, has had several interviews about possible jobs after graduation.

"I'm interviewing with a few companies," Bent said. "I'm seeking a position in marketing or just business somehow, maybe consulting."

But Bent said he's looking outside the region.

"I'd like to get out of the South Bend-Mishawaka area," he said. "I love the area, but I feel like I should get out for a while."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

David Wolke, standing, takes a snap from James Bent at Heinz Field against Pittsburgh on Sept. 3.

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SCOTT RARIDON

Husband, father and teammate: Raridon does it all

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Scott Raridon knows about responsibility.

He's a husband, a father and a senior offensive lineman for Notre Dame to boot.

A member of the small group of married college athletes, Raridon said his family supports his playing football, and he enjoys the tiring life of a football player and family man.

"For me, it's fulfilling because I feel like the breadwinner almost from [playing football] because I get like a stipend and I'm paying for education through it," he said. "So, I feel more motivation to ... be successful in school and in football. And then when I come home at the end of the day to see them and have my son scream my name and run over to me is very satisfying."

Raridon is a scholarship backup center and long snapper for the Irish.

He said he uses football lessons as life lessons, incorporating what he finds on the field



Raridon

into his personal life. He said one of those lessons came after the first game he ever played.

In Sept. of 2003, Notre Dame faced Washington State, and Raridon had been promoted to starting long snapper.

"It was my first game ever playing and on my first field goal snap, I looked between my legs and I got really nervous, and I biffed the snapped, and Nick Setta ended up missing the kick," Raridon said.

He said what transpired the rest of the afternoon restored his confidence and gave him reason to come back and try even harder. Setta converted his next four field goal attempts in regulation, then hit the game winner in overtime, for a school-record five field goals in one game.

"So that kind of taught me that sometimes in football you screw up, but you've got to come back and keep going, because they're going to need you later on," Raridon said. "And so, to come back and snap one in overtime for the game winner, after having my first one being a dud, that was something that taught me a life lesson and a lot about football, too."

That would not be the only game-winning field goal that Raridon snapped in 2003. In Nov., he sent the ball back on D.J. Fitzpatrick's 40-yard game-winning field goal

against Navy to extend Notre Dame's winning streak over the Midshipman to 40.

Raridon said that was one of the most gratifying moments of his football career.

"It was very satisfying for me to feel like I actually helped in the win," he said. "A lot of the times I'm just snapping extra points and stuff like that, so you really don't feel like you did a whole lot as much as like Brady or Zbikowski or those guys. But that game, it felt really good. I tell you what, I was really nervous, but after it was over, the feeling was irreplaceable."

But Raridon knows not every moment of his football life is as rewarding as that, and he said sometimes he wishes he could spend more time with his family.

"Sometimes there are days when I just want to go home and be with my family, and it hurts me a little bit to not be able to be there with them," he said. "But, at the same time, they are supportive, because they know how much good it's doing for us and our family getting the degree and getting the experience for the future."

He is a management major in the college of business and credits Irish coach Charlie Weis with bringing a businesslike mentality to the team. Looking back at his time at Notre Dame, Raridon said he is



DUSTY MENNELA/The Observer

Scott Raridon walks off the field carrying his helmet after Notre Dame defeated Navy 42-21 on Nov. 12.

happy he made the decision to come to Notre Dame.

"I know this was the right decision because I know that if football doesn't work out [as a profession] — and I don't think

it will — I'll be better off for coming here."

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JAKE CARNEY

Off-the-field moments most meaningful for Carney

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Irish defensive back Jake Carney has excelled in athletics his entire life, including football, basketball and track, but the senior recognizes no greater influence on his accomplishments than his family.

His father was a line-backer and later a team doctor for the Air Force Academy. His uncle was a wide receiver at UCLA. Both men have been his greatest role models throughout his life.

"Both of them did very well at football, but always stressed the full package," Carney said. "They always pushed me as strongly towards academics and social issues and that kind of thing better than, maybe, at times, more than football, itself. I think they really taught me to just try to excel at everything as hard as you can, because you really never know what you're going to be best at when it comes down to it."

On the field, the swift defensive player thrives on special teams. He has been a steady contributor on Irish kickoff, kick return and punt teams, the stage for his most memorable football moment.

Carney started on special teams Oct. 15 against USC and

was on the field for Tom Zbikowski's punt return for a touchdown and the ensuing end-zone celebration. He said the moment will stick with him forever.

"I think that's as fun a moment as any play on the field," Carney said. "It's a party with your teammates. It's a great feeling, because you get to experience it with these guys that you've worked so hard with."

Carney was highly recruited coming out of Lexington Catholic High School in Kentucky as he played on both sides of the ball and special teams. Numerous Big-10 and Pac-10 schools gave him offers, but, in the end, it came down to Michigan, Stanford and Notre Dame.

"You got the academics, you got the athletics, you got the social atmosphere, the spiritual atmosphere in both places," Carney said of his decision, which came down to Notre Dame and Stanford. "But nothing compares to the feeling you get stepping on this campus. That sealed it. It had everything else I was looking for, it felt extremely right."

The on-field rewards of playing for Notre Dame will never leave Carney, but it is the off-field friendships with teammates that will truly stick with him.

He initially met many of his future teammates during the Army-All America Bowl his senior year of high school, where he roomed with future collegiate star Maurice Clarett. From those first meetings, through countless grueling summer workouts, to celebrations in Notre Dame



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Jake Carney meets USC's Reggie Bush head-on on Oct. 15. Carney's father and uncle played Division-I college football but encouraged him to look at "the total package" for colleges.

Stadium and the locker room, Carney has forged unbreakable bonds with his teammates.

"We're not always the ones making the plays on the field, but when we do get on the field, we do our best to make plays and have the opportunity to make plays," he said of his fellow upperclassmen. "I have a blast with it. The amount of leadership, it's just amazing. Helping guys academically, helping guys socially, helping guys on the field where you can, we're a tight knit group everywhere."

The season is nearing its end.

Within the year, Carney's class will go its separate ways, but the memories he has had with them will remain.

He recalls a moment from his freshman year during the winter's first snow storm, one early morning when he and his classmates had just left a study hall together. A snowball fight erupted between them and the women's softball team.

"We were getting it put to us pretty badly," he said.

Soon nearby male dorms had emptied to join in the fight on the quad, and the football freshman knew a last-ditch charge

was the only option left to him.

"The games will always be memorable and the pep rallies will always be memorable, but nothing beats everyday coming into the locker room and goofing off with your buddies and playing around with your buddies and going out with your buddies and doing everything with your buddies," Carney said. "I think that's what I'll definitely miss the most, the people and the relationships I made here."

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DAN CHERVANICK

Inspiration comes from many places for Chervanick

By KATE GALES
Associate Sports Editor

Dan Chervanick is only one man.

But the senior defensive lineman is also an accounting honor student and active volunteer who makes time for a social life outside the football team.

For Chervanick, it's hard to believe he's reached the end of his time on the storied fields of Notre Dame Stadium.

"Right now I'm just trying to soak it up," he said. "I'm enjoying it every minute. This is one of the greatest opportunities any person could ever have — to be here at Notre Dame and play for this team."

Although he's played primarily on the scout teams, Chervanick saw time at the Insight Bowl last season and this season against BYU and Navy. He considers the highlight of his career to be recording two tackles against Navy on Nov. 12 in a 42-21 Irish win.

Playing for a scout team is a different sort of challenge for Chervanick, the valedictorian of Holy Name High School in Reading, Pa., who was named to the all-academic team as well as all-league offensive tackle and defensive interior lineman in Berks County, Pa.

"You don't specialize in one

thing — you're kind of a jack-of-all-trades," Chervanick said. "You know how to do everything all right so you've got to be able to adapt."

Although Chervanick has played in several games, he focuses on practices in order to make his impact on the team.

"From my perspective, the way I look at it, my game day isn't necessarily Saturday," he said. "My game day is Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday at practice. That's the attitude I take to it."

There has been more to Chervanick's experience than what happens on the field.

"The best experience I've had is getting to meet all the guys on the team and really developing friendships — that's been one of the one of the greatest things," he said. "It's those guys you went through the hard times, the training camp, the early-morning lifting, when you're going through that it's like going through a war together. You really bond together and the bonds I've made through that, that's the best thing about it."

Aside from bonding with the team, coaches have had a big influence on Chervanick's life, especially former defensive line coach Greg Mattison, who Chervanick said "took me under his wing."

Another important influence has been family. His parents drive out from eastern Pennsylvania for the home games — he calls them "his rock" through the more difficult times.

Chervanick's brother Mike

was a walk-on at the University of Pittsburgh and encouraged him to try out for the Notre Dame squad. Chervanick turned down an offer to play football at Georgetown to come to South Bend and made the team at the end of his freshman year.

"I wanted to come here and see how the academics were," Chervanick said. "It was college, I didn't know what to expect ... [I thought] if it's a workload I can handle I'm going to go out for the team. And I went out and I made it and it's been a great experience."

Academics have been a priority for Chervanick, who interned in public accounting in New York last summer and plans to pursue an MSA degree.

"You learn to multitask and manage your time so quickly when you're on such a regimented schedule ... I'm two weeks ahead of everything in terms of thinking," he said. "You're always thinking ahead, planning ahead and just trying to stay ahead of the game, keep your head above water."

The former resident of Stanford, who now lives off-campus with friends from the dorm that include a cheerleader and one of the head football managers, realized the importance of having a social life outside of football and academics.

"At the same time with the work, you have to balance your social life too," he said. "It's an important part of school and I've definitely been able to go out and have a good time with my friends and kind of separate school from football and social-



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Dan Chervanick, skilled at balancing the many activities of a student-athlete, runs through drills in practice.

izing, enjoying what Notre Dame has to have outside of all of that."

His friends off the team have never been impressed with his status as a Notre Dame football player, Chervanick said.

"They're always keeping me grounded, and that's a good thing to have," he said.

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MARTY MOONEY

Quarterback's journey includes Yale and interhall



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

By KYLE CASSILY
Sports Writer

Irish quarterback Marty Mooney has been on two different Division I college football teams, taken his high school team to the heights of Ohio football, played a little interhall and even found time to defeat Brady Quinn on the gridiron.

Mooney was the star of prestigious St. Xavier High School football in Cincinnati, Ohio, and captained his Bombers to the Division 1 Ohio State Championship game in 2001. On the road to the finals, where the Bombers fell to Ohio powerhouse St. Ignatius, Mooney and his St. Xavier team had to battle future teammates Quinn and Chinedum Ndukwe of Dublin-Coffman High School in the semi-finals.

The 6-foot-2 quarterback threw three touchdowns passes and fought through a hand injury that made it nearly impossible for him to throw the ball in the second half, as he led his team to a 35-14 victory.

"Every once in a while, I give [Quinn] a hard time about it," Mooney said.

The Cincinnati native didn't come directly to Notre Dame after

his days at St. Xavier — he took an East Coast detour to the ivy-covered walls of Yale. Mooney was Yale's second-string quarterback as a freshman, but the pull of Notre Dame became too great.

"My whole family is an ND family," Mooney said. "So this is really where I wanted to be, and I really wanted to play football here."

He talked to former offensive coordinator Bill Diedrick during the summer prior to transferring about going out for the football team. After a successful winter try-out, Mooney officially became a member of the Irish squad and worked his way up the depth chart.

"When you go home, everyone says, 'You play football for Notre Dame'. They just want to talk about football, and that's all they ever want to talk about," Mooney said. "Which when you say the same thing over and over again, it kind of gets tiring, but at the same time, it's great. To say you play football for Notre Dame, everyone knows what you do."

In the time between coming to Notre Dame and becoming a full-time player for the Irish, Mooney honed his skills in interhall football. He had free reign over his Morrissey Hall offense and led the Manroites to a semi-finals berth.

"It was fun just to play, I mean to go out there and make up my own plays," Mooney said of the interhall experience. "Basically I could do whatever I wanted, so it was a fun experience."

Since donning the blue and gold, Mooney has been an integral part of the scout team and saw snaps on Oct. 1 against Purdue.

He counts his Purdue plays as one of his favorite football moments, as well as a high school game against bitter rival Elder High School. In the midst of a record-setting crowd at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium, he and his Bombers knocked off their cross-town enemy in a grudge match.

Mooney will close out his football career in these next few weeks and move into the field of investment banking, recently having accepted a position with Morgan Stanley in Chicago. But his experiences at this University and with this football team will remain with him.

"To see how this place has changed over the last two years from when Coach Weis came in, and we really felt bad about ourselves after losing to Oregon State, to see where we are now — it's been a great experience," he said.

He is looking forward to embarking onto a new endeavor and likes the close proximity that his new job will have to campus, but he's saddened to have to leave the gridiron behind.

"The only thing I regret is not coming here as a freshman," he said. "I just really loved it here that much."

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After being under center at St. Xavier High School, Yale University and Morrissey Manor, Marty Mooney walked on to Notre Dame.

BRIAN BEIDATSCH

Strength and character

Defensive tackle Brian Beidatsch has become invaluable to coaches due to his versatility

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Brian Beidatsch is a character. You just have to know him.

"He's a real quiet guy, unless he knows you and you're buddies," nose tackle Derek Landri said of the backup defensive tackle. "Then he's your typical buddy who messes around, we'll play pranks on each other, all that good stuff."

So, have any good stories, Brian?

"Yeah," Beidatsch said with a smile. "Too good to share with you."

The 6-foot-3, 294-pound senior has made friends like Landri by being just as all-business on the field as he is easygoing off of it.

After redshirting his freshman season, Beidatsch (pronounced 'by-dash') has become one of the most reliable players on Notre Dame's defense. Landri and Trevor Laws start on the interior defensive line, but Beidatsch must be on call — like a doctor on the sidelines — to jump into either position, left or right tackle, at any point during a game.

"You've got to know your place," Beidatsch said, explaining how he handles the hectic backup role. "You've got to be flexible in that you can play both sides, because I could go in for Landri at one moment and I could go in for Trevor the

next moment."

Beidatsch has played in all nine games this season, recording 11 tackles (four solo) — a career high for a single season — and his first full sack.

And as his career peaks, Beidatsch has the opportunity to go out on a personal, and team, high.

The human plug

Opponents who throw the ball often do not see as much of Beidatsch because Landri (263 pounds) and Laws (293) have proven themselves to be better pass rushers.

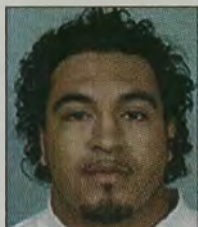
Landri even speeds into the backfield on run plays and makes several tackles for loss, including an immediate wrap-up of Navy quarterback Lamar Owens in last Saturday's 42-21.

But Beidatsch becomes invaluable to defensive coordinator Rick Minter and the Irish front line when the ball stays on the ground.

"He's a big kid, bigger than both Trevor and I," Landri said. "When me and Trevor are in there, we bring that quickness. When Beidatsch is in there, he takes up three guys and basically lets the linebackers run free, which is what every linebacker wants to do."

The trio of interior linemen is coming off perhaps its best statistical performance of the season against the Midshipmen. Landri made seven tackles, Laws had six and Beidatsch finished with four.

"The guys that did really stand out for me on defense were really the interior guys," coach Charlie Weis said in his Sunday press conference. "All



Beidatsch



SOFIA BALLON/The Observer

Brian Beidatsch pursues Tennessee quarterback Erik Ainge at Notre Dame Stadium on Nov. 5. The Irish won that game, 41-21.

our problems really were on the perimeter, on the edge. They really got very little done inside because I thought that those guys were disruptive and they made a bunch of plays.

"Corey [Mays] had a big day numbers wise in terms of tackles, but a lot of that had to do with the play of Landri and Beidatsch."

Beidatsch is more than happy to help out Mays, his roommate, who also has shined in his final season wearing the blue and gold. But he also believes that help comes from all three of the linemen, not just himself. And he attributes the gelling of himself, Landri and Laws to familiarity and chemistry.

"Usually you get in good with people from your class and the people who you've been around for a long time," Beidatsch said. "I've been here with them for three and four years, and they're definitely guys I enjoy being around."

It's easier to enjoy being around teammates, also, when the team is winning at the exact, appropriate time.

Going out a winner

The same goes for Mays, wide receiver Maurice Stovall or any player who has been on the roster longer than one season — nothing feels better to Brian Beidatsch than to go out on top.

"It's very special [to win in my final season]," Beidatsch said. "My freshman year, [former Irish defensive linemen] Anthony Weaver and Grant

Irons were here. It seemed like a .500 season, and they were great players on the D-line, but they didn't get that winning season senior year.

"So I consider myself very fortunate to be in the spot where things are going right, and I expect them to continue the rest of the year."

Notre Dame is 7-2 with two games to play and momentum on its side. Players Beidatsch's age endured a difficult couple seasons and can recall in detail the emotions, lows and struggles of playing on a .500 team — or worse.

But Beidatsch believes his situation couldn't have worked out any better as a member of Notre Dame's team.

"There's been highs and there's been lows, kind of like life," he said. "During Willingham's first year, it was kind of a nice ride we had for a while, and then this year's been a great time as well. But then again you've had those years when you've been .500, and through that you've learned it's nothing but hard work and effort, and if you want it, you have to go out there and get it done."

Side-to-side

Beidatsch was not always a full-time defensive player. As a high school senior in 2000, he was a two-way, all-state selection from Marquette High School in Milwaukee, Wisc., lining up at both defensive end and offensive guard. He also blocked kicks and recovered fumbles.

Certain schools recruited Beidatsch as offensive lineman, as well. But he felt defense fit his personality better — his football personality, at least.

"I probably had just as many honors if not more for offense [in high school], but I always liked the defensive side of the ball," he said. "You could just go out there, and it's a little less thinking. There's thinking, but you could play with emotion and really get into the game. You didn't have to slow yourself down, and I always enjoyed laying a hit to someone, so that's what fueled my defensive love or passion."

That side of the ball is suiting him just fine in 2005. His 11 tackles are one more than his 10 combined tackles from 2002-2004.

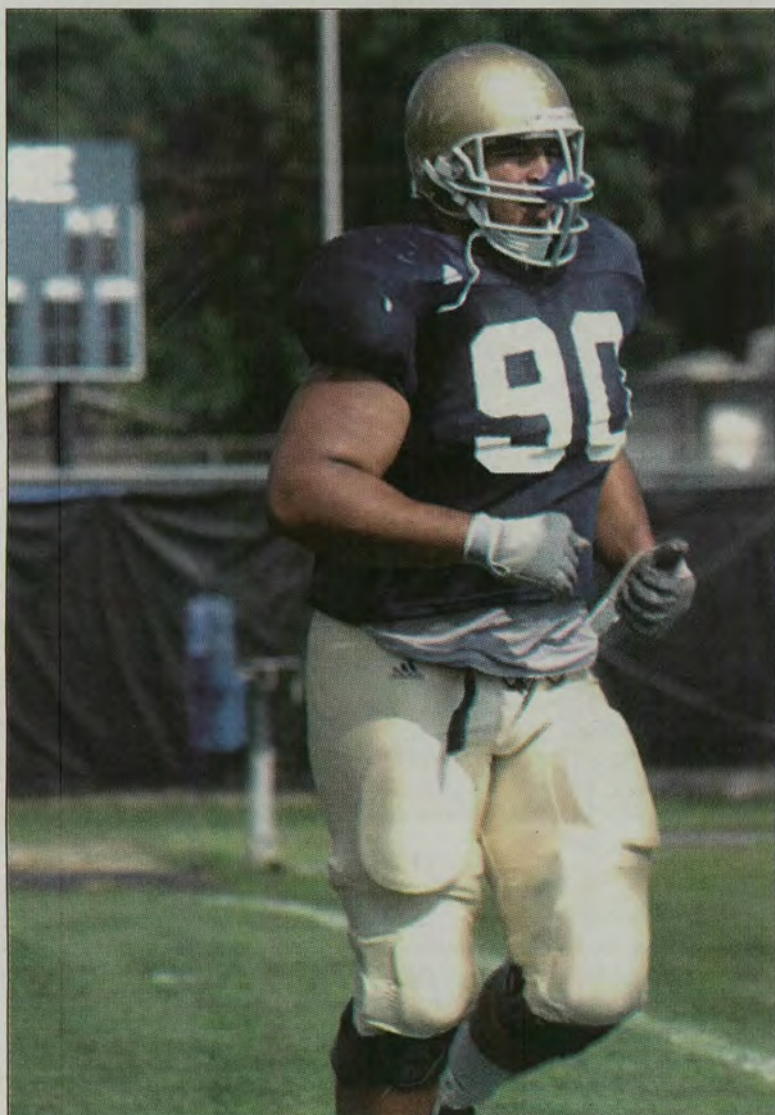
Off the field, Beidatsch believes he has success waiting in the wings with a marketing degree. But that's only his second option.

"I'd love to continue playing football if the good Lord wills that," Beidatsch said. "But you never know."

No one knows, just like no one knew Beidatsch would factor so much into Notre Dame's defensive success, or that he is so quiet and reserved sometimes off the field.

"Really he's just a funny guy, a goofy guy that we enjoy having around," his roommate Mays said.

If only he'd tell the story.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Brian Beidatsch, who has had a solid season as a defensive lineman this year, jogs onto the practice field this summer.

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ROB WOODS

Academics, athletics complete experience for Iowan

By KEVIN BRENNAN
Sports Writer

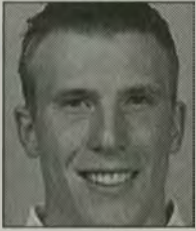
Charlie Weis likes to give Rob Woods a hard time. Carrying a 3.95 grade point average in mechanical engineering, Woods is one of the top students on the football team. And his head coach makes sure he doesn't forget it.

"When you've got a 3.9-something you can't really make a mistake," Woods said. "The first thing out of [Weis'] mouth is, 'You know for a smart guy you are pretty stupid. You're pretty dumb.'"

Woods said one of the smartest decisions he ever made was deciding to walk on to the Notre Dame football. Coming out of Atlantic High School in Atlantic, Iowa, the 6-foot-2 wide receiver was not recruited at all to play in college. Woods was leery of trying to walk on because he felt he might not be talented enough.

"I almost ruled it out because I was a pretty practical guy, and I didn't think I was good enough," Woods said.

Encouraged by his high school coach, Woods contacted the Notre Dame coaching staff in December



Woods

of his senior year of high school and began plans to walk on. When he arrived on campus for freshman orientation in August, Woods went through a combine tryout and began practicing with the team.

"They never really told me I was on the team," Woods said. "I figured it out eventually."

Woods embraced the life of a walk-on, viewing his contribution to the team as a service. Woods worked hard as a wide receiver on scout team offenses to prepare the first team defense for each upcoming opponent. Eventually, the coaches began to recognize Woods' contributions.

"After a couple of years of showing up every day and giving that effort, they give you a look," Woods said. "When you get that opportunity, you've got to seize it and do everything you can to never let it go."

For Woods, that opportunity came midway through the 2004 season when the coaching staff started inserting him on the first kickoff coverage team in practice. Former coach Tyrone Willingham and his staff wanted to see if Woods could hold his own with the scholarship players.

"For a couple of practices, I was literally spotlighted every rep," Woods said. "So it's kind of a pressure packed situation."

Woods apparently convinced the coaches he was worthy. On Oct. 23, Woods saw his first action on kickoff coverage against

Boston College. He went on to record three tackles on special teams during the season.

Woods received an even greater thrill this fall at the end of training camp. Weis called Woods into his office and told the senior that he had earned a scholarship.

"I was the most surprised guy in the world," Woods said. "It just blew me away. They said I was smiling from ear to ear."

"It's definitely a great gift from Coach Weis and the University."

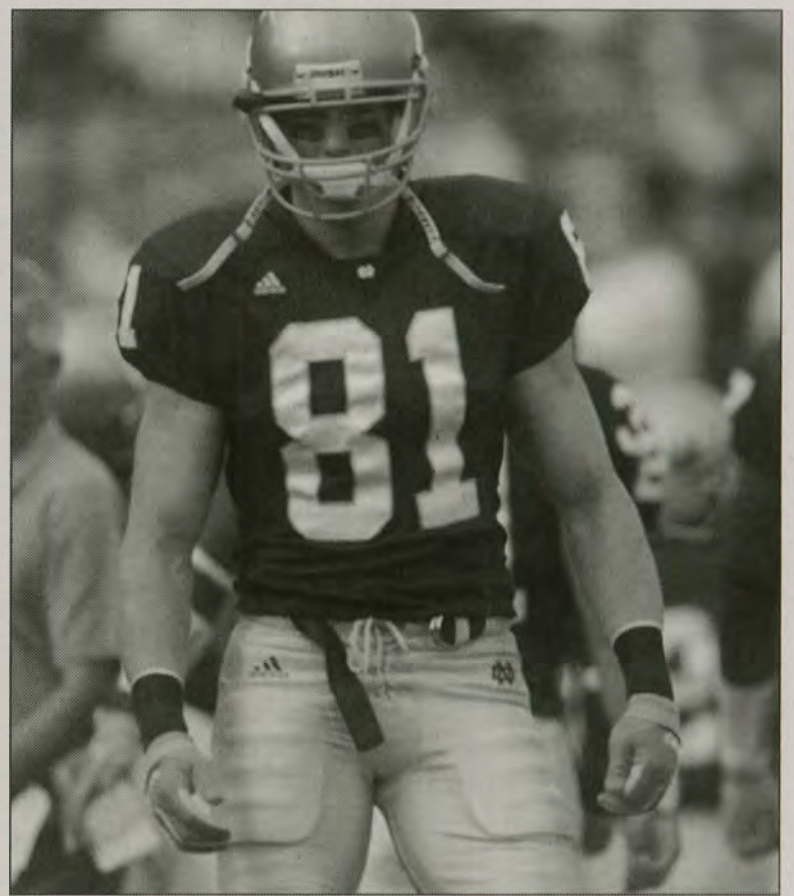
In 2005, Woods has continued to contribute on special teams. And in the Oct. 1 contest at Purdue, Woods finally broke through at wide receiver, recording his first career reception in the fourth quarter of Notre Dame's blowout win.

"That was really kind of a surreal feeling," Woods said of the catch. "I consider myself a big white stiff from Iowa — nobody that should be catching a ball or trying to make a play, that's for sure."

Woods knows his football days are numbered, and he is now concentrating on finding a job in engineering.

"I've gone through some interviews at this point and had some success so I'm going to weigh out my options," Woods said. "I definitely have the self-awareness to know that I'm not NFL material unless I gain about 50 pounds and lose about half a second on my 40 [yard dash time]."

Woods will be sad to leave foot-



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Rob Woods prepares for the play against Tennessee on Nov. 5. The senior and former walk-on earned a scholarship this sea-

ball, but he is proud of all that he has accomplished at Notre Dame.

"If you had talked to me four years ago about what I was doing at this point both academically and on the football field, I would

have laughed at you," Woods said. "It's definitely an exciting time."

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ANTHONY SALVADOR

Salvador finds a home on field with special teams

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

Anthony Salvador has always loved playing on special teams.

The walk-on senior line-backer won an award at De La Salle High School for being the team's top special teams player, and nothing changed when he came to Notre Dame.



Salvador

"I really enjoy playing special teams," Salvador said. "When I came to Notre Dame, one of my goals was to get on the field, and I knew my best way to achieve that was to play special teams."

While Salvador has come on in several different kicking situations throughout his four years with the Irish, he said his favorite is running down kickoffs.

"Kickoffs are the most fun," he said. "Whenever I'm playing football I love coming down on kickoffs. You get to come down full speed. You have some responsibility, but it's more about coming down and being reckless. You can fly at them and have some fun."

Salvador suffered a knee injury last season against

Pittsburgh while blocking for a kickoff return.

"It was the opening kickoff," he said. "I got a little tweaked and tore my MCL."

Fortunately, Salvador was only held out of the USC and Oregon State games and returned to spring practice at full strength.

"It was the first I've been seriously injured, so it was a little frustrating, but the training staff was great," he said. "During Christmas break and the bowl game I rested."

Salvador, along with Irish defensive lineman Derek Landri, was at De La Salle for part of the school's famous 12-year, 151-game winning streak.

"You really have to be a part of that program to really understand," Salvador said. "When we were there it was great. There was a lot of tradition and a great team atmosphere."

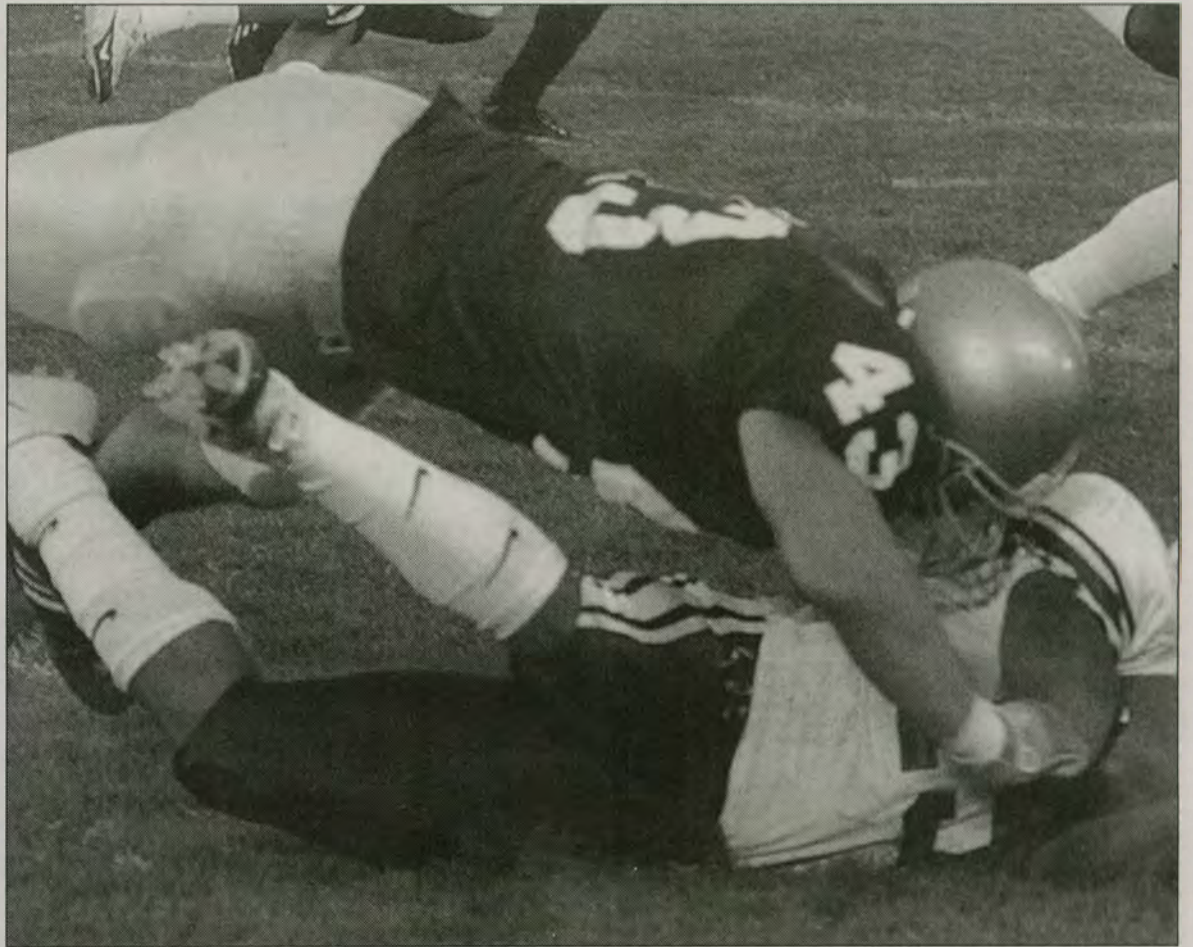
Both Landri and Salvador graduated in 2002, two seasons before the Spartans lost their first game since 1991.

Salvador said Landri, who was a five-star prospect and drawing national attention, was one of the reasons he came to Notre Dame.

Salvador said there were other factors, as well.

"One was academics, also I had a great time when I visited, and the third factor was that I'd get to play football if I came here," he said.

One factor Salvador did not consider was the Irish head



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Anthony Salvador plants a BYU player into the ground on Oct. 22. Salvador has become an important part of special teams play in his time at Notre Dame.

coach. During his senior year of high school, Notre Dame fired then coach Bob Davie and replaced him with Tyrone Willingham.

"When I was picking a college to go to, I was trying to find a school that I wanted to get a degree from," Salvador

said. "It had nothing to do with who was coach."

Salvador will graduate from the Mendoza College of Business and said he has not yet figured out what he will do after graduation, which is quickly approaching.

"I guess right now I'm just

still trying to focus on the season," he said. "When that ends, then I'll start looking at things. I've been talking to some companies, but nothing really formal."

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COREY MAYS

Finally his turn

After four years on the team, Chicago native Corey Mays is making his presence felt

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Corey Mays has spent five years at Notre Dame — four of them waiting. But his time finally came this year, and the senior linebacker took advantage of it.

"It's been a great experience," Mays said of this year, his fifth at Notre Dame. "We're really just trying to finish it all out on a great note."

But Mays hasn't always been the well-known energetic, fan-favorite linebacker for the Irish — he had to wait his turn.



Mays

From the South Side to South Bend

Mays hails from Morgan Park High School, a Chicago public school on the city's south side. He is the first player from the public league to come to Notre Dame since Chris Zorich in 1988. And next year, Demetrius Jones, a senior at Morgan Park, is expected to suit up for the Irish as well. Jones, a quarterback, verbally committed to the Irish this fall.

In the end, Mays said he chose Notre Dame for life after football.

"Really at the end of the day, it felt like the right fit for me," he said. "When you're being recruited, every school says the same thing, but I felt like it was the best chance for me after school."

And once he got to Notre Dame, Mays said the adjustment from high school to college was not just related to football. Chicago Public Schools are about 91 percent minority and nine percent Caucasian, compared to Notre Dame which is about 20 percent minority and

80 percent Caucasian.

"It's about the make-up of campus that's really different from the South Side of Chicago," Mays said. "Eventually you adjust, that's a part of life."

"I felt like it was just as difficult as any other freshman in the country. I'm able to adapt to many situations."

It is this approach to change that has helped Mays maintain a positive attitude through his four years, despite not getting very much playing time at linebacker.

"If you look at Corey's situation, it's really unique because he didn't get a lot of playing time for four years, and he never once complained," linebacker and fellow fifth-year senior Brandon Hoyte said. "All he's ever done is say, 'Fine, I'll work harder.'"

Waiting his turn

Mays sat out his freshman year, and the next three years saw him playing mostly special teams. Mays played behind the likes of Courtney Watson (now with the NFL's New Orleans Saints), Derek Curry and Mike Goolsby.

And although Mays admits it was hard to wait at times, he knew that he would get his chance at some point, as long as he kept working hard.

"It was hard to be patient at times, because you feel like you should be out there because you've put in the work and you feel like you may not be getting your fair share," Mays said. "You have to accept some things. That's a part of life. You just have to continue to work hard because you never know what's going to happen, or who is going to notice you, or who's going to say what to you."

And this year, Mays has stepped up in his starting role. He has 52 tackles on the year, two sacks and has recovered three fumbles, while forcing two.

"You got a guy like Corey Mays, who didn't get a lot of



Irish linebacker Corey Mays brings down a Navy runner in a 42-21 Irish win over the Midshipmen. In his first year as a starter, Mays has been a key part of Notre Dame's run and pass defense.

DUSTIN MENELLA/The Observer

playing time throughout his years," Hoyte said. "But this year, he has been unbelievable and he deserves it more than anybody else."

Hoyte's not the only one who has admired the way Mays has waited his turn.

"Corey's been very talented since he came here," defensive lineman Brian Beidatsch, who is also Mays' roommate said. "And he got stuck in the position where there were great players in front of him. So he's kind of had to wait his turn and I respect it. He never complained, just worked hard, made an impact on special teams and did what he could do filling for those guys. So this year's his to shine. He's learned a lot from those guys and through his hard work, he's become a great linebacker ... and a great leader."

Mays also brings an unprecedented energy to the Irish on and off the field, something he takes pride in.

"Every time I've stepped on the field for a game or practice, it's about energy," Mays said. "Because you never know when the last play will be your last, so enjoy everything you have."

And his teammates like the energy he brings, including his distinct hands-on-top of his dreadlocks-filled head sign that he started at the USC pep rally when he was one of the speakers.

"I'm always happy to be around Corey, no matter what," sophomore linebacker Maurice Crum said. "He always has energy for the guys around him, and that's something that on the field, everybody can feed off of. I enjoy playing with him."

Crum, also a first-year starter, said Mays' energy never stops.

"Corey's like that all the time," Crum said. "Weight room, 8:00 in the morning, 6:00 in the

morning, Corey's like that 24-7. He's just a happy-go-lucky type of guy."

Irish head coach Charlie Weis was surprised when Mays first stepped on the field, as his initial impressions were that Mays was a quiet, hard-working guy.

"He really didn't say too much, just went out there and worked his butt off all the time [in the weight room]," Weis said. "Then we got on the field, and I found out he's a more vocal leader than I thought he would be."

Not all about football

And as good as he is on the field, Mays tries to be just as good off of it. When he got to Notre Dame, he founded a non-profit organization, Positive Concepts, designed to help underprivileged children. Mays is the CEO of the organization, which he formed when he arrived at Notre Dame.

"I was doing different volunteer activities, and I finally realized I wanted to do something with my name," he said. "It really just mentors children and at-risk teens all over, but the best work we can do with it is with at-risk teens."

Mays said one of the goals of his program is to help provide teens both in his hometown and in South Bend with positive role models. He brings his teammates from Notre Dame, teammates from high school, and even his parents to help mentor.

"Everyone needs a role model," Mays said. "It's really great when someone can have someone to look up to and follow in their footsteps."

Weis said he found out about Mays' mentoring when one of the groups he visited sent Weis a thank-you card and a picture, thanking him for Mays' efforts.

"He obviously is a very well-respected person, and I think it's

great to have a guy from Morgan Park here, a Chicago kid, that is such a good role model," Weis said.

And Mays, who graduated in May with a degree in sociology and psychology said sometimes it gets difficult to balance school, football and Positive Concepts.

"It [isn't] easy," he said, "but Notre Dame has really prepared me to multi-task and be responsible and balance a bunch of things."

One last time

Saturday will be the last time Mays plays at Notre Dame Stadium, but according to Weis, he may be able to play in the NFL next year, especially because of his three years of experience on special teams.

"He'll have an opportunity at the next level," Weis said. As a backup linebacker in the NFL, the one thing you need to be able to do is you need to play some special teams. He already can play from tackle-to-tackle with the big boys. Then it's going to be a question of what else can you do because the NFL is all about versatility and creating a niche for yourself."

But for now, Mays is focused on closing out his five years at Notre Dame, time that he thinks has flown by.

"It goes fast," he said. "It doesn't feel like it your freshman year, but it goes fast."

And Mays said he doesn't know what the feeling will be like when he plays his last game at Notre Dame Stadium.

"I have no idea really," he said. "I just have to see when I get there. I can't even imagine what it will feel like."

But one thing is for sure — he will bring the energy.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Corey Mays watches the ball carrier intently in Notre Dame's 44-41 loss to Michigan State on Sept. 17.

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MIKE O'HARA

O'Hara realizes Irish dream before hometown crowd

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Mike O'Hara picked a good time to be named the scout team player of the week.

As a result, the Bellevue, Wash. native earned the opportunity to travel with the team on Sept. 24 to Washington, the alma mater of his mom, two sisters and brother.



O'Hara

The senior walk-on got on the field in Notre Dame's 36-17 win over the Huskies, fulfilling a dream.

"It was incredible," said O'Hara, who obtained over 48 tickets for family and friends for the game. "It was great to be able to play in front of family and friends, especially because not a lot of people get to come out there because it's so far away. It was just a dream come true."

But the senior walk-on was unsure he would even be able to play in front of family and friends, having broken his hand before the season started. When he traveled to Washington, he had been practicing for just over

a week, and it was the first game for which he was healthy.

"It was kind of up in the air [if I was going to go]," said O'Hara, who has been to two away games in four years. "It was my first game back from breaking my hand, so I hadn't seen the field yet. I hadn't even been practicing until about a week and a half before that game. It was a surprise, and a good one at that, to get in there."

O'Hara, a 5-foot-8, 180-pound receiver, fell in love with Notre Dame the first time he visited. He was born on St. Patrick's Day and came to a football game with his brother when he was a senior in high school. From then on, he realized Notre Dame was the place for him, his Irish name and his Irish birthday.

"I really fell in love with it," he said. "It was an incredible experience — the game was awesome. And, being born on St. Patrick's Day, being an O'Hara, I thought it was a fitting place for me."

And so O'Hara, a second team all-county selection as a senior, was prepared to give up football. But a former coach for Washington, whose grandchildren were teammates of O'Hara, convinced him to try out.

"He talked me into trying out, so I got in contact with [former] coach [Tyrone] Willingham's crew, and they offered me to come out before school started for camp," O'Hara said. "I've

been on the team ever since."

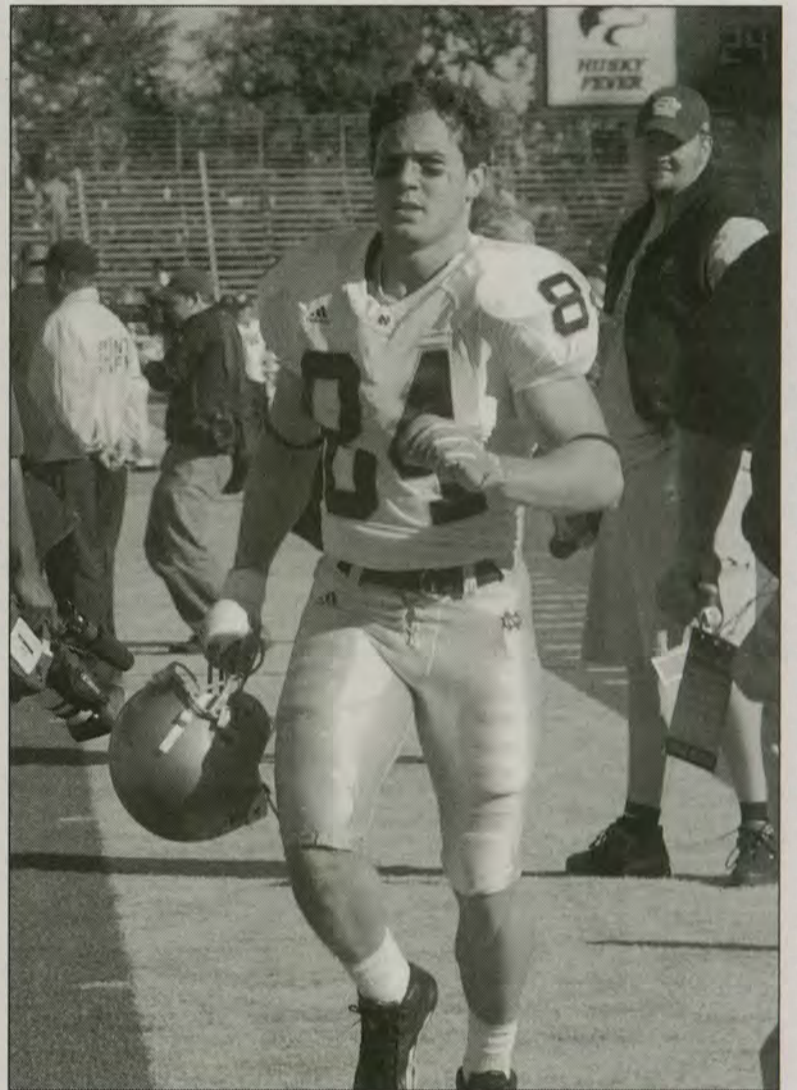
The senior takes pride in being on the scout team and watching opposing teams' offenses against the Irish on Saturday, knowing he helped prepare his teammates.

"It's fun to be able to out there and make plays against our defense and hopefully get them ready for the week ahead," O'Hara said. "It's nice to see when you're watching the game and see the offense run the exact plays that we ran and then our defense stops it. It makes you feel like you're actually contributing to the team. It's been fun; it's been a great experience."

O'Hara said although it hasn't hit him that his career at Notre Dame is almost over, the experience of dressing for every home game this year and running out of the tunnel is a special one.

"It hasn't really hit me yet that it's winding down," the finance major said as he recalled the first time he dressed for a game. "The first time I remember running out there, I never knew what it sounded like for 85,000 screaming fans to be yelling. And it never gets old. Every time you run out of that Stadium onto that field, it's the same rush. Your heart's pounding, you feel like you can do anything."

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Mike O'Hara jogs off the field past friends and family at Notre Dame's 36-17 win at Washington on Sept. 24.

DAVID FITZGERALD

Attitude, determination help lineman through injury



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

David Fitzgerald, center, holds his block late in the BYU game on Oct. 22 at Notre Dame Stadium.

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

David Fitzgerald had a decision to make during the summer.

The senior offensive guard broke his wrist last spring, but doctors overlooked the severity of the injury and cleared him to play. Fitzgerald only made the injury worse when he played on it throughout spring practices.

Then, towards the end of the year, Fitzgerald was told his wrist had not fully healed and that he would need surgery. That was only the beginning.

"It was supposed to be a 90-minute procedure, and instead it turned into like nine hours on the table for two days," Fitzgerald said.

Even with the long operation, the bone failed to heal. His doctors offered him an ultimatum — undergo a final operation and miss his senior season or play with a cast.

It didn't take long for Fitzgerald to choose the second alternative.

"I said, 'Well cast it up, one more year I can make it through,'" Fitzgerald says. "I'll have to have an operation probably when the year is

over but that remains to be seen."

At least his attitude is consistent.

Fitzgerald has been used mostly as a scout team player over his four years at Notre Dame and is used to sacrificing himself for his team. The greatest lesson he has learned playing for the Irish is to always keep a focused attitude regardless of the circumstances.

"Just keep fighting and if you keep working hard things will break for you eventually," Fitzgerald said. "Sometimes things don't always work out the way you want them to, but just keep plugging away."

"We all got our roles to play and we just go and do whatever we can to help the team."

Fitting words from a senior who — like many Notre Dame students — grew up cheering for the Irish.

Fitzgerald did not start playing football until high school. He grew up in a small town (Godfrey, Ill.) about 400 miles south of Notre Dame. The Marquette Catholic standout had 117 tackles, nine sacks, six fumble recoveries, one interception and one blocked punt during his senior year.

Around this time he began getting offers to play Division-

I football, including one from Boston College. But when Notre Dame came calling in the spring during his senior year, everything else went out the window.

"I grew up as a Notre Dame fan, and I wasn't sure where I wanted to end up," Fitzgerald said. "I probably had a better chance of playing [at Boston College] if I had gone there but you can't pass up Notre Dame, so when I got that chance I just jumped at it."

Fitzgerald has had more of an opportunity this year to get on the field. The offensive guard has played in games against Purdue, BYU, Tennessee and Navy.

"We've had some good games, so we've all had a little more [playing] time," Fitzgerald said.

Fitzgerald is unsure of what he will do once he graduates, but he knows that coaching football is not in his future — at least for the time being. Instead he plans on using his finance degree to get a job and possibly move to Chicago.

Whatever Fitzgerald chooses, he has proven that he has character and knows how to sacrifice himself for others.

Just consider his wrist.

"Just keep fighting, and if you keep working hard, things will break for you eventually."

David Fitzgerald
Irish offensive lineman

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MATT SHELTON

Short, quick and nasty

The deep threat has battled injuries to stay on the field and earn a place in the record books

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Matt Shelton just wanted a chance to translate his play in practice to a game. And last year, that's exactly what he did, catching six touchdown passes to lead the Irish receiving corps, en route to breaking a record and becoming quarterback Brady Quinn's favorite deep threat.



Shelton

"The stuff I was doing, it wasn't anything new, I just hadn't been able to do it during the games," Shelton said of last year. "So it was definitely nice to get the opportunity and do what I did."

Last year, Shelton entered the Notre Dame record books by setting the single-season yards per reception record, averaging 25.75 yards per catch.

Coming to Notre Dame

Shelton was a senior in high school, and he was considering other schools when his dad suggested he go to Notre Dame for camp. So the Collierville, Tenn. native did and was offered a scholarship as a senior. But when he went back home, he tore his ACL, throwing a kink in the recruiting process.

"As soon as I tore my ACL, a lot of people just ended up running away and saying, 'Good luck with everything in your future, but we're going to back

away now,'" Shelton said.

But the upbeat senior said he is not bitter towards those schools that stopped recruiting him. After all, it didn't stop him from coming to Notre Dame.

"That's fine," Shelton said of teams losing interest after his injury. "It's understandable. I decided this was definitely the place I wanted to be because of tradition, academics, all that."

Waiting his turn

Before last season, the speedy wide receiver was mostly used on special teams. As a junior, he caught just three passes for 80 yards, and one catch was for a 65-yard touchdown. The year before, he caught just one pass.

Shelton says the turnaround came against Stanford in 2003, when he caught that 65-yard pass and also returned three kickoffs for 51 yards. In this game, he showed what he could do in a game for the first time in three years.

"The Stanford game two years ago, I had an opportunity, and they started throwing me the ball more," the speedy 6-foot receiver said. "They finally realized I could actually do it during the game and not just in practice."

And so Shelton took that game, the second to last game of the 2003 regular season, and built upon it for 2004.

The breakout season

Last season, Shelton emerged as the team's big-play threat. He played in all 12 games, starting three and catching a team-high six touchdown passes. His high game came against Pittsburgh when he caught only three passes for a career-high

128 yards. He said he was just being "opportunistic."

"I waited around for two or three years for an opportunity here and there, and last year I finally got it and took advantage of it," Shelton said. "And I'm trying to take advantages of my opportunities this year and do what I can whenever I'm called upon."

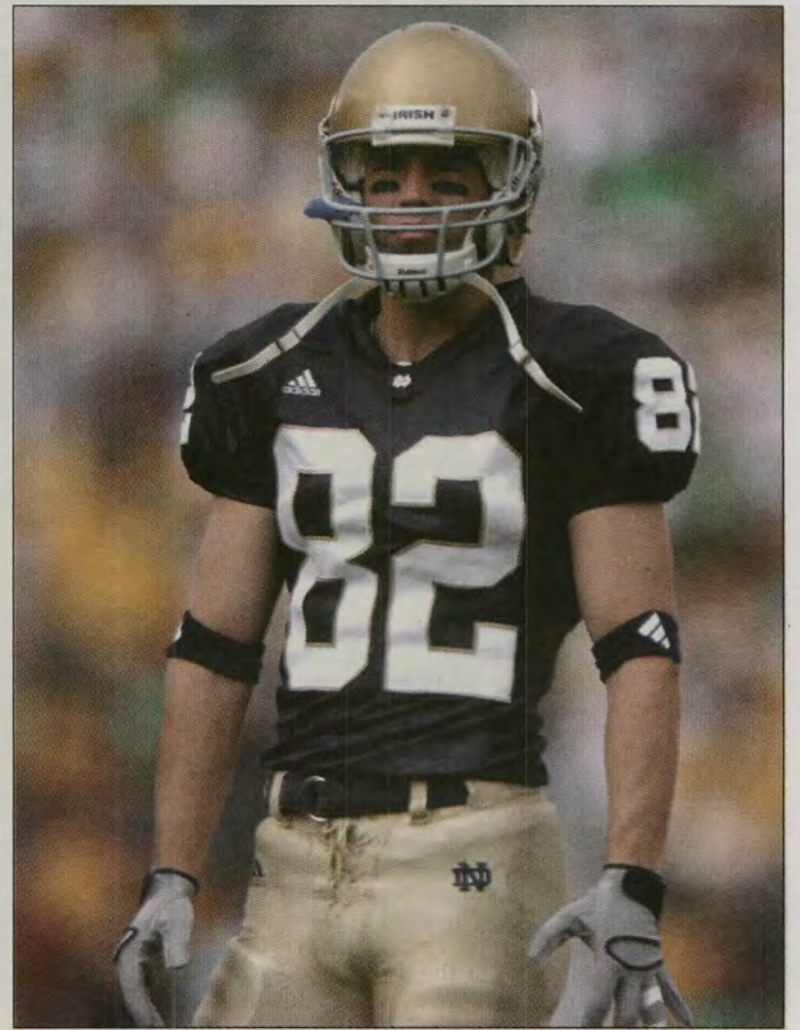
Last year, he caught 20 passes for 515 yards, second on the team, and good for a 25.75 yards per catch average, a Notre Dame single-season record.

But going into the Insight Bowl, Shelton was one reception short to qualify for the record, and he had injured his knee again and could not play in the game. But interim head coach Kent Baer let Shelton play one snap, and on a forward shovel pass from quarterback Brady Quinn, Shelton recorded his 20th catch of the season, putting his name in the Notre Dame record books.

"It meant the world to me," Shelton said of breaking the record. "That's something not a lot of people can say they've done at a University, in general, but especially at a place like this, where there are so many great football players. But with this offense and Coach Weis at the helm, I don't see that lasting too long."

One more year

This season Shelton has taken a backseat to a pair of 6-foot-5 receivers, Jeff Samardzija and Maurice Stovall, who are breaking Notre Dame records left and right themselves. But Shelton, who has caught 18 passes for 184 yards and no touchdowns,



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Wide receiver Matt Shelton waits for the snap in Notre Dame's game against Navy on Nov. 12.



CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

Speedy receiver Matt Shelton is brought down by a Purdue defender in West Lafayette on Oct. 1. Shelton's best season was in 2003, when he had 20 catches and six touchdowns.

with a long of 33 yards, is not bitter. Instead, he is just happy to be 7-2 going into the Syracuse game.

"Each year means a lot, and each year means a lot to different people in different senses of the meaning," Shelton said. "This year's definitely going to mean a lot in my mind, no matter what I've done personally on the field, this team's done great. It's a great group of guys — can't say enough about them."

His high game this year came against Purdue, when he caught seven passes for 68 yards against the Boilermakers. He also caught six passes for 87 yards, including a 33-yard completion against Michigan State, his third game back after his knee injury.

Shelton, who has fully recovered from his second injury, said the two injuries have forced him to work harder than ever before.

"It's an injury that I wouldn't wish upon anyone," he said. "The actual injury when it happens, it hurts, you yell, you moan, do whatever you have to do to get through it. But the rehab is really just horrible. I was in there five days a week, sometimes six, doing rehab, once, twice a day. It's just horrible."

And so with two knee surgeries under his belt, where did Shelton get his lightning-quick speed?

"My dad says he was fast. I say I'm adopted," Shelton said with a laugh. "So there's a little bit of a discrepancy there. I don't really know. My father and my grandfather both say they were fast when they were younger, so it came from there I guess."

ball career under the Dome will be complete, but he may not be done in South Bend just yet. He plans to take a shot at the NFL, and if that doesn't work, the marketing graduate will be back at Notre Dame working in the development office with fundraising.

"[I'm] taking my shot with football," he said. "I've gotta do it, if I didn't, I'd always wonder, 'What if?' After that, I'm going to come back and work for the University."

But for now, Shelton is focused on his last game at Notre Dame Stadium after five years playing for the Irish.

"I thought about it a little last week, just because Mom and Dad bring it up a little bit," he said. "I don't really know what to feel — it's excitement, it's sadness, a whole bunch of stuff rolled up in one."

But while his record may be broken, Shelton says he has the most important thing from Notre Dame — his degree.

"It has been a great experience for me," Shelton said. "The degree is the biggest thing I'm taking away from it. That's something nobody can take away from me. Somebody can take away records, memories can fade."

And most of all, Shelton will miss his teammates, who have played with him for three different coaches.

"This group of guys I've had for five years with me is a great group of guys," he said. "The older guys that were here before me that I had a chance to play with and the younger guys, all a bunch of great guys. I'm going to miss each and every one of them."

Taking a shot

After Saturday, Shelton's foot-

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CRAIG CARDILLO

Receiver balances Naval ROTC with football duties

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

Kickers aren't supposed to be exciting. They're always the ones standing around, leisurely kicking field goals while everyone else sprints through drills and perfects plays.

At least that's what the stereotype says.

Craig Cardillo, on the other hand, doesn't fit many stereotypes.

The backup Notre Dame place-kicker spends his early Monday mornings going through Naval ROTC training and the latter half of football practice working with the scout team receiving corps. He then heads home at night to study enough to keep up on his history major. All in all a pretty busy schedule for a kicker, but Cardillo would have it no other way.

"I like kicking, but I hated standing around during practice," Cardillo said. "It's so much more fun as a wide receiver."

The senior from Hauppauge, N.Y. has had plenty of fun this season preparing the Notre Dame starting secondary for the upcoming opponent as he was named offensive scout team



Cardillo

player of the week earlier this season while moonlighting as a wide receiver.

Unlike the stereotypical kicker, Cardillo shrugs off the physical contact dished out when playing scout team receiver.

"You're not really hitting," Cardillo said. "Most of the time it's just wrapping up. And for a wide receiver you don't really block that much besides cornerbacks."

His play at wide receiver reminds Cardillo of high school, when he starred for Hauppauge High School at quarterback and wide receiver in addition to kicker.

He was named an all-league and all-county player as a senior.

Cardillo then headed to South Bend, following in the footsteps of his father who graduated from Notre Dame "sometime in the mid-70s" and his brother who graduated from the University in 2002.

Prior to enrolling, Cardillo had considered going to the Naval Academy. But he decided to enter Naval ROTC at Notre Dame. While it sounds like a hectic schedule with football and ROTC duties, Cardillo is thankful the ROTC has worked with him to enable him to do both.

"I have to go to the running on Monday mornings," Cardillo said. "But that's pretty much it. On Wednesday we have drills

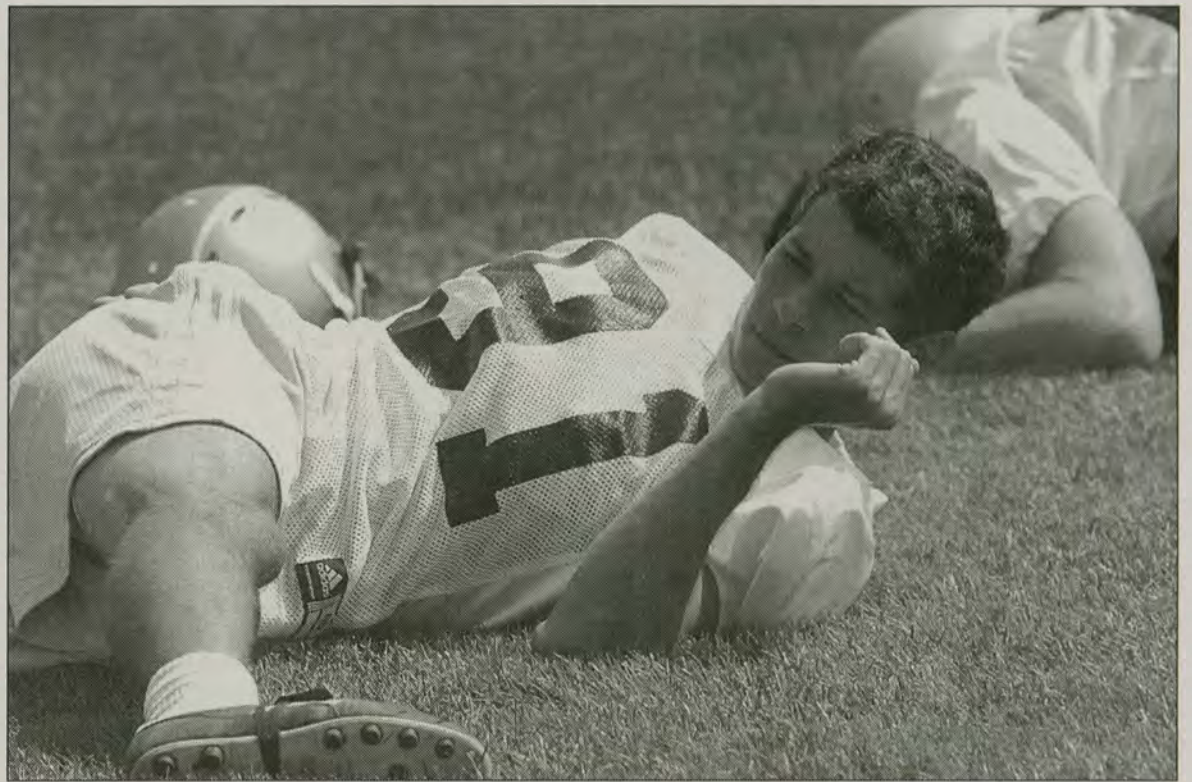


Photo courtesy of Notre Dame Sports Information

Craig Cardillo, shown here stretching before a summer practice, has balanced Naval ROTC with varsity football. Cardillo has seen mostly special teams play with the Irish.

but they let me miss it for practice. If there's a conflict, I go to football."

Once football ends however, Cardillo plans on devoting much time to the Navy. He hopes to be stationed in San Diego and will probably end up on a surface warfare ship in the Middle East. Rooming in Knott Hall,

Cardillo had always wanted to walk on the football team. But the coaching staff told him they already had four or five kickers on the roster and encouraged him to walk on in the spring. Cardillo did just that, earning a roster spot as a kicker. But it wasn't until this season's BYU game that he reached the field.

No, it wasn't kicking a late-game extra point or field goal. He earned his way onto the Notre Dame Stadium turf as a member of the kickoff coverage team. Cardillo would have it no other way.

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JEFF JENKINS

Jenkins lives father's legacy on the football field



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

A career highlight for Jenkins, a Midwest native, was playing in the Purdue game this season on Oct. 1.

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

It was just nine carries for 43 yards, stats not meant for any SportsCenter highlight or All-America team. But for Jeff Jenkins, his performance in Notre Dame's 20-17 loss to BYU in the 2004 season opener meant more than any accolade or television spot.



Jenkins

"At a young age, [my father] kind of gave up," Jenkins said. "When I came here, he wanted to see me play — here at the University of Notre Dame."

His father had played football at Western Michigan for a time, only to quit. So when Jenkins' uncle and dad sat in the stands, watched him suit up for the Irish and take a few snaps at running back, a dream was fulfilled.

"It was a great experience," Jenkins said. "I can't even put it into words. I just wanted to play for my uncle and my father more than anything. They've sacrificed a lot for me, so I just wanted to show them that I could play here."

Jenkins will graduate from Notre Dame with a double major in political science and computer applications, a degree that will hopefully help

him live out another dream — to work in federal law enforcement. Jenkins' uncle works in the prison system, and he has inspired Jenkins to that line of work.

"My father's my role model, but I always looked up to my uncle, too," he said. "I was always interested in some of the stories that he told. I always liked war movies and cop movies and stuff like that. Cops is one of my favorite shows."

The Ann Arbor, Mich. native isn't exactly sure where he wants to work — he hopes to get a job in the FBI, State Department or Secret Service.

But he is definitely certain Notre Dame was the right school for him. Growing up no more than five or 10 minutes from the Big House, Jenkins always wanted to play for the Maize and Blue. But after finishing his career at Huron High School with a city record 3,970 yards and 60 touchdowns, Michigan just wasn't where he was meant to go.

"I think God directed me here," Jenkins said. "Everything else was crumbling and Notre Dame stood tall through it all. Notre Dame was the only option for me and it was just God's will and God's grace that got me here."

His time playing for the Irish hasn't been spectacular statistically. He won't leave with any school records or many career rushing yards. But he is thankful for meeting some lifelong friends in Notre Dame receiver Maurice Stovall and

running back Travis Thomas. "Those are the two guys who have stood tall with me," Jenkins said. "They'll always be my brothers, my pals."

Stovall, who is also playing his last game at Notre Dame Stadium on Saturday, intends to stay friends with Jenkins for quite some time.

"Because we live in the same dorm [O'Neill Hall], he's always been there for me when I've had bad times off the field and on the field," Stovall said. "I feel as if I've known him my whole life and he's a good friend of mine."

The last chapter of Jeff Jenkins' football dream, as well as his father's, will be written Saturday when he suits up for the Irish one more time. Jenkins hopes to score a touchdown, just like every running back does, he said. His mom and dad will be in the crowd. So will his girlfriend, Jihan Rush.

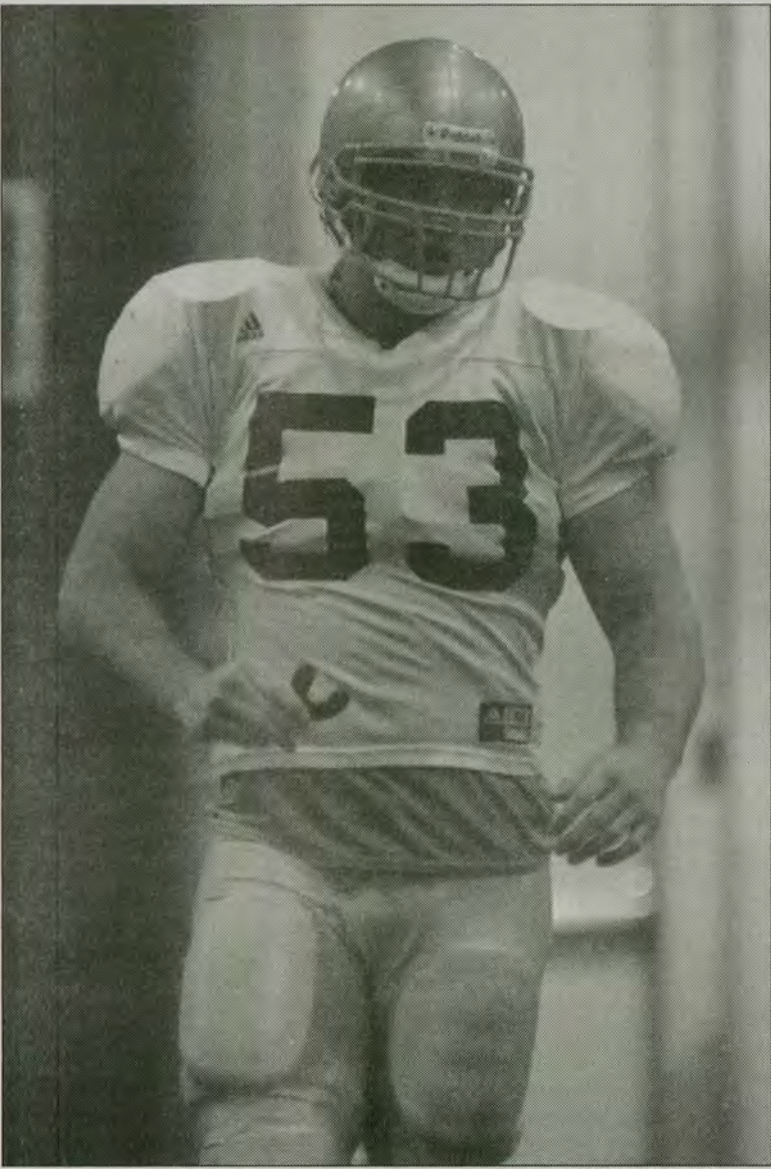
Thoughts of his family and the goals he has achieved will rush through his mind as he runs onto the field. So will the memories of his teammates who have stuck with him for those quick four years.

"Just coming out there one last time with those guys at the University of Notre Dame will be unbelievable," Jenkins said. "The last time ... it won't set in. Until I put it on and walk out of the tunnel."

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JOE BOLAND

Boland lives family dream by playing for the Irish



Joe Boland, shown here in a November practice, plays football because he loves the game and Notre Dame.

TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

By KEN FOWLER
Sports Writer

Joe Boland is living a dream, and his family knows it.

"I've wanted to play football here since the time I was about four years old so there was never a choice — it was always Notre Dame," the walk-on senior said.

Boland, a native of Philadelphia and non-scholarship player who has played on the scout team for four years, said his family and friends respect the amount of work he puts into the football team they all love.

"No one went to Notre Dame in my family. We're all just big fans — Irish Catholic," Boland said.

"You go home and you get treated nice so it's pretty cool. The family's proud of me."

Though he was recruited to play football at smaller schools, Boland said his love for the Irish made his college destination a simple choice.

"I was a huge fan growing up and I just decided that's where I want to go and that's where I want to play," he said. "I was recruited Division II and Division III but always wanted to play here."



Boland

Boland played tight end and safety during his senior year of high school at Monsignor Bonner in Philadelphia. He said he hopes to use the skills he has developed at Notre and eventually coach high school football.

"I'd like to coach high school football some day and see where that takes me," Boland said.

Boland said his experience at Notre Dame will have helped him toward that goal.

"It has helped tremendously. I always wanted to coach high school ball," he said. "But I mean the teaching, the coaching I got here, and playing another position, you learn all different parts of the game."

He also said he appreciates playing under two different systems during his time at Notre Dame.

"It's good to see the two coaches, two different styles. I think I'll be able to take a lot from Coach Willingham and Coach Weis."

Boland expresses nothing but appreciation for Notre Dame, even though he has yet to make the field during a game in his four years with the Irish.

"I haven't played a down yet, so I'm a little nervous," he

said. "I want to get in there."

"I haven't played a down yet, so I'm a little nervous," he said. "I want to get in there."

Instead, Boland has offered his services on the scout team's defensive line. After coming to Notre Dame as a tight end, he moved to linebacker when he gained weight. When there was an opening at defensive end on the scout team, he moved to where the team needed him.

He said his time thus far with the Irish has certainly been worthwhile.

"It's worth it to me," Boland said. "I'm a walk-on. You know I'm not looking to be an all-American. ... I love football. I like playing. I've always wanted to play here."

As his final weeks with the team approach, Boland said he will try to soak in all the pageantry of the final home games and surrounding events. He said he hopes to keep it as a memory for the rest of his life.

"I've just got to take it all in. I mean, this is it, this is the end," Boland said. "I'll just take it all in and remember it for the rest of my life."

"I've just got to take it all in. I mean, this is the end. I'll just take it all in and remember it for the rest of my life."

Joe Boland
Irish defensive lineman

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MATT MITCHELL

Rewarding experiences surround scout-team senior

By BOBBY GRIFFIN
Associate Sports Editor

Matt Mitchell got the news of his football career in one of the more tumultuous moments in Notre Dame history.

Former head coach Tyrone Willingham had recently been fired after a 6-5 regular season, and the Irish were preparing for their Insight Bowl game against Oregon State without their head coach.

Then defensive coordinator Ken Baer approached Mitchell and told him that he would be moved up on the depth chart for the bowl game. The defensive back nodded and continued going about his practice routine, but inside, the walk-on junior was elated.

"Everything worked out and I got in during the game and it was just a rush," Mitchell said. "I can't describe it — it was awesome being out there."

But for Mitchell, it wasn't always easy. In the course of his four years, he said there were times when he was frustrated. Being a scout team player, he knew coming in that he would be working hard and

rarely seeing the field.

"We look at practice as our game," Mitchell said. "We're out there giving offense a look, making plays, knocking people down and getting interceptions. That's very rewarding for us."

That's why his time in the Insight Bowl was that much more important to him.

"It made all that hard work and dedication pay off," Mitchell said.

Playing as a senior this year on a team that is currently ranked No. 6 in the AP poll and No. 9 in the BCS standings is exciting for Mitchell.

"It's a great opportunity we have in front of us," Mitchell said. "Just the respect you get around the country. When you say Notre Dame it actually means something to people."

Being a part of the team that is putting Notre Dame back in the national forefront is important to Mitchell. The senior from Memphis, Tenn. always had his heart set on Notre Dame.

Mitchell was recruited by several Ivy League teams to play football but instead focused on getting into Notre

Dame academically and then worrying about walking on.

Once accepted, Mitchell sent film to the Notre Dame coaching staff, which welcomed him as a non-scholarship player.

And even though Mitchell knows he could have played — and started — at other colleges, he has no regrets.

"I don't look back on that," Mitchell said. "I don't really consider what-if's because this experience right here, it doesn't get any better than this."

"It's a unique feeling you get, running out of that tunnel. You can't get that anywhere else."

"It doesn't get any better than this. It's a unique feeling you get, running out of that tunnel. You can't get that anywhere else."

Matt Mitchell
Irish defensive back

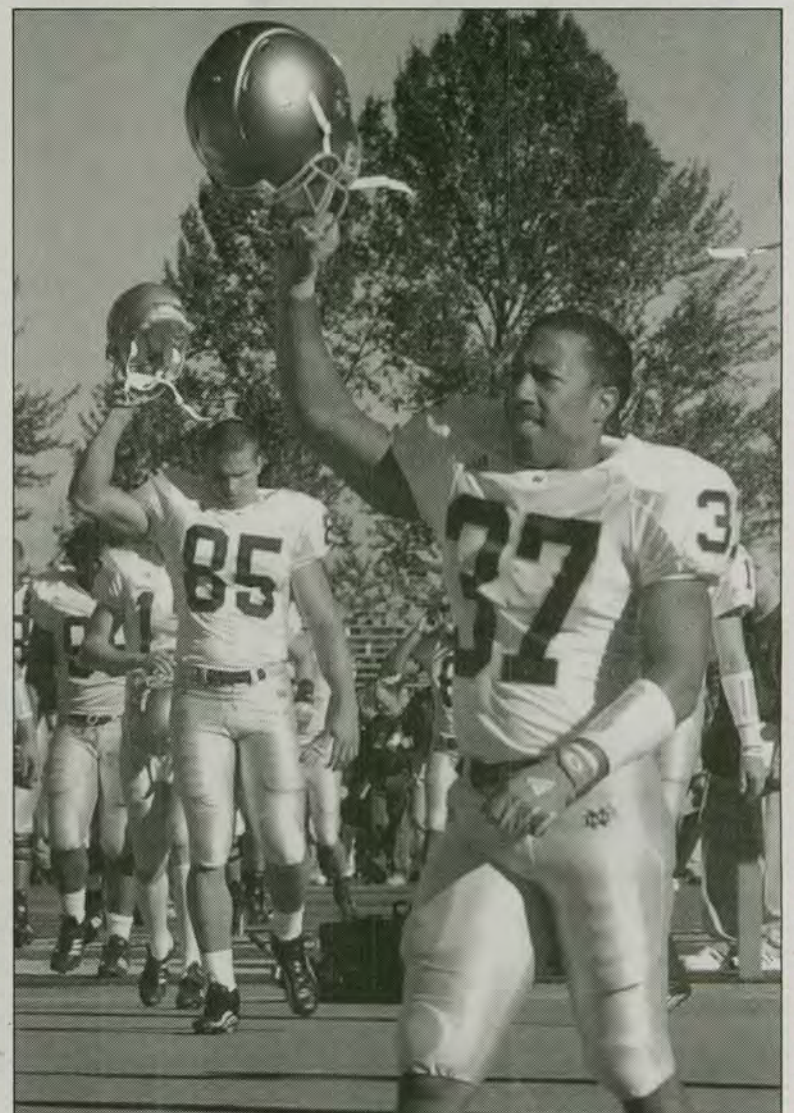
So when Mitchell hangs up cleats for good at the end of the season, he will move on with the rest of his life knowing he had a rewarding college life that many will never experience.

"These last four years have been just the best experience of my life," Mitchell said. "I thank God every day that I had the opportunity to be a part of this team and contribute in any way I can. It's been amazing."

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Mitchell



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Matt Mitchell raises his helmet while walking off the field in a practice during training camp.

RICH WHITNEY

Family tragedy motivates Whitney to walk onto team

By HEATHER VAN HOEGARDEN
Sports Writer

Rich Whitney III couldn't stand it anymore. Two seasons as a Notre Dame football fan, and he was done — he wanted to play.

And so he did.

The senior defensive back tried out for the team the winter of his sophomore year, and has been on the team ever since.



Whitney

"Freshman year it bothered me, and another season watching from the stands, it drove me nuts," Whitney said. "That was a driving force. I had always talked about doing it, and I had had enough talk."

Another driving force for Whitney was the death of his father, who passed away at the end of Whitney's freshman year, about eight months after being diagnosed with cancer. And so he was given even more motivation.

"He was like if you want to, do it, if you don't want to, don't do it," Whitney said. "It was just something I had talked about with him; it was one

thing that I had talked about for so long."

Whitney made the team that winter and has been a member of the Irish ever since. This year he's played against Purdue, Navy, Brigham Young and even USC, going in on special teams to replace an injured player.

"I understand my role, so I wasn't expecting it, but of course I wanted it," Whitney said of his USC experience. "Once I got that opportunity to be on the field and be on TV and stuff, it's a great feeling. You just go out there and nothing else is around except what's going on in the game."

Whitney said he is glad he tried out, and he thinks his dad would have loved to watch him play for the Irish.

"He would be happy," Whitney said. "He loved watching me play."

And his dad never strays far from his thoughts, especially before and after a game.

"Before the game I think about it," the 6-foot-2 senior said. "I'm not a big 'get all pumped up guy,' so I think about my dad, especially right before the game, when I'm walking down the tunnel. When we first run out onto the field and I'm running to the other side, I'm thinking about him. But once that's over with, that's when I stop thinking about it until the game's over."

Whitney said his mom is elated he finally decided to try out for the team after declining the opportunity to walk-on before his freshman year. And she will get to make it out for Saturday's game from Pennsylvania.

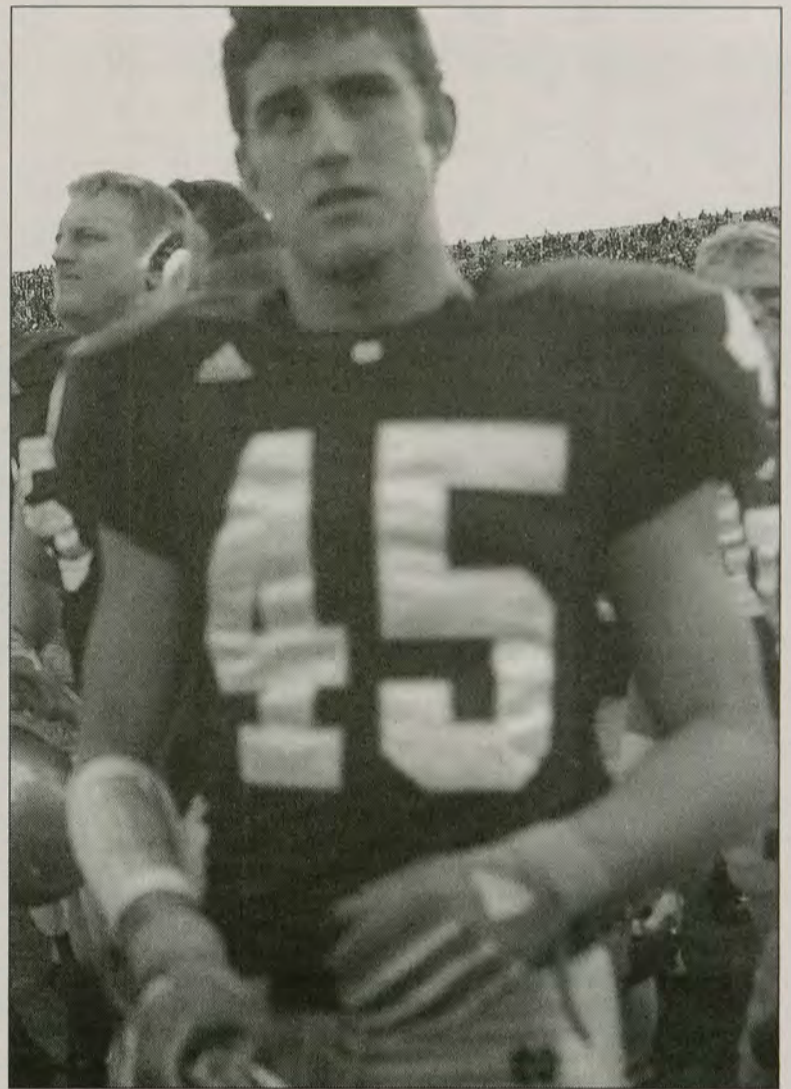
"It made her dreams come true, and my grandfather was the same way," he said. "She always wanted me to [try out] when I was here freshman year, but she wasn't going to tell me what to do. She's excited to come out here. She made it out to two games this year. She loves it."

Whitney, who will graduate in December with a degree in science business, said he is glad he finally stopped just talking about trying out for football, and actually did something about it.

"No regrets," he said. "It's a tough road, there's definitely been some bumps in the road, but that's life. That's the way life is. Nothing's easy. We have to evaluate things as 'What's it worth?' Just because it's really hard, is what you're working for worth it?"

"And I think it is. The opportunities I've gotten, the friends I've made, and being a part of Notre Dame football is worth all the hard work I've put in."

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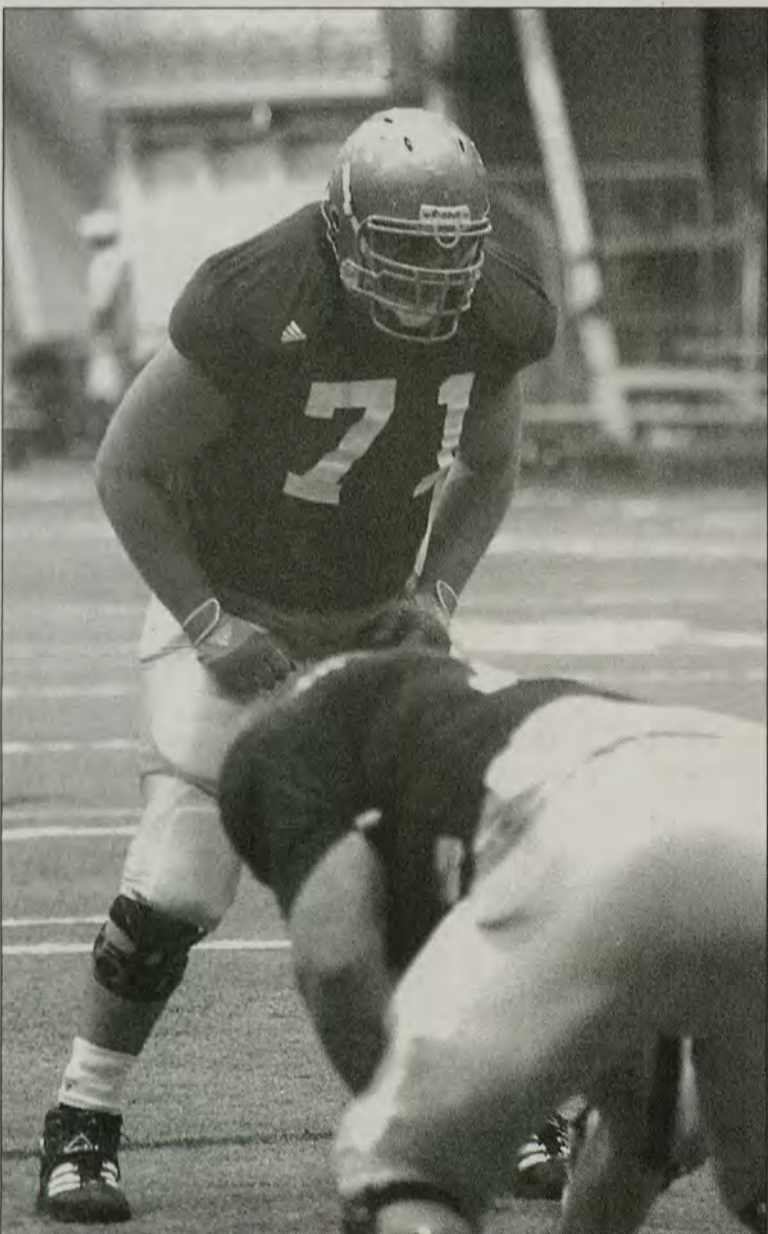


CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Rich Whitney's father died at the end of his freshman year at Notre Dame. Less than a year later, he walked onto the football team.

JAMES BONELLI

California native did not foresee ND career path



GEOFF MATTESON/The Observer

Irish offensive lineman James Bonelli lines up in practice. The scout team player has logged playing time in the last three sea-

By PAT LEONARD
Sports Writer

Former Irish coach Tyrone Willingham let his team score, and score, and score against his former Stanford squad on Nov. 29, 2003 in Palo Alto, Calif.

Some critics took umbrage with Notre Dame's 57-7 whooping, but offensive lineman James Bonelli must have approved of the wide margin. The then-sophomore lineman saw his first game action of his Irish football career — a 2:26 minute stretch.

"It was a lot of fun," Bonelli said. "You finally got to get out there and see what it was like to play again. Because I didn't get a chance to play earlier, it was pretty exciting. So I made it worthwhile and tried to hit someone besides my own team."

Bonelli (6-foot-5, 280 pounds) was used to hitting his own teammates because he had been relegated to scout team, where he has played for the majority of his four-year career. The senior redshirted as a freshman and has one year of eligibility remaining if he decides to return.

This season, as Notre



Bonelli

Dame's offense has consistently distanced opponents late into game, Bonelli has seen a combined 9:43 of action. He has played against Purdue, BYU, Tennessee and Navy this season, with his longest stint coming in a 4:58 time period against the Cougars.

He has not decided on future plans to return or depart Notre Dame, but Bonelli did intimate his feelings about his current situation.

"[Playing on the scout team] is not as rewarding as I'd like it to be," Bonelli said. "And it's not that much fun. Actually it's not fun any day. Most days, you've got to just bear down and do what you gotta do."

Bonelli's attitude reflects the frustration of a highly-recruited prospect who did not fit well into the situation at the University of his choice.

"I was getting recruited by USC and a lot of West coast schools," Bonelli said. "I was getting recruited pretty much all over. I got about 30 scholarships coming out of high school. I just figured Notre Dame was the best fit for me personally, socially and athletically."

Being a Camarillo, Calif. native, Bonelli wanted to dis-

tance himself from home but ensure himself of an opportunity to see the field and achieve academic success. Notre Dame seemed like the logical choice.

"I didn't want to just be a half-hour drive or so from home, because USC was my second choice," Bonelli said. "When I came to visit Notre Dame, I really liked [the coaches under former head coach Bob Davie]. I liked the school. Since I was young, I always grew up watching Notre Dame."

Bonelli has had the opportunity to see the field during a record-breaking, successful Irish season. But his individual career has not panned out the way he planned.

"Football hasn't really gone the way I've wanted it to," Bonelli said. "It's been a good experience overall. I haven't been disappointed, but I think it was the right choice — school-wise."

Bonelli is a double major in sociology and computer applications. He said he is currently contemplating whether to get his masters degree.

"You finally got to get out there and see what it was like to play again. Because I didn't get a chance to play earlier, it was pretty exciting."

James Bonelli
Irish offensive lineman

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DAN STEVENSON

Always aware

Stevenson has been key in protecting Quinn in the first year of Charlie Weis' offensive scheme

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

As a high school freshman in Barrington, Ill. outside of Chicago, Dan Stevenson made a decision that his teammates still kid him about today, a decision not typical for a nearly 300-pound offensive lineman. He went out for the junior varsity volleyball team, a sport that is relatively popular in the Chicago area.



Stevenson

"It's a fun sport to me," Stevenson said. "The guys on the team give me a hard time about it a little bit. We played sand volleyball in the summers ... I just saw the opportunity to do it and a bunch of my buddies and I went out. We just had a good time ... I don't know how much I took away from it."

But looking at Stevenson's play, some of the quickness and nimble feet needed for volleyball might have rubbed off on him. He is a powerful, blasting blocker and makes a particular impact on sweeps and traps when he pulls to block a defensive end or linebacker.

Stevenson has started 32 games in his career — the second most experienced

lineman after senior tackle Mark LeVoir. His play this year has helped Notre Dame to one of the finest offensive seasons in school history — as the Irish are averaging almost 39 points per game and have totaled 4,297 yards of offense.

Much of his improvement Stevenson said is due to playing with the same unit for several seasons, but a lot of it can also be attributed to first-year Notre Dame head coach Charlie Weis and offensive line coach John Latina.

"The coaching staff ... did a great job of motivating me and motivating the rest of the team," Stevenson said. "But obviously the experience helps, it's something you can't coach. I think over the years I've built my game up and these new coaches have definitely had a huge impact. I think hopefully people will say the offensive line was one of the strengths this year."

"Going out with a bang"

He seems relieved in a way that Irish head coach Charlie Weis was hired during the off-season and has the Irish back in the top 10. Stevenson knew he and his teammates had a lot of talent and he's ecstatic his final year at Notre Dame has worked out

successfully.

"There's no better feeling than going out with a bang," he said. "Luckily Coach Weis came in and we were able to put this season together. We knew we had a good team. It was just a matter of putting the pieces together."

"Hopefully with two more games and the bowl game we can keep building on it. But [this season's success] really helps ease the bumps the older guys have taken over the years."

As he alluded, the situation hasn't always been so rosy for Stevenson. Playing under former coaches Bob Davie, Tyrone Willingham and, for less than a week, George O'Leary, during his time at Notre Dame, has been difficult since he left Barrington High School as the No. 1 rated offensive lineman in the Midwest and a Parade All-American.

"It hasn't turned out the way I expected when I came here," Stevenson said. "It's been a pretty wild ride with three and a half different coaches — there aren't many people who can say they've done that. I don't know if that's a good thing."

"They've always been there for me"

He made his first start in the 2003 Gator Bowl at tackle in place of the injured Brennan Curtin after logging 82:23 of playing time in the 2002 season as one of the most active reserve linemen.

Stevenson used the momentum of his bowl game start to crack into the starting lineup at right guard to begin 2003, a season highlighted by a game against Pittsburgh in which former Notre Dame running back Julius Jones rushed for a school-record 262 yards. Injured in the 37-0 Irish loss to Florida State that season, Stevenson did not play in games against Brigham Young and Navy.

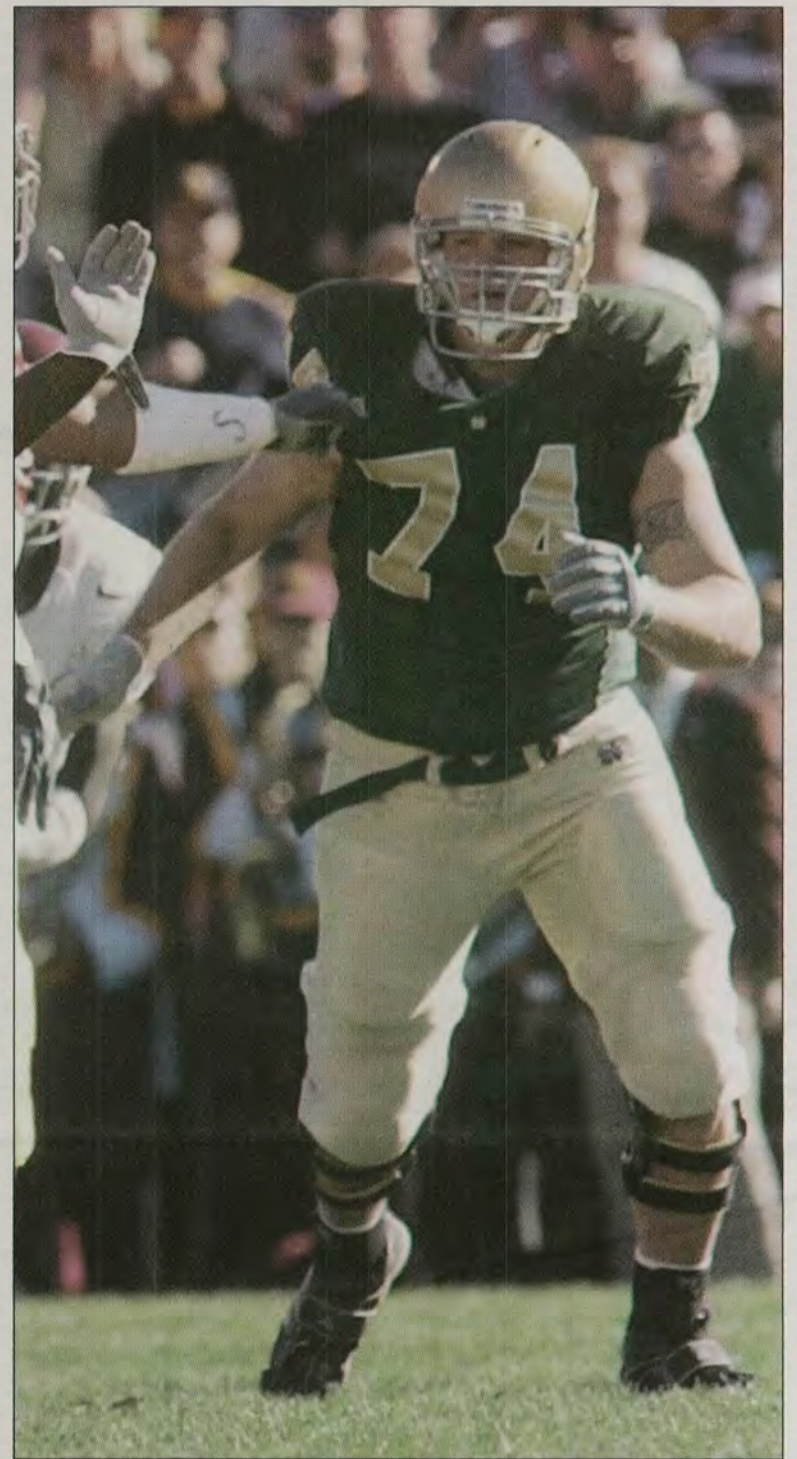
He firmly entrenched himself in the starting lineup in 2004, starting all 12 games and clearing the way for Irish running back Darius Walker's freshman record 786 rushing yards last season.

Throughout his extensive playing time at Notre Dame, Stevenson is thankful for the support of his father, who played for the University of Missouri and in the National Football League for the Detroit Lions, and his brothers Tony and Joey who suited up for Arizona State and Arizona Western, respectively.

"It's nice to always have

"The coaching staff ... did a great job of motivating me and motivating the rest of the team."

Dan Stevenson
Irish offensive lineman



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Veteran Irish offensive lineman Dan Stevenson protects quarterback Brady Quinn in this year's 34-31 loss to USC on Oct. 15.

somebody that's been there, that's played [college football]," Stevenson said. "They can give me advice when I'm down and humble me when I'm high. They've always been there for me and that's something that's definitely helped me through this process."

Of course growing up as one of six children with a father who played professional football, Stevenson said

the sport just came naturally to him.

"It was never something my parents really made me do," he said. "But it's something that I fell in love with the first time I stepped on the field."

"It hasn't hit me yet"

Stevenson will probably have another opportunity to strap on a pair of shoulder pads after the Irish season ends. But he isn't quite ready to talk about the end of his time at Notre Dame.

"I don't think it's really hit

me yet, playing my last home game in that stadium," he said. "I think it's one of those things that doesn't really hit you until you're gone and you look back on all your memories. Right now I think there's just too much for us to finish. We have a game ahead of us that we can't look past. There's no time to worry about myself and wallow in my own self pity."

When asked what he will remember most fondly about the school and team he devoted five years of his life to, Stevenson didn't talk about the near-upset of No. 1 USC this season or the 262 yards Jones ran for against Pittsburgh in 2003.

What he will remember most are the times spent laughing and goofing around with his teammates.

"Just messing around in the lockerroom, the buses, the hotels ... it's things like that I'm going to miss," he said. "I don't know how you can make a closer bond with a group of guys. The relationships I've built with my teammates are what I will miss the most."

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DUSTIN MENELLA/The Observer

Dan Stevenson holds a block against Navy in his second-to-last home game on Nov. 12. The Irish won, 42-21.

RASHON POWERS-NEAL

Fullback's season steeped in speculation, mystery

By MATT PUGLISI
Associate Sports Editor

Heading into the 2005 campaign, speculation on Irish fullback Rashon Powers-Neal centered on his role in the upcoming season: would he play running back exclusively, continue to function primarily as a fullback or split time almost evenly between the two positions? Three months later, Powers-Neal's name still conjures speculation, but of a significantly different nature.



Powers-Neal

After scoring six touchdowns in his first four games, Powers-Neal hasn't seen the field since Oct. 1 against Purdue.

While Irish coach Charlie Weis and the Notre Dame coaching staff have refused to comment on the source of Powers-Neal's mysterious absence from an offense in which he was expected to be a large contributor, Weis did drop a hint at a press conference Tuesday.

Weis was asked if he's been in contact with Powers-Neal

and if the St. Paul, Minn. native may return for his final game at Notre Dame Stadium tomorrow against Syracuse.

"There's a possibility [he will return]," Weis said. "And yes, I have talked to him."

While Powers-Neal's 2005 season has certainly been unconventional, it started on a similarly unusual note.

Entering the anxiously awaited season opener at Pittsburgh Sept. 3, Powers-Neal, a player with three career rushing touchdowns in as many seasons, matched his college total in a little more than half a game.

Experiencing little trouble controlling an overwhelmed Panthers defense, the Irish frequently found themselves in the Pittsburgh red zone. And nearly every time they reached the red zone, Weis and Notre Dame turned to Powers-Neal.

Carrying the ball eight times, the fullback demonstrated just how strong his nose for the end zone is, scoring three times on runs of two, nine and four yards in the second and third quarters of a 42-21 Irish route of the Panthers.

After picking up 19 yards on six carries in Ann Arbor against rival Michigan the following week, Powers-Neal was strangely missing from Notre Dame's heart-breaking 44-41

overtime loss to Michigan State in the Irish home opener.

As freshman fullback Asaph Schwapp fumbled at the goal line — a mistake that ultimately proved to be the difference in the game — and later was stuffed on a crucial fourth-and-one deep in Spartan territory in the waning minutes of a furious Irish comeback effort, questions concerning Powers-Neal's absence naturally arose.

But one week later, the fullback was back on the field in Washington and picking up where he left off against Pittsburgh, running the ball nine times for 30 yards and his fourth touchdown of the season as the Irish beat up former Notre Dame head coach Tyrone Willingham and his Huskies, 36-17.

Powers-Neal suited up again the following week against Purdue. While he only gained ten yards on eight carries, Powers-Neal picked up two more touchdowns, giving him six on the season on only 31 total carries.

But as quickly as the fullback returned to action against Washington and Purdue, he was once missing in Notre Dame's biggest game of the season — arguably of the decade — against Southern California Oct. 15.

The two-touchdown game against Purdue may prove to



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish fullback Rashon Powers-Neal avoids Pittsburgh defenders in Notre Dame's 42-21 drubbing of the host Panthers Sept. 3.

be the senior's last in a Notre Dame uniform. After the USC game, Powers-Neal was similarly missing each of the next three contests against Brigham Young, Tennessee and Navy.

Now, having yet to take the field at Notre Dame Stadium

during his senior year — Powers-Neal has played all four of his games this season on the road — Powers-Neal may never get that chance.

Only Weis has the answer.

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NATE SCHICCATANO

Schiccatano endures handful of position changes

By CHRIS KHOREY
Sports Writer

One requirement to be a successful head coach is to be familiar with all facets of the game of football. Notre Dame senior Nate Schiccatano, who dreams of following his father into coaching one day, has already passed that requirement.



Schiccatano

While at Southern Columbia High School in Catawissa, Penn., Schiccatano played quarterback, wide receiver and running back. Since arriving in South Bend, he's moved to fullback, linebacker and finally defensive end.

Schiccatano said many of his moves have been his own idea.

"Most of the time I went to the coach and I asked, and the coach thought it was a good idea, the best way for me to help the team," he said.

Growing up in Catawissa, Schiccatano dreamed of playing for the Irish.

"Ever since I was little, I always liked Notre Dame," Schiccatano said. "Everyone else was Penn State fans. When I was in sixth grade, my Dad came out here for a coaches clinic. I got to meet Coach [Lou Holtz]. Ron Powlus was the quarterback and he's from twenty minutes from where I live.

"That day I made a promise

that I would do whatever it takes to get a college scholarship and come to Notre Dame."

Schiccatano worked hard and was good enough in high school to be a four-star recruit at running back. While his heart was set on playing for the Irish, other schools had their hearts set on getting him.

"You hear about the recruiting process and people say it's bad, but you still have no idea," he said. "It's so hectic, the late nights talking to coaches, schools coming around every few days offering you a scholarship."

Once in South Bend, Schiccatano was a rookie tailback on Tyrone Willingham's 10-3 Gator Bowl team.

After that season he was asked to bulk up and provide depth at fullback, where freshman Ashley McConnell was the only scholarship player.

Schiccatano ended up behind fellow converted tailback Rashon Powers-Neal and interball-legend-turned-varsity-contributor Josh Schmidt.

When Charlie Weis was hired after the 2004 season, Schiccatano was moved to defense to better utilize his combination of speed and size.

He played linebacker in the spring, but was moved to defensive end in the fall.

"Talking to [Weis] and [defensive coordinator Rick Minter]

and all, they were impressed with my ability to blitz as a linebacker so he thought I'd do a good job as a rush end on the defensive line," Schiccatano said.

Schiccatano said he brings a unique skill set to defensive end.

Despite weighing only 230 pounds, he said his quickness gives him an advantage.

"Being as big as I am and as fast as I am, although I may have lost a step here and there, fast guys are always fast," he said. "I think it's an advantage for me on the line. I'm not the biggest defensive lineman, but I'm the quickest and the fastest."

Despite his experience at several different positions, most of Schiccatano's playing time has come on special teams.

"One of the highlights of my career was against Boston College [in 2003] when we were down," he said.

"I beat my guy to the inside and I blocked the punt and we scored a touchdown to take the lead."

Schiccatano has no concrete plans for immediately after graduation, but he did say that he would like to coach.

"My dad's a coach, so I'd like to take after him," he said. "Someday I'd like to do that as a future career."

"That day I made a promise that I would do whatever it takes to get a college scholarship and come to Notre Dame."

Nate Schiccatano
Irish defensive end

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CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Converted fullback and Irish defensive end Nate Schiccatano runs through drills during training camp in late August.

D.J. FITZPATRICK

Special talent

An unlikely source brought Fitzpatrick to one of the highest-pressure positions on the field

By MIKE GILLOON
Sports Editor

A lot of D.J. Fitzpatrick's knowledge about kicking wasn't learned on the football field.

Instead, it was the golf course where the Irish place-kicker and punter says he learned quite a bit about the mental part of kicking — maintaining body control, his smooth leg swing. In particular, a round of 18 with former Notre Dame football coach and Fitzpatrick family friend Lou Holtz made him realize the similarity between the two.

"I had a chance to play golf with Coach Holtz one time," Fitzpatrick said. "It was almost every other hole he was telling me how golf and kicking relate. It's the principles of keeping your head down, having good body position, following through and being balanced."

Holtz, who was the coach at South Carolina when he and Fitzpatrick hit the links, reminded Fitzpatrick that most of kicking is mental.

"He always said kicking is 80 percent mental and 20 percent physical," Fitzpatrick said. "Everybody kind of has the capability to do it, but going in front of 80,000 with 11 guys coming at you and trying to get the field goal off in under 1.3 seconds ... it's hugely mental."



Fitzpatrick

NFL hopes

Fitzpatrick's ability to control the mental aspect of the game has taken him on a long journey. He went from being a walk-on with modest hopes of holding for field goals as a senior to a scholarship player and starter at punter and kicker. He's held that job for the past two seasons and now has realistic aspirations for the National Football League next season.

"He is ... so multidimensional he'll wind up being in somebody's [NFL] camp next year because he is a guy who can do everything," Irish coach Charlie Weis said. "Very seldom do you have a guy who's handling the punting, the kicking and the field goal kicking."

It has been a long road for Fitzpatrick to get to this point. An all-around athlete, he played quarterback and was an all-state defensive back and punter during his senior season at Marian High School in South Bend. He walked on as a freshman at Notre Dame after considering several schools — including Holtz's South Carolina.

"When I was a freshman I was just hoping to get on the field my senior year and hopefully be a holder or something like that," Fitzpatrick said. "I just wanted to earn the guys' respect with hard work and do something on the field to contribute."

Learning the trade

But getting on the field didn't take Fitzpatrick quite as long as he originally thought it might. When former Irish kicker and punter Nick Setta



Irish kicker D.J. Fitzpatrick boots an extra point in a 42-21 win over Navy on Nov. 12. Fitzpatrick is a former walk-on who earned a scholarship last season.

CLEMENT SUHENDRA/The Observer

went down with an injury in the first quarter of Notre Dame's 20-14 win over Pittsburgh in 2003, Fitzpatrick took over both roles. He has held the jobs ever since, using knowledge gained from Setta and former Irish punter Joey Hildbold to maintain a high level of play.

"Very rarely do you have a kicking coach who knows the ins and outs of the technique of kicking," Fitzpatrick said. "So whatever guys are ahead of you, they kind of pass down the knowledge to the guys in back of them. Those two taught me everything I know about kicking. They were great role models for me."

Fitzpatrick certainly had a lot of time in the beginning of his career to soak up knowledge from Hildbold and Setta. Even after kicking 13 field goals and 153 extra points in high school, he practically relearned everything when he joined the Irish squad.

"From the time you get here it's almost like they reconstruct your whole kicking style — it's sort of like redoing a golf swing," said Fitzpatrick, who captained Marian's golf team to the state championship as a senior.

All of the hard work paid off for Fitzpatrick during Notre Dame's 27-24 win over Navy in 2003 when he kicked two

fourth-quarter field goals — a 30-yarder to tie the game and then a 40-yarder as time ran out for the victory.

"I grew up here, so moments like that you dream about," Fitzpatrick said. "It was just a great opportunity for me to show what I can do. I was just

happy that my teammates put me in that position and we got it done."

A new era

Notre Dame struggled that season with the win over Navy being one

of the few highlights as the Irish slumped to a 5-7 record. Times have changed in South Bend, as the Irish and Weis have surged to a 7-2 mark.

Fitzpatrick hasn't forgotten the relatively recent days when Notre Dame's offense wasn't scoring many touchdowns and he was needed fairly often to kick a field goal. But simply kicking extra points isn't a problem for Fitzpatrick.

"It's great because I'm not always thinking, 'OK I have to go in for a field goal'," Fitzpatrick said. "There's just so much confidence in our offense. I'm just ready to do whatever I am called on to do. I know that the offense will do its best to put the ball in the end zone for me."

Much of this credit goes to Weis and his coaching staff, Fitzpatrick said.

"He's completely 100 per-

cent focused in on the details of special teams," he said. "Not only just the kicker, blocker and snapper ... all 11 guys have just one job to do on a particular play. He makes sure that all 11 are in the position to execute when they're called upon."

"When everyone runs on to that field, there's no question about what we're doing. Guys are more confident. They know their assignments and don't have to think about it the whole time. They can just go be athletes."

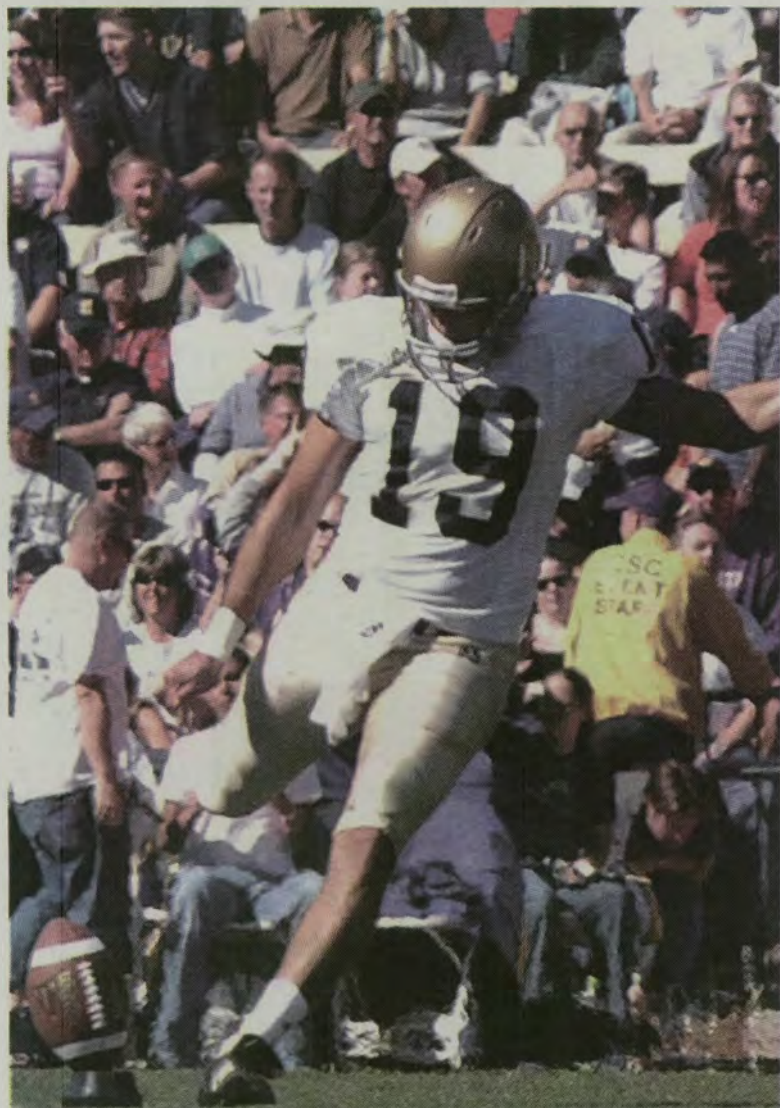
Finishing up

Fitzpatrick is thrilled with Notre Dame's play in his senior season. But all the Irish success has made time move quickly — ushering in a senior day that Fitzpatrick has been thinking about for a long time.

"It's gone by so fast," he said. "Just cherish these last couple games, every practice. I just want to take it all in because it's been a ride of a lifetime."

And when the clock strikes 0:00 at Notre Dame Stadium in what could be a messy, snowy Saturday afternoon, Fitzpatrick isn't quite sure how he'll feel.

"I have no regrets," he said. "I've played as hard as I could. As long as I keep doing that I'm going to have a great time, when that clock ticks off and I know that I gave it my best and tried to help the team as much as I could."



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

D.J. Fitzpatrick, who is in his third season of kicking for the Irish, kicks off against Washington on Sept. 24.

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MARCUS FREEMAN



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Marcus Freeman lines up for a play during Notre Dame's 49-28 victory over Purdue Oct. 1.

While fellow tight end Anthony Fasano gets most of the attention, Marcus Freeman has been a constant contributor all season on both offense and special teams.

Utilized more as a punishing, physical blocker, Freeman has yet to catch a pass this season after snagging five balls for 50 yards last year. After picking up a tackle on special teams last season, Freeman has recorded a pair of tackles in 2005.

A St. Paul, Minn. native, Freeman was a two-time all-state selection in high school. He attended the same high school as his cousin — fullback Rashon Powers-Neal — and tackle Ryan Harris. He caught 18 passes for 300 yards and three touchdowns his senior year.

If Freeman returns next year, his role only figures to increase. Already a fixture in multiple tight end sets, Freeman should develop into a target for Quinn.

BRIAN MATTES

A backup offensive tackle, Brian Mattes has appeared in five games this season, including the season opener against Pittsburgh and each of the last three contests.

Mattes started his career at defensive tackle, switching to the offensive line in 2003. A graduate of Wyoming Valley West High School in Plymouth, Pa., Mattes was a dual-threat in high school. In addition to 70 tackles, 13 sacks and nine tackles-for-loss as a defensive end his senior year, Mattes also caught 34 passes for 400 yards and two touchdowns to garner Associated Press Big School all-state honors.

Should he return, Mattes will provide valuable depth on the line.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish offensive lineman Brian Mattes, center, approaches a play last season.

ANTHONY FASANO



TIM SULLIVAN/The Observer

Irish tight end Anthony Fasano dodges Southern California defensive back Scott Ware Oct. 15.

A candidate for the John Mackey Award — awarded annually to the top tight end in college football — Anthony Fasano has continued to build on an already successful college career.

After catching four touchdowns last season, Fasano has managed to exceed lofty expectations in 2005. He has been a force on offense and a favorite target of quarterback Brady Quinn this season. Catching at least two passes in all nine contests so far this year, Fasano has racked up 40 catches for 538 yards and a pair of touchdowns, including a score each of the past two weeks.

In addition to the numbers, Fasano has contributed in other areas, developing into a talented blocker. The combination of soft hands and strong blocking skills makes the Verona, N.J. native particularly attractive to NFL teams.

Fasano is completing his third year of action with the Irish, leaving him eligible to return for a final season next year. But with the high level of interest held by many professional teams, Fasano has the option of entering the next NFL draft in April, and his career with Notre Dame may be all but finished.



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Anthony Fasano brings the ball up the field during Notre Dame's 41-21 win over Tennessee Nov. 5 at Notre Dame Stadium.

CHRIS FROME



CLAIRE KELLEY/The Observer

Irish defensive end Chris Frome battles Huskies offensive lineman Rob Meadow Sept. 24.

After starting the first six games of the season at defensive end, Chris Frome injured his right knee in the second quarter of Notre Dame's 34-31 heart-breaking loss to Southern California Oct. 15.

Frome had surgery on his knee the following week, but damage was determined to be worse than originally expected, and the Saugus, Ca. native will miss the remainder of 2005.

Frome entered the season on the heels of a solid spring campaign that saw him not only start for the Blue team in the annual Blue-Gold Game, but play extremely well. Frome finished the exhibition with four tackles, including three for loss and a pair of sacks.

A graduate of Newhall Hart High School, Frome earned first-team all state honors from the Los Angeles Times his senior year and was rated No. 91 overall by the Chicago Sun-Times coming out of high school. Frome also participated in the prestigious U.S. Army All-America bowl following his senior year.

Frome is expected to return next year and provide veteran leadership on the defensive line.

DEREK LANDRI

A starter at right tackle in all nine games this season, Landri has helped anchor a defensive line that holds opponents to only 131.2 yards per game.

After missing all of spring practice as a result of injury, Landri has avoided the injury bug thus far. He is currently eighth on the team with 32 tackles and ranks third with 2.5 sacks on the year. Coming into the year, he had just 40 career tackles and one sack.

Hailing from Concord, Ca., Landri was a first-team USA Today All-American his senior year of high school. Landri was considered one of the most talented linemen in the nation.

En route to leading his De La Salle High School team to a perfect 12-0 record and status as consensus national prep champion in 2001, Landri posted 9.5 sacks in only 32 quarters of play.

With one year of eligibility remaining, Landri, like Frome, is expected to return and help anchor an experienced, talented Irish defensive line in 2006.



MATTHEW SMEDBERG/The Observer

Right tackle Derek Landri jumps to block a field goal Oct. 22 against BYU.

have one more year

MIKE RICHARDSON



Irish cornerback Mike Richardson, right, makes a diving tackle against Navy's Karlos Whittaker during Notre Dame's 42-21 victory over the Midshipmen Nov. 19.

Entering the season as the only experienced member of a vulnerable Notre Dame secondary, Mike Richardson has joined Ambrose Wooden in holding down the corners for the Irish all season — both players have started all nine of Notre Dame's games at cornerback.

While safety Tommy Zbikowski has emerged as the unofficial leader of the group, Richardson has still provided valuable veteran leadership, in addition to solid statistics — he ranks fifth on the team with 51 total tackles and second in interceptions with three.

Richardson has also picked up a couple sacks, three tackles for loss, a fumble recovery and two forced fumbles this year.

Coming into the 2005 season,

the Warner Roberts, Ga. native had played in all 12 Irish games each of past two seasons, yet started only five of those 24 contests. Richardson has already topped his career numbers heading into the 2005 season he had just 49 tackles and one interception in his first two years combined.

Although Richardson still has a year of eligibility remaining — he didn't see action as a freshman in 2002 — his role on the 2006 team may be more hazy than it was entering the 2005 season.

With Wooden at the other corner position and talented, 5-star defensive back recruit Darrin Walls a verbal to play at Notre Dame next season, Richardson could find himself a backup.

BOB MORTON



Irish offensive lineman Bob Morton takes the field against Washington Sept. 24.

After starting the first four games of the season on the offensive line, Bob Morton didn't see action against Purdue, yet returned to play in Notre Dame's last three games.

Rotating with fellow offensive linemen Dan Santucci, John Sullivan and Dan Stevenson at the three internal line spots, Morton has been solid contributor all season.

Boasting a wealth of experience, Morton started 11 games at center in 2003 as well as 11 games at left guard in 2004.

A McKinney, Tex. native, the lineman has followed his father's college football footsteps — Bob Morton, Sr. played at Rutgers.

Named as a second team offensive lineman on the USA Today All-America team his senior year, Morton also played in the annual U.S. Army All-America Bowl in San Antonio.

He did not allow a sack his senior season and competed in track and field during high school, earning three letters in shotput and garnering an additional three in power lifting.

After playing in 30 of Notre Dame's last 32 games, Morton is expected to return in 2006.

DAN SANTUCCI

Like Bob Morton, Dan Santucci is one of four players rotating at the three interior offensive line spots this season.

Despite the rotation, Santucci has started all nine of Notre Dame's games this season, providing solid pass protection and run blocking. After sitting out his freshman year as a defensive lineman, Santucci played 12 games in 2003, mostly on special teams, where he logged 67 total appearances.

In 2004, Santucci switched from the defensive side of the ball to offense, ultimately seeing action in 11 games, including a start at left guard in the Insight Bowl against Oregon State. The Chicago native continued to play a large role on special teams last year, posting 45 appearances, totaling more than 80 minutes on the field.

Santucci, like Morton, should return for his final year of eligibility and continue to play a significant role.



Irish offensive lineman Dan Santucci celebrates against the Spartans Sept. 17.

RHEMA MCKNIGHT

Wide receiver Rhema McKnight entered the 2005 season as Notre Dame's No. 1 receiver in coach Charlie Weis' revamped offensive system.

But McKnight's season came to an abrupt end just over a game into the year when his right knee buckled on a hit against Michigan.

After an undisclosed procedure on his knee, rumors had McKnight suiting up for Notre Dame's showdown with Southern California Oct. 15, yet the receiver wasn't able to return. As a result, McKnight will miss the rest of the 2005 season, and the Irish will seek a medical red shirt, clearing McKnight to return to a deep receiving core in 2006.

The La Palma, Ca. native started the year on the heels of two straight seasons atop the Notre Dame receiving rankings. As a freshman in 2002, McKnight played in 12 games (zero starts), grabbing nine passes for 91 yards.

But McKnight took off in his second year with the Irish, catching 48 passes for 600 yards and a trio of scores. It was more of the same for McKnight in 2004, as he pulled in 42 passes for 610 yards and

three more touchdown receptions.

The emergence of Jeff Samardzija as one of the top receivers in college football coupled with consistent play from tight end Anthony Fasano, the deep threat provided by receiver Matt Shelton and the recent record-breaking performance by receiver Maurice Stovall — the senior caught a Notre Dame record four Quinn touchdown passes in a 49-23 route of Brigham Young at Notre Dame Stadium Oct. 22 — McKnight's absence hasn't been as damaging to the Irish passing attack as originally expected when McKnight was injured in Ann Arbor in early Sept.

Nevertheless, with Fasano potentially headed to the NFL and Stovall and Shelton both set to graduate, the Irish will be counting on McKnight to provide some veteran leadership when Notre Dame takes the field in 2006.

Along with Samardzija and young talent including David Grimes and D.J. Hord, McKnight should help round out what is projected to be a potent Irish passing attack next season controlled by a more mature Quinn and an offensive mastermind in Weis.



Irish wide receiver Rhema McKnight is tackled by Stanford's Stanley Wilson during Notre Dame's 23-15 victory Oct. 9 last season.



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